

2021 -- H 5230

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

JOINT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION TO
TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO PREPARE AND BUDGET THE STATE'S SHARE FOR
THE ACQUISITION OF THE METACOMET GOLF COURSE

Introduced By: Representatives Amore, Henriess, and Cassar

Date Introduced: January 29, 2021

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, Providing land for public recreation and the conservation of natural
2 resources promotes the public health, prosperity, and general welfare and is a proper
3 responsibility of government; and

4 WHEREAS, The available recreational lands in our cities are not adequate to meet the
5 needs of the population; and

6 WHEREAS, Due to the State's small size, consideration to the special park requirement
7 needs of urban areas has often been replaced by the desire to develop available lands for the
8 purpose of increasing a tax base; and

9 WHEREAS, Commercial development of available lands may have a greater economic
10 impact than maintaining the same lands as open spaces, and the diminishing supply of
11 recreational lands in the State's urban core has a profound effect on the lives and well-being of
12 those urban residents; and

13 WHEREAS, Lack of community and public access to safe, open, recreational and green
14 space is a critical area of concern for our urban residents. These green spaces play a critical role
15 in helping residents and visitors get outside and become active, and improves the urban climate,
16 abates the urban heat-island effect by their ecological-balancer function, and reduces
17 environmental damages; and

18 WHEREAS, The State should take those steps necessary to assist local governments to
19 acquire lands so that they may be used and preserved for future use as open, recreational and

1 green space; and

2 WHEREAS, The City of East Providence is discussing the possibility of purchasing or
3 taking, through eminent domain, the Metacomet Golf Course; and

4 WHEREAS, The Metacomet Golf Course was designed by Donald Ross, one of
5 America's most preeminent golf architects, and abuts the sartorial splendor of Veterans'
6 Memorial Parkway, itself designed in the grand tradition of Frederick Olmsted as preserving and
7 creating public green space for the benefit for us all; and

8 WHEREAS, The development of the Metacomet Golf Course for commercial and
9 residential purposes will have an adverse impact on the quality of life for East Providence
10 residents and a significant ecological and environmental effect on the surrounding area; and

11 WHEREAS, Maintaining the Metacomet Golf Course as an open space, in its entirety,
12 helps serve as an insurance policy against climate change; and

13 WHEREAS, The purchase of Metacomet Golf Course presents a once in a life-time
14 opportunity to preserve a unique piece of property of significance and provide a source of
15 recreation and green space to the underrepresented urban core; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island hereby asserts that
17 time is of the essence, notwithstanding the timing provisions contained in § 32-4-9 of the general
18 laws, and requests the Director of the Department of Administration to take all steps necessary to
19 prepare and budget the State's share, as provided in chapter 4 of title 32 of the Rhode Island
20 general laws, for the acquisition of the Metacomet Golf Course by the City of East Providence;
21 and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
23 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Rhode Island and
24 the Director of the Department of Administration.

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