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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**CONGRATULATING ERIKA VAN PELT ON BEING SELECTED FOR AMERICAN IDOL
AND WISHING HER THE VERY BEST OF LUCK**

Introduced By: Representatives Tanzi, Lally, Walsh, and Dickinson

Date Introduced: March 07, 2012

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Americans have always believed that our country is a land of opportunity, a
2 place where lives and futures can change overnight, and impossible imaginings can and do come
3 true. The American Idol competition has made those dreams come true for many an aspiring
4 singer, and one of this year's hopefuls is Rhode Island's own homegrown beauty and vocalist,
5 Erika Van Pelt; and

6 WHEREAS, Erika was born and raised in Providence and currently resides in South
7 County. Triple blessed, she is a singer, songwriter, and musician, who entertained family and
8 friends with her singing and performances before she could even walk; and

9 WHEREAS, As is the foundation for so many great singers, Erika comes from a
10 musically devoted and gifted family and her early training was with the local church choir. By
11 age seven, she was already becoming a shining star, singing solo with the adult choir; and

12 WHEREAS, By high school Erika had no doubts that her future was on a musical path.
13 She was a member of the school's award-winning vocal jazz ensemble and chorus and became
14 heavily involved in musical theatre. She went on to place first in the state for several years in the
15 Rhode Island All State Jazz Choir, Rhode Island All-State Chorus, All New England Chorus, and
16 All-Eastern Chorus competitions. She has been a member of the Chorus of Westerly for several
17 years, and was a founding member of an A Cappella group called SoundCheck; and

18 WHEREAS, Following high school, Erika attended Berklee College of Music in Boston,
19 where she studied jazz, rock, pop, and soul genres along with production and engineering; and

1 WHEREAS, Erika’s passion for arranging and writing music evolved into a very
2 successful full-time career. In 2005, she launched her own company, VP Entertainment, a full-
3 service mobile DJ company, and became an independent contractor with Kaleidoscope Kabaret.
4 In addition, she performs part-time with “The Sultans of Swing,” and is a performing partner of
5 “Fairhaven Entertainment” and “Boston Swing”; and

6 WHEREAS, With the hope of making it as a “solo artist” Erika tried out and earned her
7 spot on American Idol. With her “soulful, precise, and yet limitless” voice, a stage presence and
8 performance that is “memorable and inspirational,” and the support of Rhode Islanders and fans
9 across the country, Erika is on her way to making her dreams a reality in the very near future;
10 now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
12 Providence Plantations hereby congratulates Erika Van Pelt on being selected for American Idol.
13 We furthermore encourage all Rhode Islanders to tune in and vote as often as they can to ensure
14 Erika’s continued success; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ms. Erika Van Pelt.

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