

2016 -- S 2433

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LC004627  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 FOR THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF  
OCEANOGRAPHY CENTER FOR OCEAN EXPLORATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF  
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Jabour, Goldin, Conley, and Walaska

Date Introduced: February 11, 2016

Referred To: Senate Finance

1           WHEREAS, The Graduate School of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island is  
2 a well-respected international and national center of excellence; and

3           WHEREAS, The Center for Ocean Exploration (COE) STEM (Science, Technology,  
4 Engineering, Mathematics) Project is designed to help teachers develop their 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching  
5 skills while learning to use STEM curricula with their students. Currently, the COE STEM  
6 Project serves over 1,000 students and teachers across the state with its after-school initiative,  
7 known as the Rhode Island Community STEM Program. This program has established a panoply  
8 of educational goals and strategies to engage students in the areas of science and technology  
9 literacy, as well as help teachers to motivate students, integrate technology into lesson plans, and  
10 more effectively manage their classrooms; and

11           WHEREAS, Working in collaboration with the University of Rhode Island, the Ocean  
12 Exploration Trust, and other STEM related state entities like the Boys and Girls Clubs throughout  
13 Rhode Island, the COE STEM Project seeks to implement an internationally recognized STEM  
14 program in Rhode Island; and

15           WHEREAS, In order to significantly expand the implementation of STEM, and to  
16 establish the STEM focused Graduate Fellowship Program, the Graduate School of  
17 Oceanography Center for Ocean Exploration is requesting five hundred thousand dollars  
18 (\$500,000) for a public/private partnership. Two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) will be  
19 used for such things as:

- 1 ● Certification of Lead Teachers, including stipends for involvement;
- 2 ● Grants to educators and organizations for program implementation;
- 3 ● Training for Educators and Youth Workers;
- 4 ● Curriculum for schools and after-school programs;
- 5 ● Involvement of students, teachers, and educators in the Ocean Exploration Center's
- 6 sea-going programs;
- 7 ● "Live" interactive programming for schools and after-school programs in the State; and
- 8 ● The remaining three hundred thousand (\$300,000) will be used by the Graduate School
- 9 of Oceanography and Center for Ocean Exploration to support STEM Fellow graduate students
- 10 with the explicit mission of creating and distributing STEM related content focused on current
- 11 research projects in oceanography, ocean engineering and marine science to the COE STEM
- 12 Project's partners and participants; and

13 WHEREAS, State investment will be matched by one million five hundred thousand

14 dollars (\$1,500,000) in private support; and

15 WHEREAS, The Center for Ocean Exploration's goal is to reach educators and students

16 in the program, for a net investment by the state of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per child; and

17 WHEREAS, The COE STEM Project will focus on low- and moderate-income level

18 students, as determined by Title 1 eligibility, and will specifically address the achievement gap

19 among low- and moderate-income students in Title 1 communities; and

20 WHEREAS, The Graduate School of Oceanography COE STEM Project has already had

21 a significant impact on closing the achievement gap for many students. This investment and the

22 new STEM Fellows Program will make a real difference for participating youth statewide while

23 creating a cohort of early career scientists and engineers with STEM education experience; now,

24 therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not

26 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2016-2017 and subsequent years, the sum of five

27 hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the Graduate School of Oceanography Center for Ocean

28 Exploration to implement activities outlined within this resolution; and the state controller is

29 hereby authorized and directed to draw their orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of

30 said sum, or so much thereof as may be from time to time required, upon receipt by them of

31 properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 FOR THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF  
OCEANOGRAPHY CENTER FOR OCEAN EXPLORATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF  
RHODE ISLAND

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- 1 This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$500,000 for the
- 2 Graduate School of Oceanography Center for Ocean Exploration.

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