

2017 -- H 5996

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LC002198  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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J O I N T   R E S O L U T I O N

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 TO THE COMMERCE CORPORATION TO  
PROMOTE BEER TOURISM AND THE CRAFT BEER INDUSTRY IN RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Morin, Messier, Casey, Carson, and Solomon

Date Introduced: March 23, 2017

Referred To: House Finance

1           WHEREAS, According to the Brewers Association, there were over 5005 beer breweries  
2 in the United States as of November 30, 2016, with approximately ninety-nine percent (99%) of  
3 those brewers being small and independent craft breweries; and

4           WHEREAS, In 2014, the craft brewing industry contributed over fifty-five billion dollars  
5 (\$55,000,000,000) to the U.S. economy and created or supported more than four hundred twenty-  
6 four thousand (424,000) jobs nationwide; and

7           WHEREAS, The craft brewing industry remains a growing industry within which local  
8 manufacturers may compete and succeed; and

9           WHEREAS, The craft brewing industry has a significant economic impact on a state's  
10 economy as the beer brewed by craft brewers travels from breweries to wholesalers and retailers;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, The craft brewing industry's economic impact also includes the sale of non-  
13 beer products including food and merchandise sold by brewpub restaurants and brewery  
14 taprooms, and at beer tours of local craft breweries; and

15           WHEREAS, Rhode Island currently has fourteen (14) craft breweries, which ranks forty-  
16 fifth (45th) among all states, with an economic impact in 2014 estimated by the Brewers  
17 Association to be one hundred sixty million dollars (\$160,000,000), which ranks forty-eighth  
18 (48th) among all states; and

19           WHEREAS, Our neighbors in Massachusetts have eighty-four (84) craft breweries,

1 which ranks seventeenth (17th) among all states, with an economic impact in 2014 estimated by  
2 the Brewers Association to be approximately one billion, four hundred eight million dollars  
3 (\$1,408,000) which ranks nineteenth (19th) among all states; and

4 WHEREAS, Our neighbors in Connecticut have thirty-five (35) craft breweries, which  
5 ranks thirty-second (32nd) among all states, with an economic impact in 2014 estimated by the  
6 Brewers Association to be over five hundred sixty-nine million dollars (\$569,000,000) which  
7 ranks twenty-sixth (26th) among all states; and

8 WHEREAS, The most recent estimates indicate Rhode Island craft brewers produced  
9 twenty thousand, eight hundred seven thousand (20,807) barrels of craft beer per year in 2014,  
10 which ranks forty-eighth (48th) among all states; and

11 WHEREAS, The above statistics suggest that while there is room for growth of the craft  
12 beer industry within Rhode Island, local craft brewery operators face strong competition; and

13 WHEREAS, The craft brewing industry and beer tourism are established in Rhode Island  
14 and are appropriate economic activities for the state to support and promote through the  
15 Commerce Corporation; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, There is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not  
17 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2017-2018, and annually in each fiscal year thereafter,  
18 the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation  
19 to promote the growth and development of the craft brewing industry and beer tourism in the  
20 state; and the state controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw his orders upon the  
21 general treasurer for the payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may be from time to time  
22 required, upon receipt of 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 TO THE COMMERCE CORPORATION TO  
PROMOTE BEER TOURISM AND THE CRAFT BEER INDUSTRY IN RHODE ISLAND

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- 1           This joint resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$500,000 in fiscal
- 2   year 2017-2018, and annually thereafter, to the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, to promote
- 3   the growth and development of the craft brewing industry and beer tourism in Rhode Island.

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