

2013 -- H 6189

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LC02711
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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

**PROCLAIMING MAY 31, 2013, AS "WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY" IN THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Handy, Cimini, Blazejewski, Shekarchi, and Ackerman

Date Introduced: May 30, 2013

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The use of tobacco products remains the nation's and Rhode Island's number
2 one cause of preventable death and disease. Smoking kills more than sixteen hundred Rhode
3 Island residents annually, more than all the deaths caused from alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal
4 drugs, murder, and suicides combined; and

5 WHEREAS, Nearly one in every five Rhode Islanders smoke, and ninety percent of
6 tobacco users begin before the age of eighteen. In Rhode Island, approximately thirteen hundred
7 children under the age of eighteen become smokers each year, and two million packs of cigarettes
8 are bought or smoked by Rhode Island children each year; and

9 WHEREAS, Tobacco-caused health care costs are hurting Rhode Island's economy, with
10 over a half-billion dollars each year going toward smoking-caused health care expenditures,
11 including \$179 million in state Medicaid costs. State and federal expenditures on smoking-caused
12 problems result in an average annual tax burden of \$721 per household for Rhode Island
13 residents; and

14 WHEREAS, Tobacco also affects Rhode Island businesses, costing them \$379 million in
15 productivity losses each year; and

16 WHEREAS, According to the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, "every ten percent
17 increase in the real price of cigarettes reduces overall cigarette consumption by approximately
18 three to five percent, reduces the number of young-adult smokers by 3.5 percent, and reduces the
19 number of kids who smoke by six or seven percent"; and

1 WHEREAS, A ten percent increase in Rhode Island would motivate 3,700 Rhode
2 Islanders to quit smoking for good and will stop 2,900 kids from ever becoming addicted to
3 tobacco products; and

4 WHEREAS, Today we recognize the Rhode Island Tobacco Control Network partners,
5 health and community advocates, and health care workers for their efforts to prevent death and
6 diseases of our youth and citizens by reducing tobacco use; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
8 Providence Plantations hereby proclaims May 31, 2013, to be "World No Tobacco Day" in the
9 State of Rhode Island. We encourage the World Health Organization, its partners, and all of the
10 citizens of our State to highlight the health risks associated with tobacco use and advocate for
11 effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
13 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the director of the World Health Organization.

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