

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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

**RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD TO WORK
WITH THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING TO DEVELOP
A REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF EXPANDING NON-TRADE REGISTERED
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS IN RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senators Lawson, Nesselbush, Metts, Murray, and Valverde

Date Introduced: March 21, 2019

Referred To: Senate Labor

1 WHEREAS, An apprenticeship is a system of training a new generation of practitioners
2 of a trade or profession with a combination of on-the-job learning and related classroom
3 instruction; and

4 WHEREAS, Apprenticeships provide workers with practical and theoretical skills and
5 expand their opportunities in sectors where employers cannot find the workers they need; and

6 WHEREAS, Employers realize the financial benefits associated with apprenticeship
7 programs, gaining on average one dollar and forty seven cents per dollar invested in an
8 apprentice; and

9 WHEREAS, Rhode Island currently has traditional apprenticeship programs with over
10 one thousand four hundred apprentices primarily in construction and has begun expansion into
11 nontraditional apprenticeship programs; and

12 WHEREAS, Non-trade apprenticeships are models that fall outside the traditional trades
13 such as plumbing and carpentry and into new areas such as information technology and
14 healthcare; and

15 WHEREAS, The Governor's Workforce Board has begun awarding development grants
16 to organizations throughout the state that will develop new and innovative apprenticeship models;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, An apprenticeship is an effective workforce development tool that is

1 increasingly gaining recognition as a way to meet employer demands for skilled workers while
2 building pathways into the middle class for Rhode Islanders: and

3 WHEREAS, Opportunities and challenges exist to continue to expand such programs to
4 meet the needs of our workers and employers and to maximize the return on investment; now,
5 therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
7 hereby respectfully requests the Governor's Workforce Board to work with the Rhode Island
8 Department of Labor and Training to develop a report on the feasibility of expanding and
9 enhancing the Governor's Workforce Board's state grant program for non-trade registered
10 apprenticeship programs in Rhode Island; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby respectfully requests that a progress report on the
12 status and expansion of non-trade registered apprenticeship programs in Rhode Island be
13 submitted to the Senate President and Senate Majority Leader on or before January 1, 2020; and
14 be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Executive Director and Chairperson of the
17 Governor's Work Force Board, and to the Director of the Department of Labor and Training.

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