

2021 -- H 6463

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

**CONGRATULATING DR. DAVID DOOLEY ON HIS RETIREMENT AS THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND ON JULY 31, 2021, AFTER TWELVE YEARS
OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Fogarty, McEntee, Tanzi, Blazejewski,
Abney, Craven, Phillips, McGaw, and Caldwell

Date Introduced: June 23, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, In his twelve years of distinguished service as the President of the
2 University of Rhode Island, Dr. David Dooley has worked tirelessly to increase the prominence
3 and impact of the state's chief research university. Thanks to Dr. Dooley's leadership and
4 guidance, the national reputation and stature of the University of Rhode Island has been
5 significantly elevated; and

6 WHEREAS, President Dooley holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the
7 University of California in San Diego, and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the California Institute of
8 Technology. He began his admirable public service career in 1978, when he attained a position as
9 an Assistant Professor within the Department of Chemistry at Amherst College. He subsequently
10 served as an Associate Professor in 1984, and became a full Professor in 1989. He also served as
11 Chairman of the Department of Chemistry at Amherst College from 1986 to 1989, and from 1991
12 through 1993; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Dooley served as a Visiting Scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of
14 Technology in 1981, and as a Visiting Scholar at Stanford in 1982. He was an Associate Faculty
15 member of the Molecular and Cellular Biology Program at the University of Massachusetts from
16 1984 to 1986, and with the Graduate Faculty of the same department from 1986 to 1993. Dr.
17 Dooley then served as the Head of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Montana
18 State University from 1993 to 1999, as the Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic
19 Affairs at Montana State University from 1999 to 2001, and was chosen in 2001 as the

1 University's permanent Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; and

2 WHEREAS, To the good fortune of the people of the State of Rhode Island, Dr. Dooley
3 was selected in 2009 to be the University of Rhode Island's 11th President. His esteemed tenure
4 as President has included numerous important and significant achievements. Thanks to his stellar
5 leadership, a record number of applications and enrollments have taken place over the past seven
6 years and student selectivity and diversity has improved each year. Currently, the University of
7 Rhode Island places in the "Top 100 Best Value Schools" and in the top 45 percent of National
8 Universities, according to the US News & World Report rankings; and

9 WHEREAS, The University of Rhode Island also engenders national respect for many of
10 its schools and departments. The URI School of Nursing ranks number one in New England for
11 federal research funding received from the National Institutes of Health, and has risen to 37th in
12 the nation for such funding. Nationally, the College of Pharmacy ranks 8th out of 143 programs
13 in total research funding and is the only New England school to make the top twenty. Also, URI's
14 undergraduate business program is nationally ranked in the top 30 percent by US News & World
15 Report; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Dooley has managed to maintain URI's status as being one of the most
17 affordable Universities in the Northeast while simultaneously obtaining the resources to invest
18 \$834 million in capital and campus improvements over the past twelve years. Thanks in part to
19 his advocacy, \$313 million in general obligation bonds were approved by Rhode Island voters to
20 fund construction and major rehabilitation of campus buildings and facilities including the Fine
21 Arts Center, the Narragansett Bay Campus Phase 1 Renewal, Phase 11 of the Engineering Bliss
22 Hall Renovation and expansion, the Fascitelli Center for Advanced Engineering, and the Richard
23 E. Beaupre Center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences (Chemistry) Building; and

24 WHEREAS, Another success for Dr. Dooley and the University of Rhode Island
25 occurred when the National Science Foundation (NSF) chose the East Coast Oceanographic
26 Consortium, led by the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography, to
27 operate a new oceanographic research ship, one of only three in the nation. This Regional Class
28 Research Vessel is expected to enter service in 2023 and be home-ported at URI's Narragansett
29 Bay Campus; and

30 WHEREAS, Additional achievement's reached during Dr. Dooley's tenure include being
31 recently added to the National Science Foundation's prestigious list of CyberCorps Universities,
32 having the URI Digital Forensics and Cyber Security Center be designated as the National Center
33 of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education and Research by the National Security
34 Agency and the Department of Homeland Security. The University of Rhode Island was also the

1 first education institution in the nation to build a freestanding Gender and Sexuality Center and to
2 implement a Board of Trustees for the University; and

3 WHEREAS, When Dr. Dooley came aboard as the President of the University of Rhode
4 Island, he set ambitious transformational goals for the future and has made significant progress
5 towards creating a 21st century learning environment that will better prepare students to excel and
6 lead. He has also worked towards increasing the scope, prominence, impact and magnitude of
7 URI's Research scholarship and creative work, in order to better internationalize and globalize
8 the University, and build a community that highly values the important principles of equity and
9 diversity; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
11 congratulates Dr. David Dooley on his retirement as President of the University of Rhode Island
12 after twelve years of exemplary and distinguished service to the State of Rhode Island; and be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That the secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
15 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Dr. David Dooley, President of the University
16 of Rhode Island.

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