

2022 -- H 7038

LC003752

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

HOUSE RESOLUTION

JOYOUSLY CELEBRATING THE 218TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF
HAITIAN INDEPENDENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2022

Introduced By: Representatives Morales, Giraldo, Hull, Henries, Alzate, Biah,
Blazejewski, Batista, Filippi, and Felix

Date Introduced: January 11, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, On January 1, 1804, Haiti declared its independence from France to become
2 the world's first black republic and the second democracy in the world after the United States;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The Haitian Declaration of Independence was proclaimed by Jean-Jacques
5 Dessalines, culminating with the end of the thirteen year Haitian Revolution and resulting in Haiti
6 becoming the first independent nation in Latin America; and

7 WHEREAS, The Haitian Declaration of Independence was the first successful revolution
8 of enslaved people in world history; and

9 WHEREAS, Prior to this historic event, Freemen from the French colony of Saint
10 Domingue, now the Republic of Haiti, had fought alongside the United States Continental Army;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Major Joseph Savary, a Haitian, was the first black Major in the United
13 States Army and led the Second Battalion of Freeman of Color at the Battle of New Orleans; and

14 WHEREAS, Frederick Douglass, the foremost spokesman on human rights and the anti-
15 slavery movement in the United States, was named the first United States Minister and Consul-
16 General to Haiti in 1889; and

17 WHEREAS, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, a Haitian, built the first permanent settlement
18 of what would later become the City of Chicago; and

19 WHEREAS, The culture of Haiti is an amalgamation of African, Taino, the indigenous

1 people of the Caribbean, and European elements, primarily French, that has produced world-
2 famous art, cuisine, music and dance; and

3 WHEREAS, Many people from Haiti and their descendants have contributed greatly to
4 the arts and sciences in the United States, such as W.E.B. DuBois, the Haitian-American author
5 and political activist, who was one of the most prestigious and prominent intellectual leaders of
6 African-American society and all of the United States in the 20th century; and

7 WHEREAS, An estimated 1.2 million people of Haitian descent currently live in the
8 United States. The close proximity to American shores, in conjunction with our common bond of
9 mutual values and commitment to democracy and equality, ensures lasting comity and continued
10 trade and diplomatic relations; and

11 WHEREAS, An estimated eight thousand people of Haitian decent came to live in Rhode
12 Island; and

13 WHEREAS, Councilperson Aniece Germain of Cranston, has become the first person of
14 Haitian descent to be elected to a public office in Rhode Island; now, therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
16 joyously celebrates the 218th Anniversary of Haitian Independence; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to His Excellency, Bocchit Edmond, Ambassador
19 of the Republic of Haiti in the United States, and to the Honorable Councilperson Aniece
20 Germain of Cranston.

=====
LC003752
=====