

2020 -- H 8148

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LC005590  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE MEMBERS OF THE EAST PROVIDENCE CITY  
COUNCIL TO CONSIDER PURCHASING THE METACOMET GOLF CLUB AS OPEN  
SPACE

Introduced By: Representative Gregg Amore

Date Introduced: December 10, 2020

Referred To: House Municipal Government

1           WHEREAS, The Metacomet Golf Club was incorporated in 1901 and is set on 105 acres  
2 of peaceful rolling hills and well-maintained lush green grass located on Veterans Memorial  
3 Parkway overlooking Narraganset Bay in the City of East Providence; and

4           WHEREAS, In February of 2020, the Metacomet Golf Club announced it would sell its  
5 property to Marshall Development with the current intent to turn the parcel from a private golf  
6 course into a mixed-use, commercial/residential location with some public access to open space;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, The East Providence City Council has final approval over the plan  
9 recommendations for any zoning/comprehensive plan changes that will be made to the  
10 Metacomet Golf Club parcel; and

11           WHEREAS, This decision will have an ever-lasting impact on the future of the City of  
12 East Providence and its residents, who have strongly voiced their opposition to the destruction of  
13 this historic open space; and

14           WHEREAS, A viable and significant ecological and environmental alternate vision for  
15 the preservation of this parcel would be for the City of East Providence to purchase this property  
16 through eminent domain and designate its usage as open space; and

17           WHEREAS, Utilizing a municipal bond to be supplemented through RIDEM grants and  
18 federal aid, and with the support of various conservation organizations, the "Metacomet  
19 Conservancy Land Trust" could be formed to oversee responsibility for the parcel and preserve its

1 accessibility for the public; and

2 WHEREAS, An essential portion of Rhode Island's mission for the use of greenspace  
3 bond money is to fund and protect coastal features, farmland and wooded acreage all over the  
4 state, and the preservation of the Metacomet Golf Club as open space is perfectly suited to this  
5 cause; and

6 WHEREAS, Lack of community and public access to safe open and green space is a  
7 critical area of concern for urban residents in all of New England. These green spaces play a  
8 critical role in helping residents and visitors get outside and become active, and improves the  
9 urban climate, abates the urban heat-island effect by their ecological-balancer function, and  
10 reduces environmental damages; and

11 WHEREAS, It is in the very best long-term interest of the City of East Providence and  
12 the State of Rhode Island to keep Metacomet green; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
14 respectfully requests the East Providence City Council to consider purchasing the Metacomet  
15 Golf Club as open space; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
17 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Mayor DaSilva and members of the East  
18 Providence City Council.

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