

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE EMERGENCE OF THE JEWISH ALLIANCE
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Miller, and Perry

Date Introduced: January 20, 2011

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Three merging agencies, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the Bureau
2 of Jewish Education of Rhode Island (BJE), and the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island
3 (JCC), have formed the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island (Alliance); and

4 WHEREAS, Envisioning a “vibrant and flourishing Jewish community that engages and
5 inspires through inclusion, participation and respect” the mission of the newly formed Alliance is
6 to “build and sustain” a “local and global Jewish community by maximizing philanthropic
7 resources, volunteer efforts and social, cultural, and educational opportunities”; and

8 WHEREAS, There are currently more than 16,000 members of the Jewish faith living in
9 Rhode Island; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2005, there were six Jewish congregations in Providence and eleven
11 located elsewhere around the state. Members of the Jewish faith have served in the state
12 legislature since the 1890s and have been elected to every statewide office. There have been two
13 Jewish governors, Frank Licht, first elected in 1968, and Bruce Sundlun, first elected in 1991; and

14 WHEREAS, Rhode Island’s Jewish community has actively participated in the state’s
15 cultural life, especially during the past half century. The state’s major theatrical company, Trinity
16 Repertory, originated at the Jewish Community Center. Daniel Robbins, the first Jewish Director
17 of Rhode Island School of Design’s Museum of Art, helped create its core collection of modern
18 art, the gift of Selma Pilavin; and

19 WHEREAS, Active in civic affairs, the Jewish community has also helped lead the

1 United Way, the Rhode Island Foundation, and the ACLU; and

2 WHEREAS, Jewish Rhode Islanders have made immense contributions to the quality of
3 life and the overall vitality of our state, and we are certain that the newly formed Jewish Alliance
4 of Greater Rhode Island will not only further the proud heritage of our Jewish population, but will
5 also continue to work to ensure a brighter and more prosperous future for all Rhode Islanders;
6 now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
8 hereby recognizes and celebrates the emergence of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island;
9 and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
11 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Board Chair, the Jewish Alliance of Greater
12 Rhode Island.

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