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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

SENATE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING THE 172ND ANNIVERSARY OF DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
INDEPENDENCE ON FEBRUARY 27, 2016

Introduced By: Senators Pichardo, Paiva Weed, Metts, Lombardi, and Sheehan

Date Introduced: February 25, 2016

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, It is the tradition and practice of this legislative body to commemorate  
2   historical events which exemplify the diversity, spirit, and struggle of the people in Rhode Island  
3   and throughout the world that have achieved independence and live in peace and freedom; and  
4           WHEREAS, The people of the Dominican Republic acquired their independence from  
5   Spain on February 27, 1844; and  
6           WHEREAS, Each year, this auspicious occasion is celebrated and provides an  
7   opportunity for all people to reflect upon the rich history of the Dominican Republic and the  
8   many contributions of Latin Americans to our country as well as the world; and  
9           WHEREAS, February 27th has been designated as Dominican Independence Day in the  
10   State of Rhode Island; and  
11           WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the great contributions  
12   which Dominicans have brought to our state and our nation; and  
13           WHEREAS, On February 27th, the people of the Dominican Republic, and all free  
14   people, will celebrate 172 years of Dominican Independence; and  
15           WHEREAS, The seat of the original capital of the Spanish New World, the Dominican  
16   Republic, proclaims a host of American firsts: the first permanent European settlement, the first  
17   university, the first church, the first cathedral, the first mass, and the first royal court; and  
18           WHEREAS, On February 27, 1844, the Declaration of Independence was written by Juan  
19   Pablo Duarte, Francisco del Rosaro Sanchez and Ramon Matias Mella; and

1           WHEREAS, The Dominican Republic’s record for free and fair elections sets an example  
2 for emerging democracies the world over; and

3           WHEREAS, Today, the Dominican Republic has a close relationship with the United  
4 States and has been supportive of many U.S. initiatives. The Dominican Republic has accredited  
5 diplomatic missions in most of the countries in the Western Hemisphere and in principal  
6 European capitals, and belongs to many world organizations, including the United Nations, the  
7 World Bank, the International Labor Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the  
8 International Civil Aviation Organization, and the Inter-American Development Bank; and

9           WHEREAS, The almost one and half million Dominicans now residing in the United  
10 States are an important element in the special relationship between the two countries. Rhode  
11 Island’s Dominicans number among the state’s smaller ethnic groups but the community imparts  
12 a rich history and vitality through their presence in our Ocean State. The strong civic participation  
13 and business ethic within Rhode Island’s Dominican community and local businesses owned by  
14 Dominican immigrants are evidenced by their myriad contributions, greatly adding to the  
15 economic vitality of our state; and

16           WHEREAS, The Dominican-American community plays another essential role through  
17 their representation in the United States Armed Services. Many Dominican-Americans have made  
18 the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives defending America’s liberty, security, and freedoms; now,  
19 therefore be it

20           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
21 hereby commemorates the 172nd Anniversary of Dominican Republic Independence on February  
22 27, 2016, and proudly recognizes the significant contributions that Dominicans have made to the  
23 State of Rhode Island and the United States; and be it further

24           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
25 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the various Dominican organizations in the  
26 State of Rhode Island and to His Excellency President Danilo Medina Sanchez, Her Excellency  
27 Vice President Margarita Maria Cedeño Lizardo.

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