

**2025 -- H 6168**

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025**

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**H O U S E   R E S O L U T I O N**

CONGRATULATING THE BISHOP HENDRICKEN HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL TEAM  
ON WINNING THE RHODE ISLAND MOCK TRIAL TOURNAMENT FOR THE FIRST  
TIME IN SCHOOL HISTORY AND WISHING THEM CONTINUED SUCCESS AT THE  
NATIONAL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS BEING HELD IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA,  
FROM MAY 7-11, 2025

Introduced By: Representatives Solomon, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale,  
Casimiro, Casey, Noret, Kennedy, Ajello, and Tanzi

Date Introduced: April 03, 2025

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Legal Education Foundation hosts Rhode Island's annual  
2 Mock Trial Tournament, in which middle and high school students from across the State compete  
3 for the championship title; and

4           WHEREAS, Sixteen qualifying teams participate in the single-elimination playoff rounds  
5 of the Mock Trial competition and all participants are provided with a case packet that contains  
6 stipulations, exhibits, witness statements, complaints, and other types of documents related to the  
7 current year's case. Teams then go head-to-head in three qualifying trials at courthouses around  
8 Rhode Island before actual magistrates and judges, arguing their side of the case; and

9           WHEREAS, Students from most states and territories, and from many foreign countries,  
10 spend part of each school year planning mock trial strategy, memorizing witness statements, and  
11 preparing to defend or prosecute cases. While role-playing the parts of witnesses and attorneys,  
12 they are acquiring or polishing important life skills, while also enjoying the experience; and

13           WHEREAS, The mock trial experience is one of the premier experiences being lauded by  
14 college admissions programs. Students learn critical thinking and how to analyze problems while  
15 improving their public speaking. They also develop confidence and learn to work collaboratively  
16 while gaining a deeper knowledge and understanding of civics and our American legal system;  
17 and

18           WHEREAS, The final trial of the 2025 Rhode Island Mock Trial Tournament was held at

1 the Rhode Island Supreme Court on March 6, 2025, with Bishop Hendricken High School  
2 defeating the Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the Arts of Pawtucket. The Hendricken team  
3 members are Benjamin Warr, President of the club, Lucas Caporaso, Nathan Viera, Jacob  
4 Harrigan, Adam Barboza-Simpkins, Matthew Pappas, Edward Saroka, and Ryan Lopez. The team  
5 was coached superbly by Donna Lynch, Moderator, and Rebecca Warr, an outside attorney who  
6 assists the team on a weekly basis; now, therefore be it

7           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
8 congratulates the Bishop Hendricken Mock Trial Team on winning the Rhode Island Mock Trial  
9 Tournament for the first time in school history. We furthermore wish the Bishop Hendricken  
10 Mock Trial Team continued success at the National Mock Trial Championships being held in  
11 Phoenix, Arizona, from May 7-11, 2025; and be it further

12           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
13 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Bishop Hendricken Mock Trial Team.

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