

2018 -- S 2961

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

WELCOMING HIS EXCELLENCY MARCELO REBELO DE SOUSA, PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF PORTUGAL AND HIS EXCELLENCY ANTÓNIO COSTA, PRIME
MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF PORTUGAL, TO THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator Daniel DaPonte

Date Introduced: June 07, 2018

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, His Excellency Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of the Republic of
2 Portugal, was born on December 12, 1948, in Lisbon, Portugal, the eldest son of Baltasar Rebelo
3 de Sousa and Maria das Neves Fernandes Duarte. He attained a law degree from the Faculty of
4 Law of the University of Lisbon, and a PhD in Legal and Political Sciences with Distinction and
5 Commendation; and

6 WHEREAS, Throughout the distinguished public service career of President Rebelo de
7 Sousa, he has served with distinction as a government minister, a member of Parliament, a law
8 professor, and as a journalist; and

9 WHEREAS, President Rebelo de Sousa began his professional career as a teacher in the
10 areas of Legal and Political Sciences, and later advanced to serve as the Chairman of the
11 scientific and pedagogical boards and the Institute of Legal and Political Sciences of the Faculty
12 of Law of the University of Lisbon. He also served as a Professor at the Faculty of Social and
13 Human Services and with the Faculty of Law with the Portuguese Catholic University; and

14 WHEREAS, President Rebelo de Sousa also served the citizens of Portugal with honor in
15 the political arena. A founder of the People's Democratic Party, later the Social Democratic
16 Party, he served as party leader from 1996 to 1999. He also served as the Secretary of the
17 Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, and as a Member of
18 the Council of State; and

19 WHEREAS, His Excellency Rebelo de Sousa was elected the 20th President in Portugal

1 in 2016. The President of the Republic of Portugal is the Executive Head of State, serves as the
2 Commander of the Armed Forces and has the authority to name the Prime Minister, with the
3 support of the Assembly. President Rebelo de Sousa has proven to be a popular leader, one who
4 governs by consensus and with moderation; and

5 WHEREAS, His Excellency António Costa, Prime Minister of Portugal, was born in
6 1961, in Sao Sebastiao da Pedreira, Lisbon, the son of noted writer Orlando da Costa, and Maria
7 Antónia Palla, a journalist and feminist activist. He graduated from the Faculty of Law of the
8 University of Lisbon and has been active in Portuguese politics for more than thirty years; and

9 WHEREAS, Prime Minister Costa served as the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs for the
10 Portuguese government from 1997 to 1999, and as the Minister of Justice from 1999 to 2002. He
11 also served as a member of the European Parliament and later returned to serve the Portuguese
12 government as the Minister of State and Internal Administration following the 2005 elections;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Prime Minister Costa was elected to serve as the Mayor of Lisbon in 2007,
15 and was re-elected twice in 2009 and 2013, both by large majorities. He also served during this
16 period as the Secretary General of the Socialist Party; and

17 WHEREAS, Prime Minister Costa served as the nation of Portugal's Prime Minister
18 since November 26, 2015. The Prime Minister in the Portuguese electoral system serves as the
19 Head of Government and coordinates the actions and is responsible for their performance within
20 the Portuguese government. The Prime Minister answers to the Parliament and must keep the
21 President informed about governmental affairs. Prime Minister Costa has proven to be a popular
22 leader as he has thus far been able to combine fiscal responsibility with a pro-growth agenda; and

23 WHEREAS, The two leaders of the Portuguese State, His Excellency President Marcel
24 Rebelo de Sousa and His Excellency Prime Minister António Costa, will be visiting the State of
25 Rhode Island on June 9 and 10 in support of the annual "Day of Portugal" celebration on July 10,
26 2018. They will be hosted in the capital City of Providence and will be entertained by a Waterfire
27 show; now, therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
29 hereby warmly welcomes His Excellency Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of the Republic of
30 Portugal, and His Excellency António Costa, Prime Minister of the Republic of Portugal to the
31 State of Rhode Island; and be it further

32 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
33 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to His Excellency Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa,
34 President of the Republic of Portugal and his Excellency António Costa, Prime Minister of the

1 Republic of Portugal.

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