

2021 -- H 5176

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
TO ADJUST PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES THAT ARE HARMING RHODE ISLAND'S  
SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Introduced By: Representatives O'Brien, Corvese, Hawkins, Potter, and Noret

Date Introduced: January 27, 2021

Referred To: House Small Business

1           WHEREAS, Rhode Island's small business community is comprised of a wide array of  
2 diverse business owners, employees, and vendors who together make up the heart and soul of our  
3 state's economy while providing employment and financial security for hundreds of thousands of  
4 Rhode Islanders; and

5           WHEREAS, The Governor of the State of Rhode Island has enacted a number of  
6 executive orders and health directives that have negatively impacted Rhode Island's small  
7 business community; and

8           WHEREAS, Some of the directives, mandates, and executive orders – in particular, the  
9 10 p.m. weekday and 10:30 p.m. weekend closing time established on Nov. 8, 2020 – have  
10 caused significant, and in some cases, irreparable harm to restaurants, bars, social clubs, stores,  
11 vendors, indoor recreational facilities, and other small businesses; and

12           WHEREAS, This harm has not been adequately recognized, and sufficient resources or  
13 assistance to the small business community has not been provided; and

14           WHEREAS, In addition, small businesses have not been informed as to when or how  
15 they may return to normal hours of operations, despite having taken numerous precautions and  
16 complying with all other mandated health procedures; and

17           WHEREAS, The closing times established by these directives, mandates, and executive  
18 orders were not decreed with an accompanying scientific or rational explanation, and while  
19 initially promised to be temporary in nature, have now been in effect continuously for several

1 months; now, therefore be it

2           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
3 respectfully requests that the Governor of the State of Rhode Island adjust the current public  
4 health guidelines that are harming Rhode Island's small business community; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
6 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Rhode Island.

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