

2022 -- H 8201

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING THE 4TH ANNUAL "STATE DAY OF THE COOPERATIVE" ON  
MAY 3, 2022, IN RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Giraldo, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Felix, Alzate, Barros,  
Tobon, Kazarian, Williams, and Filippi

Date Introduced: May 03, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Worker-Owned cooperatives are business enterprises that are owned and  
2 governed by their employees and have two common characteristics, member-owners invest in and  
3 own the business together and share in the enterprise's profits, and the business' decision-making  
4 is democratic, with each member having one vote; and

5           WHEREAS, In 2012, the United Nations declared "The Year of Cooperatives" and  
6 encouraged governments "to establish policies, laws, and regulations conducive to cooperative  
7 formation and growth"; and

8           WHEREAS, Rhode Island provided for the creation of Worker-Owned Cooperatives as a  
9 recognized form of business incorporation with unique characteristics, through legislation that  
10 allows workers and investors to form workers' cooperatives and are specifically aimed at  
11 empowering workers; and

12           WHEREAS, Worker-Owned Cooperatives have a long and proud history of building  
13 wealth, security, equality, resiliency, solidarity, and hope for individuals and families, especially  
14 in those communities and among those populations historically disadvantaged; and

15           WHEREAS, Because Worker-Owned Cooperatives are owned by their workers, they  
16 concentrate as much on creating lasting and meaningful employment and good, healthy working  
17 conditions as they do on generating profits for the owners/workers; and

18           WHEREAS, Worker-Owned Cooperatives have as their express purpose and charter, the  
19 increase of equity, participation in democratic governance, control of working conditions,

1 security, and control of economic destiny for their members; and

2 WHEREAS, The diverse communities of Rhode Island offer myriad opportunities for  
3 entrepreneurship, innovation, development, and investment by Worker-Owned Cooperatives,  
4 whose members hail directly from those communities and whose business activities directly serve  
5 those communities and whose actions are directly accountable to those communities; and

6 WHEREAS, Conversion of businesses to Worker-Owned Cooperatives to avoid closure  
7 or sale to out-of-state entities, represents a sound and creative response by this State to the  
8 inevitable retirement of Rhode Island small business owners; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
10 commemorates the 4<sup>th</sup> annual "State Day of the Cooperative" on May 3, 2022, in order to  
11 celebrate and promote the proliferation and growth of Worker-Owned Cooperatives in our State -  
12 businesses which have demonstrated the ability to bring "the economic benefits of a fulfilling life  
13 with a good job" along with dignity and self-determination, to individuals and communities  
14 around the State; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
16 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Fuerza Laboral/Power of Workers.

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