

2023 -- H 5818

LC001819

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$5,000,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE FOR THE HOUSING PROBLEM SOLVING FUND

Introduced By: Representatives Speakman, Giraldo, Morales, Tanzi, Alzate, Cotter, Cruz, Henries, Hull, and Batista

Date Introduced: February 22, 2023

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, According to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, in Rhode Island,
2 there is a shortage of rental homes affordable and available to extremely low-income households;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Many of these households are severely cost burdened and currently spend
5 more than half of their income on housing; and

6 WHEREAS, Severely cost burdened poor households are more likely than other renters
7 to sacrifice other necessities like healthy food and healthcare in order to pay their rent, and are
8 more likely to experience unstable housing situations like evictions and homelessness; and

9 WHEREAS, According to Crossroads, RI, about 4,000 men, women and children
10 experience homelessness in Rhode Island each year and this number is significantly increasing;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, “Housing problem-solving” is a person-centered, housing-focused approach
13 to explore creative, safe, and cost-effective solutions to quickly resolve the housing crisis; and

14 WHEREAS, Program recipients could receive case management, rental assistance, other
15 financial assistance, and other resources to meet their basic needs; and

16 WHEREAS, Monies allocated to the “Housing Problem Solving Fund” would fund
17 supportive services and financial assistance to persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness
18 and will result in reduction of persons experiencing homelessness and decrease those families
19 newly experiencing homelessness; and

1 WHEREAS, All services and assistance would be tracked in the Homeless Management
2 Information System (HMIS) (or comparable database if a victim service provider) and referrals
3 would be made through the State’s Coordinated Entry System (CES) with biannual reports
4 delivered to the General Assembly; and

5 WHEREAS, The definitions of homelessness and at risk of homelessness would follow
6 the US Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) definitions; and

7 WHEREAS, The \$5,000,000 would provide \$500,000 to be used for administration,
8 \$4,250,000 for service and financial assistance, and \$250,000 for other system costs including
9 program evaluation, HMIS, and CES expenses; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not
11 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2023-2024, the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000)
12 to the Rhode Island Office of Housing and Community Development to provide for the Housing
13 Problem Solving Fund; and the state controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw his
14 orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may be from
15 time to time required, upon receipt of properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$5,000,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE FOR THE HOUSING
PROBLEM SOLVING FUND

- 1 This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$5,000,000 to the Office
- 2 of Housing and Community Development to provide funding for the Housing Problem Solving
- 3 Fund.

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