

2020 -- H 8116

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LC005513
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT GOVERNOR RAIMONDO ISSUE AN EXECUTIVE ORDER IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON EVICTIONS DUE TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19), WHILE AT THE SAME TIME EXPLORING WAYS TO PROTECT LANDLORDS

Introduced By: Representatives Williams, Blazejewski, Alzate, Giraldo, and Vella-Wilkinson

Date Introduced: July 17, 2020

Referred To: House Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a severe and debilitating respiratory disease that can spread
2 among people through respiratory transmission and presents symptoms similar to those of
3 influenza. It can result in serious illnesses and death; and

4 WHEREAS, On March 9, 2020, Governor Gina M. Raimondo declared a state of
5 emergency in Rhode Island due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease in Rhode Island; and

6 WHEREAS, On March 18, 2020, President Donald J. Trump announced that the
7 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) had authorized the Federal Housing
8 Administration (FHA) to implement an immediate foreclosure and eviction moratorium for FHA-
9 insured single-family mortgages, a moratorium that has been extended to August 31, 2020; and

10 WHEREAS, On March 18, 2020, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), directed
11 Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to suspend foreclosures and evictions for Enterprise-backed single
12 family mortgages for at least 60 days. That moratorium was extended to August 31, 2020; and

13 WHEREAS, The current emergency has severely impacted the ability of many people in
14 Rhode Island to make their mortgage payments or rent payments. Many businesses have closed or
15 reduced hours, unemployment has increased exponentially and many other people are working
16 reduced hours; and

17 WHEREAS, Removing people from their homes will only exacerbate the public health
18 threat that the COVID-19 disease poses to all Rhode Island residents, especially the elderly and

1 those with pre-existing illnesses; now, therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
3 respectfully requests that Governor Raimondo issue an Executive Order imposing a moratorium
4 on evictions due to the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), while at the same time
5 exploring ways to protect landlords; 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 Governor Gina M. Raimondo.

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