

2017 -- H 5957

LC002253

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING NEWROZ AND WISHING THE KURDISH PEOPLE A PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR

Introduced By: Representatives Regunberg, Kazarian, Ajello, Ackerman, and Casey

Date Introduced: March 21, 2017

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Kurds are an ethnic nation of about 25 to 30 million people who live in the
2 generally contiguous areas of Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria; and

3 WHEREAS, Newroz refers to the Kurdish celebration of the New Year, and represents a
4 living hope for freedom, equality and justice for all Kurds. It originated in ancient Persia and
5 dates back more than 3,000 years. The celebration coincides with the Northward equinox which
6 falls mainly on March 21st with festivals usually held between March 18th and the 24th; and

7 WHEREAS, Newroz is considered the most important festival in Kurdish culture and is a
8 time when people dress in colored clothing and gather together to welcome the coming of spring.
9 Entertainment for the celebration includes games, dancing, family gathering, preparation of
10 special foods and the reading of poetry; and

11 WHEREAS, The most common legend associated with the celebration of Newroz is
12 about Zuhak, an evil king who, for a thousand years, sacrificed young men to his serpents in order
13 to rid himself of pain, and ultimately resulted in the cessation of spring to Kurdistan. Kaveh, a
14 blacksmith who had lost six sons to this atrocity, led the revolt that finally killed Zahak and
15 brought spring back to the Kurdish people; and

16 WHEREAS, The celebration of the arrival of spring is enjoyed by nearly 300,000,000
17 people around the world, including in the United States, and other countries in Central Asia,
18 South Asia, Caucasus, Crimea, and the Balkan regions; and

19 WHEREAS, The rich cultural heritage of the Kurdish people has enhanced the diversity

1 of our state and our country as well as our understanding of that part of the world; and

2 WHEREAS, Human rights and religious tolerance are the cornerstones of Rhode Island's
3 founding and are extended to the Kurdish people, and people everywhere who strive for and
4 support democratic aspirations; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
6 Providence Plantations hereby commemorates Newroz and wishes Kurdish-Americans a
7 prosperous New Year; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
9 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the New England Kurdish Association
10 (NEKA).

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