

2015 -- H 5551

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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

**MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 FOR THE JASON STEM LEARNING
INITIATIVE**

Introduced By: Representative Patricia A. Serpa

Date Introduced: February 25, 2015

Referred To: House 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 Sea Research Foundation is also a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
4 which has implemented JASON and related STEM programs under the JASON initiative; and

5 WHEREAS, These STEM initiatives are designed to help teachers develop their 21st
6 century teaching skills while learning to use JASON and other STEM curricula with their
7 students. Currently, the Jason initiative serves more than 1000 students and teachers across the
8 state with its after-school initiative, known as Immersion Learning, and has established a panoply
9 of educational goals and strategies to engage students in the areas of science, technology, and
10 literacy, as well as help teachers to motivate students, integrate technology into lesson plans, and
11 more effectively manage their classrooms; and

12 WHEREAS, The Jason initiative and other STEM programs provided by Sea Research
13 Foundation focuses on low- and moderate-income level students, as determined by Title 1
14 eligibility, and specifically addresses the achievement gap among low- and moderate-income
15 students in Title 1 communities; and

16 WHEREAS Working in collaboration, The JASON Project, colleges and universities in
17 Rhode Island, the Sea Research Foundation, the Feinstein Foundation, businesses, school districts
18 and community organizations, the Jason STEM initiative seeks to continue to support previous
19 school district efforts to fully integrate Jason and other Sea Research Foundation STEM programs

1 into their district-wide curricula and will expand implementation of the internationally recognized
2 STEM program in the school districts of Central Falls, Chariho, Cranston, Kingston, Newport,
3 Pawtucket, Providence, Smithfield, Warwick, West Warwick, and Westerly; and

4 WHEREAS, In order to continue the expansion and implementation of exemplary STEM
5 programs, the Jason initiative is requesting \$500,000; and

6 WHEREAS, The STEM Programs will build upon the work that has been done in
7 bringing the JASON Project and other STEM resources to individual districts and will provide
8 customized STEM and career oriented modules to assist Rhode Island teachers in implementing
9 Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS); and

10 WHEREAS, Rhode Island is transitioning for full implementation of NGSS within 4-5
11 years, and Districts are in need of resources, programs and curricula including JASON, that can
12 support those efforts; and

13 WHEREAS, The Sea Research Foundation is dedicated to supporting this transition by
14 working closely with educators to provide engaging programming including new JASON and
15 other STEM programs that promote the science and engineering practices, cross cutting concepts,
16 and disciplinary core ideas of NGSS; and

17 WHEREAS, Operating in all 50 states, the JASON Project and Immersion Learning
18 make a real difference for participating youth and have had a significant impact on closing the
19 achievement gap for many students; now, therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not
21 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2015-2016, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars
22 (\$500,000) for the Jason initiative to implement activities outlined within this resolution; and the
23 state controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw his orders upon the general treasurer for
24 the payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may be from time to time required, upon receipt
25 by him of properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 FOR THE JASON STEM LEARNING
INITIATIVE

- 1 This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$500,000 for the JASON
- 2 Project and STEM programs and resources.

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