

2015 -- H 5910

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LC002072
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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

**HONORING BIKE NEWPORT AND CELEBRATING THEIR 2015 ANNUAL EVENT,
THEMED "THE FIRST MILE", ON MARCH 19, 2015, AND RECOGNIZING ALL THE
COMMITTED BICYCLISTS ON AQUIDNECK ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, Canario, Abney, Reilly, and Ruggiero

Date Introduced: March 17, 2015

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Bike Newport is a charitable organization that is dedicated to "improving,
2 encouraging and facilitating bicycling in and around Newport." Their goal is to get people out of
3 their cars and onto bikes so they may explore all of the wondrous sights Newport has to offer; and

4 WHEREAS, Annually in March, Bike Newport hosts a bicycle party replete with
5 entertainment, sumptuous food, raffles and much more. The event's chosen theme this year is
6 "The First Mile!" All proceeds from this night will be used to support efforts to create the first
7 mile of a much needed new bike path on Aquidneck Island; and

8 WHEREAS, The first mile of the proposed new bike path would provide an initial car-
9 free path on Aquidneck Island, and would connect the North End of Newport with the center of
10 town using healthy active transportation, which is recommended and encouraged. The path will
11 allow residents, visitors, and workers to reach Newport in a safer, happier, and healthier way; and

12 WHEREAS, This first mile of bike path will also provide the impetus to continue the
13 path up the island all the way to the Mount Hope and Sakonnet Bridges, as proposed by the
14 Aquidneck Island Planning Commission. This route would include some of the most scenic
15 stretches in Rhode Island, and would connect Aquidneck Island with the network of statewide
16 Rhode Island bike paths that represent some of the most beautiful bike paths in the United States;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, In addition to holding its annual "Bike Newport Night," Bike Newport
19 advocates throughout the year for safer biking and better access for bicycle riders. The group

1 offers classes and teaches people how to ride safely, produces maps of recommended routes
2 throughout Newport County for both recreational and transportation cyclists, and distributes
3 restored bicycles to community members from age four to eighty-four; and

4 WHEREAS, Bike Newport also distributes night safety equipment to Newport's bicycle
5 dependent workers. In 2013, 300 sets of safety equipment were issued. They also work
6 collaboratively with the City of Newport, Newport Police Department, Newport Public Schools,
7 the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, and the Federal Highway Administration to
8 ensure the most productive road safety initiatives, and in 2012, partnered with RIDOT for
9 Statewide Highway Safety Action Planning; and

10 WHEREAS, The City of Newport has already achieved recognition for its support for
11 biking. In 2013, the City-by-the-Sea became the first community in Rhode Island to receive
12 "Bike Friendly Community" status from the League of American Bicyclists; and

13 WHEREAS, Each and every day, Bike Newport is leading the way as a model advocacy
14 organization, working to better protect our natural resources, and encouraging people to adopt
15 healthier lifestyles; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
17 Providence Plantations hereby recognizes and applauds Bike Newport and Aquidneck Island's
18 many dedicated bicycle enthusiasts for their tireless efforts to "peddle" a healthier alternative
19 mode of transportation and for their advocacy on behalf of getting a much needed new bike path
20 started on Aquidneck Island; 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 Ms. Bari Freeman, Executive Director of Bike
23 Newport.

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