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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MARCH TO BE "MAPLE SYRUP MONTH" IN THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Morgan, Algieri, Sosnowski, Paolino, and Kettle

Date Introduced: March 02, 2017

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Maple syrup is a natural product that was discovered by Native Americans
2 when they figured out that the sap from maple trees could be turned into delicious syrup. Over
3 time, the process used to collect maple syrup has evolved, along with how it has been used by
4 people. For a period of time up to shortly after the end of the Civil War, maple syrup was
5 primarily used as a food sweetener, until it was replaced by cane sugar. Today, maple syrup is
6 used in a variety of popular foods, most notably pancakes, waffles, and baked beans, with its
7 culinary uses seemingly expanding every day; and

8 WHEREAS, Only maple trees found in North America are capable of producing maple
9 syrup. Maple sugaring is often considered to be the first sign of the forthcoming agricultural
10 season in parts of the United States, particularly in New England. The processing of maple syrup
11 begins by drilling, or tapping, a hole into the sapwood of the tree and then inserting a metal spout
12 to allow the flow of the sap to be collected into a bucket. Once the sap is collected, it is taken to a
13 sugar house where it is processed. When tapping season ends, the spouts are removed and the tree
14 makes a full recovery; and

15 WHEREAS, Maple syrup production is one of the most lucrative ways to make a living
16 in the forestry industry. Maple sugaring provides many labor intensive jobs and provides a natural
17 and much-in-demand product to be sold at markets, grocery stores, in specialty shops, on the
18 Internet, or directly by the farmers themselves. In addition, farmers can choose to rent a portion
19 of their land and allow, for a fee, others to collect, market, and sell the maple sugar themselves.

1 Maple sugar is a delicious and nutritious product enjoyed by millions of customers that is also an
2 indelible part of America's cultural history; now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
4 hereby proclaims the Month of March to be "Maple Syrup Month" in the State of Rhode island;
5 and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
7 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Thomas E. Buck, Principal, Rhode Island
8 Maple Syrup Producers Association.

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