

2021 -- S 0639

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE CONVERSION OF RHODE ISLAND'S ECONOMY FROM
MILITARISM TO CLIMATE RESILIENCY

Introduced By: Senator Tiara T. Mack

Date Introduced: March 18, 2021

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

1 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island economy was reliant on the military sector for 7.6 percent
2 of its economic output according to the Southern New England Defense Industry Alliance's
3 (SENEDIA) latest report from 2017; and

4 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's reliance on the military sector has grown since the
5 SENEDIA report, with millions of dollars in recent state commitments through incentives,
6 exemptions, direct infrastructure spending, and training partnerships; with up to \$20 million in
7 incentives to General Dynamics/Electric Boat and 4.5 million for training in 2019; and

8 WHEREAS, The federal military budget comprises over 50 percent of federal
9 discretionary spending and far outpaces federal spending on other crucial societal needs such as
10 transportation, infrastructure, education, food and housing security; and

11 WHEREAS, Our growing global military footprint in many ways is a destabilizing factor
12 upon our security and global well-being, possibly inducing a new global arms race; and

13 WHEREAS, The effects of the climate crisis are becoming more clear and investments in
14 climate mitigation and resilience industries more needed; and

15 WHEREAS, Public investment in other industries, such as clean energy, infrastructure,
16 education, and health care rather than in the military produces a greater number of jobs, according
17 to research presented by the Costs of War Project at Brown University's Watson Institute; and

18 WHEREAS, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned that
19 "rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society" will be required to avoid

1 a climate catastrophe; now, therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby supports redirecting
3 resources away from militarism and toward the mitigation of and adaptation to the climate crisis
4 in a way that guarantees a just transition for Rhode Islanders working in sectors of reduced
5 economic activity and onto a path that will benefit all Rhode Island communities and in
6 particular, communities of color and poverty whose well-being is often neglected; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
9 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Governor of the State of Rhode
10 Island.

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