

2023 -- S 1096

LC003117

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

HONORING AND PROCLAIMING JUNE 23 TO JUNE 25, 2023, TO BE "DAYS OF RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM"

Introduced By: Senators Zurier, Miller, Kallman, Bell, F. Lombardi, Picard, Tikoian, Lombardo, Gu, and Lauria

Date Introduced: June 06, 2023

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Men of Reform Judaism (MRJ) was founded in 1923 as the North American  
2 Federation of Temple Brotherhoods to advance the values of charity and justice, repairing the  
3 world, and performing acts of kindness and compassion; and

4 WHEREAS, Throughout its history, MRJ has supported local synagogue brotherhoods to  
5 "engage in projects and activities that provide meaningful services to their congregations; to  
6 sponsor and promote vitally important nationwide community-building projects"; and

7 WHEREAS, MRJ has inspired its members to be involved in not only their local Temple,  
8 but also with the food pantry, the Union for Reform Judaism, and those organizations which  
9 promote justice and equal opportunities for all; and

10 WHEREAS, MRJ has funded Reform on Campus Grants to support numerous initiatives,  
11 including the expansion of a Jewish library at Hampshire College, a special Shabbat featuring  
12 issues surrounding breast cancer at Ohio State University; and the donation of textbooks to  
13 rabbinical and cantorial students at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion; and

14 WHEREAS, The MRJ recently began a collaboration with the Federation of Jewish  
15 Men's Clubs (FJMC), its counterpart among synagogues that practice Conservative Judaism; and

16 WHEREAS, At a joint MRJ/FJMC Convention last year, the presidents of each  
17 movement made a joint statement protesting certain decisions by the Israeli government to  
18 question the legitimacy of non-Orthodox Jews and to renege on the Western Wall agreement,  
19 declaring these decisions a departure from the founding ideals of the State of Israel; and

1           WHEREAS, MRJ continues to express its members' values by joining numerous lawsuits  
2 as an Amicus Curiae in court cases in which others espouse antisemitism or try to suppress voter  
3 rights, limit LGBTQIA+ rights or reproductive rights; now, therefore be it

4           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby proclaims June 23 to  
5 June 25, to be "Days of Recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Men of Reform Judaism",  
6 and recognizes MRJ's past and ongoing contributions and positive impacts upon its individual  
7 members, its local Temples, Temple Beth El of Providence, and the world at large; and be it  
8 further

9           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Rabbi Preston D. Neimeiser, Temple Beth El.

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