WHEREAS, An identifiable Pokanoket Indian community has existed in the vicinity of their ancestral lands of North-Central and Eastern Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts since prior to the first European contact as evidenced by the fact that this area was known as Pokanoket Country/King Philips Country documented in colonial times; and

WHEREAS, The Pokanoket Tribe of the Wampanoag Nation has continuously lived, married and intermarried amongst themselves and intermarried with the Wampanoag Nation Community; and

WHEREAS, The Pokanoket Tribe of the Wampanoag Nation entered into treaties and warred with the colonial governments in particular the Great New England War of 1675-1676 a.k.a. the "King Philips War"; and

WHEREAS, It is the policy of the State of Rhode Island to recognize the indigenous people within the borders of the state, and to support the aspirations for the preservation of their cultural heritage and to assist them in achieving their just rights; and

WHEREAS, This act will insure the prevention of other individuals misrepresenting themselves by "representing" to be members of he Pokanoket Tribe of the Wampanoag Nation; and

WHEREAS, The towns of Bristol County in the state of Rhode Island (Bristol, Barrington and Warren) recognize the Pokanoket Tribe of the Wampanoag Nation as the aboriginal people throughout Eastern Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts and further
support their Petition #145 in the Bureau of Indian Affairs to obtain federal recognition. The Pokanoket tribe is also supported by a National Resolution from the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, endorsed by Pilgrim Society and the Pilgrim Hall Museum in Plymouth, Massachusetts & etc.; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives and the Senate of the legislature of the State of Rhode Island and greater Providence Plantations formally recognize the Pokanoket Tribe of the Wampanoag Nation and supports Petition #145, submitted within the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That duly certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the President of the United States, the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, and the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, United States Department of the Interior.
EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N
GIVING STATE RECOGNITION FOR THE POKANOKET TRIBE OF THE WAMPANOAG NATION

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1  This resolution would give state recognition to the Pokanoket Tribe of the Wampanoag

2  Nation.

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LC00859
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