WHEREAS, The global COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic has resulted in 2534 deaths in Rhode Island and is the leading cause of death in 2020; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has severely impacted residents and employees of Rhode Island nursing facilities; and

WHEREAS, Nursing home residents comprise 56% of all COVID-19 related fatalities in Rhode Island, and

WHEREAS, The Federal Drug Administration has authorized three vaccines for emergency use which can significantly reduce COVID-19 infections; and

WHEREAS, Vaccination appears to be the best medical prevention method for COVID-19 infections which lead to hospitalization and deaths; and

WHEREAS, The state has entered into a partnership with pharmacy companies including CVS and Walgreens to provide Covid-19 vaccinations to all Rhode Island nursing home residents and employees; and

WHEREAS, The administration of the COVID-19 vaccine in nursing homes by the Pharmacy Partnership has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of Covid-19 cases and deaths in nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 infections can be unknowingly spread by asymptomatic individuals and research has found the proportion of transmission from individuals who never
have COVID-19 symptoms was estimated to account for more than half of all transmission; and

WHEREAS, It is the interest of the state to monitor the acceptance and administration of COVID-19 vaccinations among nursing home residents and staff to avoid further outbreaks; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the state of Rhode Island hereby directs the Rhode Island Department of Health to require licensed nursing facilities to report on the number and percent of residents and staff receiving COVID-19 vaccinations during the declared federal and state health emergency (and annually thereafter if COVID-19 outbreaks occur); and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Director Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH, Rhode Island Department of Health.

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