

2012 -- S 2903

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES LABOR SECRETARY
WITHDRAW THE PROPOSAL TO MODIFY STUDENT LEARNER EXEMPTIONS IN
AGRICULTURE UNDER THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

Introduced By: Senators Maher, Sosnowski, Kettle, Hodgson, and Shibley

Date Introduced: April 26, 2012

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The citizens of the State of Rhode Island have long enjoyed a proud
2 agricultural tradition; and

3 WHEREAS, The economic impact of Rhode Island agriculture continues to grow, even
4 through this recession, supporting both the fiscal and physical health of our state; and

5 WHEREAS, Organizations such as the Future Farmers of America and 4-H have long
6 served Rhode Island and the United States by helping to educate our children with economic and
7 life skills necessary to cultivate a green economy by providing access to practical experience in
8 agriculture; and

9 WHEREAS, The Secretary of the United States Department of Labor has proposed
10 severely limiting access to Student Learner Exemptions for Agriculture under the Fair Labor
11 Standards Act, exemptions which have allowed generations of American children to gain
12 practical skills in farming; and

13 WHEREAS, The average age of the American farmer is over 50 years; and

14 WHEREAS, The proposed changes will serve as a barrier to engagement with agriculture
15 to Rhode Island youth; and

16 WHEREAS, These proposed regulatory changes will undermine the agricultural
17 economy and tradition of Rhode Island and the United States; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
19 hereby respectfully requests that the Secretary withdraw said proposal to modify Student Learner

1 Exemptions in Agriculture under the Fair Labor Standards Act; and be it further
2 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
3 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Secretary of the United States Department
4 of Labor, Hilda Solis.

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