

2011 -- S 0278

LC00262

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 20TH THROUGH FEBRUARY 26TH, 2011, TO BE "CHESS
AWARENESS WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator Beatrice A. Lanzi

Date Introduced: February 15, 2011

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Invented over fifteen hundred years ago in India, chess is a classic game of
2 strategy. It is said that the ruler of India wanted a way to teach children of the royal family to
3 become better thinkers and better generals on the battlefield. Chess was the result; and

4 WHEREAS, Since its inception, chess has spread to almost every country in the world.
5 Approximately thirty nations have chess currently incorporated into their education curricula, and
6 in countries where it is offered as part of the curriculum, students exhibit a heightened ability to
7 recognize complex patterns and, consequently, tend to excel in math and science; and

8 WHEREAS, In the United States, chess has received endorsements by many educators,
9 both past and present, ranging from Benjamin Franklin to former United States Secretary of
10 Education, Terrel H. Bell. Currently, western Pennsylvania offers chess programs in more than 70
11 schools, with thousands of students participating each year; and

12 WHEREAS, The myriad benefits chess confers on learning development include focus,
13 visualization, thinking ahead, weighing options, analytical decision-making, thinking abstractly,
14 planning and juggling multiple considerations simultaneously, understanding the consequences of
15 actions, and planning for future possibilities; and

16 WHEREAS, The beauty of chess as a teaching tool is that it stimulates children's minds
17 and helps them to build these skills while they enjoy themselves. As a result, children become
18 more critical thinkers, better problem solvers, and more independent decision-makers; now,
19 therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
2 hereby proclaims February 20th through February 26th, 2011, to be “Chess Awareness Week” in
3 the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby respectfully requests the Commissioner of
5 Elementary and Secondary Education to support the development of programs to offer instruction
6 in chess and encourage school districts to offer students in Rhode Island’s public schools
7 opportunities to participate in chess programs; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
9 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Rhode Island Commissioner of Elementary
10 and Secondary Education.

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