

2012 -- S 2404

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 FOR THE JASON PROJECT

Introduced By: Senators Crowley, DeVall, DiPalma, Metts, and Pichardo

Date Introduced: February 15, 2012

Referred To: Senate Finance

1           WHEREAS, The Jason Project is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded by  
2 University of Rhode Island Professor Robert D. Ballard in 1989; and

3           WHEREAS, The Jason Project is designed to help teachers develop their 21<sup>st</sup> century  
4 teaching skills while learning to use JASON curricula with their students. Currently, the Jason  
5 Project serves approximately 1,000 students and teachers across the state with its after-school  
6 initiative, known as Immersion Learning, and has established a panoply of educational goals and  
7 strategies to engage students in the areas of science, technology, and literacy, as well as help  
8 teachers to motivate students, integrate technology into lesson plans, and more effectively  
9 manage their classrooms; and

10           WHEREAS, Working in collaboration with the University of Rhode Island, the National  
11 Geographic Society, the Sea Research Foundation, the Mystic Aquarium, the Cal Ripken, Sr.  
12 Foundation, and the Boys and Girls Clubs throughout Rhode Island, the Jason Project seeks to  
13 implement the internationally recognized STEM program in Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket,  
14 Providence, Smithfield, Westerly, West Warwick, and Woonsocket; and

15           WHEREAS, In order to significantly expand the implementation of STEM, the Jason  
16 Project is requesting \$500,000 for a public/private partnership. The funding will be used as  
17 follows:

- 18           • Certification of Lead Teachers, including stipends for involvement, \$35,000;  
19           • Grants to schools and organizations for program implementation, \$185,000;  
20           • Training for Educators and Youth Workers, \$50,000;

- 1       • Curriculum for schools and after-school programs; \$80,000;  
2       • Scientist mentoring via URI Inner Space Center, \$150,000; and

3           WHEREAS, State investment will be matched by \$1.5 million in private support  
4 including complimentary admission to Mystic Aquarium for participating students; and

5           WHEREAS, The project's goal is to reach approximately 75 educators and 10,000  
6 students in the first year of the program, for a net investment by the state of \$50.00 per child; and

7           WHEREAS, The Jason Project will focus on low- and moderate-income level students, as  
8 determined by Title 1 eligibility, and will specifically address the achievement gap among low-  
9 and moderate-income students in Title 1 communities; and

10          WHEREAS, Operating in all 50 states, the Jason Project makes a real difference for  
11 participating youth and has had a significant impact on closing the achievement gap for many  
12 students; now, therefore be it

13          RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not  
14 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2012-2013, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars  
15 (\$500,000) for the Jason Project to implement activities outlined within this resolution; and the  
16 state controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw his orders upon the general treasurer for  
17 the payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may be from time to time required, upon receipt  
18 by him of properly authenticated vouchers.

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