

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

HONORING JIM PURCELL, ED. D., FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE YOUNG
PEOPLE OF RHODE ISLAND AS COMMISSIONER FOR POSTSECONDARY
EDUCATION

Introduced By: Senators Ruggiero, Felag, Ciccone, Algieri, and Nesselbush

Date Introduced: March 28, 2017

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, To the very good fortune of students across Rhode Island, Dr. Jim Purcell
2 was appointed Commissioner of Postsecondary Education for Rhode Island in 2014; and

3 WHEREAS, A native of the State of Alabama, Dr. Purcell attained his Bachelor's degree
4 in Public Administration from Auburn University, his Master's degree in Counseling from the
5 University of Montevallo, and his Doctor of Education in Higher Education Administration from
6 the University of Alabama. Previous to coming to Rhode Island, he had served as the
7 Commissioner of Higher Education in Louisiana; and

8 WHEREAS, During his tenure as Commissioner in Rhode Island, Dr. Purcell's
9 responsibilities have included, coordinating the efforts of our state's two public universities, the
10 University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College, and the statewide community college
11 system, the Community College of Rhode Island. He has worked diligently to implement
12 "policies and programs that increase coordination among institutions, respond to workforce
13 needs, expand access to higher education, and improve student attainment"; and

14 WHEREAS, Nationally, Dr. Purcell is a widely-respected leader in higher education and
15 has been recognized by the University of Alabama's College of Education with the Harold
16 Bishop Award for Leaders, and by the Southern Association of Institutional Research with their
17 Distinguished Member Award; and

18 WHEREAS, Extraordinary people never retire, they just begin a new chapter of their
19 lives. Such is the case with Dr. Purcell who, by virtue of his numerous accomplishments, serves

1 as a model for all our educational leaders and will be continuing his educational leadership as
2 Commissioner for Higher Education in the State of Alabama; now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
4 hereby honors and thanks Dr. Jim Purcell for his dedicated service to higher education as Rhode
5 Island's Commissioner for Postsecondary Education. We moreover wish him good health and
6 continued success as Commissioner for Higher Education in the State of Alabama; and be it
7 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 Jim Purcell, Ed. D.

=====
LC002245
=====