

2017 -- S 0939

LC002805

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL AND DESIGNATING THE PERIOD FROM JUNE 7, 2017, THROUGH JUNE 7, 2018, AS "THE YEAR OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL"

Introduced By: Senator Dennis L. Algieri

Date Introduced: June 07, 2017

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, The Lions Clubs International (LCI) is an international service organization
2 headquartered in Oak Brook, Illinois. It is comprised of more than 46,000 local clubs and has
3 more than 1.4 million members representing more than 200 countries; and

4 WHEREAS, The Lions Clubs International was founded on June 7, 1917, by Chicago
5 Businessman Melvin Jones. Mr. Jones thought that if he and his colleagues, all of whom were
6 highly driven, intelligent and successful, put their talents and ambition to work towards
7 improving their local communities, through community service, much could be accomplished
8 towards making the world and our local communities better places to live in; and

9 WHEREAS, The stated purpose of the Lions Clubs International is to organize by
10 chartering and supervising their service clubs, to coordinate the activities of these clubs, to create
11 a spirit of understanding and cooperation amongst the peoples of the world, to promote the
12 principles of good government and good citizenship, to take an active interest in civic, cultural
13 and social affairs, to unite the clubs in the bonds of friendship and fellowship, to provide a forum
14 for the open discussion of all matters of public interest, and to encourage civic-minded people to
15 serve their communities; and

16 WHEREAS, The Motto of the Lions is "We Serve." Lions Clubs plan and participate in a
17 wide variety of service projects including donations to hospices, youth outreach, international
18 relations, environmental issues, and health issues related to sight, speech and hearing as well as
19 cancer screening. The Lions Clubs also raise significant amounts of money to assist those

1 afflicted by natural disasters, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados and typhoons; and

2 WHEREAS, Ever since Helen Keller addressed the Lions Clubs International Convention
3 in 1925 and beseeched the Lions to be "Knights of the Blind", the Lions have become famous
4 world-wide for their tireless support of the blind and vision-impaired population. Lions Clubs
5 have raised many millions of dollars and public awareness on this issue through their numerous
6 "SightFirst" programs including the Childhood Blindness Project, the Lions Eye Health Program,
7 SightFirst China Action, the River Blindness/Trachoma program and their Sight for Kids
8 program. Most eye banks in the world are sponsored by the Lions and in 2001 they partnered with
9 the Special Olympics to create the Opening Eyes program, which screened the vision of Special
10 Olympics athletes; and

11 WHEREAS, Throughout the Lions one-hundred years of history, they have made a
12 positive impact and played a prominent role in public and world affairs. The Lions assisted in the
13 drafting of the United Nations Charter in 1945 and Mother Teresa accepted the Lions
14 Humanitarian Award in 1986. Since 1968 and the creation of the Lions Club International
15 Foundation, they have given \$826 million to humanitarian causes; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
17 hereby recognizes and celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the Lions Clubs International; and be
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
20 hereby proclaims the period from June 7, 2017, through June 7, 2018, to be "The Year of Lions
21 Clubs International" in the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
23 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Chancellor Bob Corlew, Lions Clubs
24 International President.

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