

2021 -- S 0039

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROTECTING AND ENSURING FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Sosnowski, Rogers, Euer, and Valverde

Date Introduced: January 19, 2021

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

1 WHEREAS, Productive farmland is being converted to other uses because its
2 development value can exceed its value for agricultural purposes; and

3 WHEREAS, Agriculture is an important part of the state's economy, environment, and
4 quality of life; and

5 WHEREAS, Local food production has become increasingly important to the people of
6 the State; and

7 WHEREAS, The amount of good farmland has declined so dramatically that a
8 comprehensive program, the Farmland Preservation Act, was initiated by the State to preserve the
9 State's remaining farmland; and

10 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's policymakers enacted additional legislation and implemented
11 numerous regulations over the past decade to protect and safeguard the State's farmland; and

12 WHEREAS, These laws and regulations have helped preserve the State's farmland; and

13 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM)
14 serves as the chief steward of the State's agricultural resources and has diligently worked with
15 myriad partners to preserve, restore and protect the State's farmlands; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby recognizes that land
17 suitable for food production in the State has become an extremely scarce and valuable resource;
18 and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby respectfully requests the Rhode Island Department
20 of Environmental Management to ensure that land that is or has been used for agricultural

1 operations is further protected, and that when agricultural land is also used for fish and wildlife
2 purposes, ensure that the fish and wildlife purposes are not detrimental to the agricultural
3 purposes and operations, and are not detrimental to the land's agricultural productivity, and that
4 the fish and wildlife uses be limited to the non-growing season to wit, limit fish and wildlife
5 purposes to dates between November 1 and March 31 each year, so as not to interfere with the
6 growing season; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
8 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Janet L. Coit, Director, Rhode Island
9 Department of Environmental Management.

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