

**2015 -- H 5804**

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**S T A T E   O F   R H O D E   I S L A N D**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015**

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**H O U S E   R E S O L U T I O N**

**PROCLAIMING MARCH 5, 2015, TO BE "SMOKE FREE 10 DAY" IN THE STATE OF  
RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Handy, Ackerman, McNamara, Tobon, and Ruggiero

Date Introduced: March 05, 2015

Referred To: House read and passed

1            WHEREAS, The use of cigarettes and other tobacco products remains the nation's and  
2       Rhode Island's number one cause of preventable death and disease. Smoking kills more than  
3       sixteen hundred Rhode Island residents annually, more than all the deaths caused by alcohol,  
4       AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murder, and suicides combined; and

5            WHEREAS, Cigarette smoke contains over 7,000 chemicals, 69 of which are known to  
6       cause cancer, and secondhand smoke involuntarily inhaled by nonsmokers from other people's  
7       cigarettes is classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a known human (Group  
8       A) carcinogen; and

9            WHEREAS, According to the American Lung Association, secondhand smoke is  
10      responsible for approximately 3,400 lung cancer deaths and 46,000 (ranging 22,700-69,600) heart  
11      disease deaths in adult nonsmokers annually in the United States; and

12          WHEREAS, Nonsmokers exposed to secondhand smoke at work are at increased risk for  
13      adverse health effects. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, levels  
14      of secondhand smoke in restaurants and bars were found to be 2 to 5 times higher than in  
15      residences with smokers and 2 to 6 times higher than in office workplaces; and

16          WHEREAS, Ten years ago Rhode Island chose health by enacting the 2004 Public  
17      Health and Workplace Safety Act, banning indoor smoking in bars, restaurants, offices, factories  
18      and nearly every workplace in the state, encompassing industries where a disproportionate  
19      percentage of this priority population is likely to work; and

1            WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that "studies have  
2 shown that smoke-free laws that prohibit smoking in public places like bars and restaurants help  
3 improve the health of workers and the general population"; and

4            WHEREAS, A decade of smoke-free workplaces and public places, together with a high  
5 state tax on cigarettes and support for smokers to quit, has delivered significant health benefits for  
6 Rhode Islanders, helping to reduce the adult smoking rate from 23% in 2001 to 17.4% in 2013,  
7 and the youth smoking rate from 35% in 2001 to 8.1% in 2013, the second lowest in the nation;  
8 and

9            WHEREAS, A 2012 study from the Rhode Island Department of Health showed that  
10 hospitalization rates in Rhode Island for acute myocardial infarction (AMI), commonly known as  
11 heart attack, dropped 28.4% since 2005, representing a potential savings to the State of over \$6  
12 million; and

13            WHEREAS, Rhode Island helped lead the way nationwide by becoming only the seventh  
14 state to ban indoor smoking in workplaces and public places in 2004, with 18 other states  
15 following suit in the following four years, and 30 states now legally designating smoke-free  
16 indoor areas; now, therefore be it

17            RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
18 Providence Plantations hereby proclaims March 5, 2015 to be "Smoke Free 10 Day" in the State  
19 of Rhode Island, honoring the tenth anniversary of the enactment of the 2004-2005 Public Health  
20 and Workplace Safety Act; and be it further

21            RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
22 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Director of the Rhode Island Department of  
23 Health.

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