

2012 -- S 2262

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND TO OBSERVE
JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Introduced By: Senators Metts, P Fogarty, Perry, Pichardo, and Pinga

Date Introduced: January 26, 2012

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, News of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United States,
2 and in particular the Southwestern States, for more than 2 1/2 years after President Lincoln's
3 Emancipation Proclamation, which was issued on January 1, 1863, and months after the
4 conclusion of the Civil War; and

5 WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger
6 arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were
7 free; and

8 WHEREAS, African-Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June
9 19th, commonly known as "Juneteenth Independence Day," as the anniversary of their
10 emancipation; and

11 WHEREAS, African-Americans from the Southwest continue the tradition of celebrating
12 Juneteenth Independence Day as inspiration and encouragement for future generations; and

13 WHEREAS, For more than 145 years, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have
14 been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect
15 for all cultures; and

16 WHEREAS, The faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves remain an
17 example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

1 hereby urges the citizens of the State of Rhode Island to recognize the historical significance of
2 Juneteenth Independence Day; to observe Juneteenth Independence Day with appropriate
3 ceremonies, activities, and programs; and support the continued celebration of Juneteenth
4 Independence Day by providing an opportunity for the people of the State to learn more about the
5 past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the Nation; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
7 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution Reverend Ronald V. Myers, Sr., M.D.

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