

2010 -- S 2096

LC00279

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

JOINT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE NEW ENGLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL CONSORTIUM

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Lanzi, Gallo, Connors, and Paiva-Weed

Date Introduced: February 04, 2010

Referred To: Senate Constitutional & Regulatory Issues

1 WHEREAS, The New England Secondary School Consortium – a multistate partnership
2 forged to promote and advance higher educational aspirations, performance, and attainment
3 among the adolescents of Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont – has
4 been and will continue to be a force for enhancing the quality of Rhode Island's system of public
5 secondary education; and

6 WHEREAS, Rhode Island must transform – from its statehouse to its schoolhouses –
7 educational policies, assessment practices, teaching strategies, professional development, and
8 state and local leadership to ensure that the educational achievement of its students will not only
9 be competitive with that of their peers from across New England and the globe, but will also
10 enable every student to graduate prepared for success in the colleges, careers, and communities of
11 the 21st century; and

12 WHEREAS, Education and high levels of postsecondary-degree attainment are critical to
13 workforce development, job creation, and sustainable, long-term economic prosperity in the 21st
14 century. It is critical that Rhode Island strives to improve educational quality, opportunity, and
15 efficacy for its citizens through regional collaboration, resource sharing, expertise exchange, and
16 performance comparability; and

17 WHEREAS, The Consortium is developing internationally competitive learning models
18 and programs at the secondary level that will redefine the traditional concept of the public high
19 school to more effectively mirror the lives and learning needs of today's students. Its work also
20 centers on creating learning standards that reflect the ways in which our youth will live, work,

1 learn, and lead in the 21st century. The Consortium strives to forge new state and local policies
2 designed to stimulate educational innovation and creativity. It prioritizes the development of
3 performance assessments that can more accurately measure the essential knowledge, skills, and
4 habits of mind that Rhode Island students will apply throughout their lives and across all
5 educational, career, and civic contexts; and

6 WHEREAS, The New England states share similar histories, educational systems,
7 demographic populations, social challenges, and interdependent economic prospects. The
8 independent and collective interests of our states can be more effectively served through strategic
9 partnerships that can improve the educational, career, and life outcomes of our citizens; and

10 WHEREAS, The Consortium is fostering a coordinated regional effort to build broad-
11 based support for its major initiatives among educators, policy makers, and business leaders,
12 while also engaging parents and community members in the educational process through school
13 involvement, positive messaging, community outreach, and cross-state networking; and

14 WHEREAS, Innovative regional collaborations have the potential to attract significant
15 public and private investments, create a high skilled workforce, attract new economic
16 opportunities, drive sustained economic growth, and improve the quality of life for all Rhode
17 Island residents; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence
19 Plantations hereby expresses our strong support and endorsement of the New England Secondary
20 School Consortium and its goals, strategies, and partnerships; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
22 transmit duly certified copies to the Governor of Rhode Island; the Commissioners of Elementary
23 and Secondary Education of Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island;
24 the executive director of the Great Schools Partnership; the president of the Nellie Mae Education
25 Foundation; and the director of education for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

=====
LC00279
=====