

2023 -- H 6432

LC003020

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING THE 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE RESTORATION OF THE ROSE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE, AND THE ROSE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE AND FORT HAMILTON TRUST, FOR THEIR ONGOING CONTRIBUTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE FOUNDATION'S CHARITY LICENSE PLATE DRIVE

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Finkelman, Kennedy, Tanzi, Fellela, and Kislak

Date Introduced: May 23, 2023

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Rose Island is an 18-acre island, comprised of two parcels, located in
2 Newport Harbor in lower Narragansett Bay; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1999, with the help of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental
4 Management (DEM), Parcel 1 was purchased by RILFHT from private owners interested in
5 developing Rose Island and, as part of a conservation easement agreement with the DEM, the
6 Rose Island Wildlife Refuge was established in order to ensure that the island could never be
7 developed, so as to preserve and protect conservation efforts on the island in perpetuity; and

8 WHEREAS, Today, the fauna occupying the island is dominated by birds, including
9 many common passerines (catbirds, sparrows and cardinals), a few shorebirds, gulls, herons,
10 egrets and several species of waterfowl including common eider and Canada goose; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2018, Rose Island received accreditation as an Arboretum from the
12 Newport Tree Conservancy; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1986, Parcel 2 which is owned by the City of Newport and contains the
14 historic lighthouse and approximately 1.5 acres of property surrounding it, was given to RILFHT
15 (then known as "Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation") by Resolution of the City of Newport to
16 "rehabilitate, maintain, and operate the Rose Island Lighthouse"; and

17 WHEREAS, The Rose Island Lighthouse and Fort Hamilton Trust (RILFHT) is a
18 federally recognized 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization and a Rhode Island nonprofit

1 corporation organized under the provisions of R.I.G.L. Chapter 6 of title 7; and

2 WHEREAS, August 7, 2023 will mark the 30th Anniversary of the complete restoration
3 and relighting of the Rose Island Lighthouse which is now listed on the National Register of
4 Historic Places, and open to the public during the spring and summer as a witness to maritime life
5 and history of the late 19th and early 20th century; and

6 WHEREAS, Today, the buildings and grounds are primarily used as a living museum and
7 educational retreat, as well as rustic overnight accommodations similar to that of a camp; and

8 WHEREAS, Two out of the four rentable rooms the RILFHT offers do not have
9 electricity and guests are required to pump water and use outhouses; giving visitors and overnight
10 guests alike the ability to experience, first-hand, what it was like living at the turn of the century
11 without running water and electricity, as well as the chance to compare and contrast “old
12 fashioned” sustainability practices with modern methods, while learning the importance of basic
13 conservation principles; and

14 WHEREAS, All proceeds go directly back into the charity to help maintain the
15 organization’s educational and environmental missions; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
17 celebrates the 30th Anniversary of the restoration of the Rose Island Lighthouse and
18 acknowledges and honors the dedication and determination of the Rose Island Lighthouse and
19 Fort Hamilton Trust in their continuing tradition of maintaining this important Rhode Island
20 maritime landmark, as well as their environmental stewardship of more than 17 acres of wildlife
21 refuge, and their continued commitment and efforts to offer the buildings and grounds as a living
22 museum and educational retreat, as well as offering rustic overnight accommodations to the
23 public; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That this House hereby encourages Rhode Islanders to learn more about
25 RILFHT’s charity license plate drive and the island itself by visiting www.RoseIsland.org; and be
26 it further

27 RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
28 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Rose Island Lighthouse and Fort Hamilton
29 Trust.

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