WHEREAS, In the past few years, there have been several well-documented and well-publicized cases of shortages of various goods and services; and

WHEREAS, There has recently been a critical shortage in the availability of baby food and infant formula, due to a combination of factors, which purportedly may include, but are not limited to, supply-chain issues, product recalls, and the on-going war in Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, While other shortages have produced varying effects ranging from inconvenience to substantial hardship, the shortage in the availability of baby food and infant formula directly impacts infants who are a vulnerable population, who are unable to advocate for themselves, and who cannot afford to wait or put off the purchase of the product; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2022-2023, the sum of five million dollars ($5,000,000) to the Department of Human Services to fund and assist in the procurement and distribution of baby food and infant formula; and this money may be used and distributed both through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and also directly by the Department to assist in the procurement and distribution of baby food and infant formula to all persons and households in need of such assistance, regardless of income; and the state controller is hereby authorized and
directed to his/her draw orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may from time to time be required, upon receipt of properly authenticated vouchers.
EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

JOINT RESOLUTION
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF $5,000,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO PROVIDE BABY FOOD AND INFANT FORMULA THROUGH THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND OTHER MEANS

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This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of five million dollars ($5,000,000) to the department of human services to fund and assist in the procurement of baby food and infant formula.

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