

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 TO THE RI AFRICAN DIASPORA COMMUNITY

Introduced By: Representatives Biah, Hull, Baginski, DeSimone, Abney, Alzate, Henries, Slater, Diaz, and Fenton-Fung

Date Introduced: February 28, 2024

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, The RI African Diaspora Community, with a population currently estimated
2 at about 85,000, is seeking to advance public policy discourse and follow-on investment
3 strategies by objectively researching, documenting, and reporting the socio-economic experiences
4 of the African Diaspora people in Rhode Island; and

5 WHEREAS, Funding will be used to inform, educate and foster equitable and lasting
6 solutions to the most pressing challenges facing People of African Descent in RI while elevating
7 their significant contributions through public opinion polling, demographic research, content
8 analysis and other data-driven social science research; and

9 WHEREAS, Working with expert Independent Consultants as well as with a network of
10 local African Diaspora led organizations, institutions, churches, mosques and other local partners,
11 the RI African Diaspora Community will focus on lessening its community constraints by
12 surrounding them with the proper professional resources; and

13 WHEREAS, The total \$500,000 in required funding consists of:

- 14 • Policy & Research, Inform, Educate & Foster Equitable & Lasting Solutions \$180,000
- 15 • Leadership Development \$80,000
- 16 • Civic Education \$30,000
- 17 • Outreach/Promotion \$15,000
- 18 • Consultants \$35,000
- 19 • Annual Report \$85,000

1 • Administration of Project \$75,000; and

2 WHEREAS, In addition, the RI African Diaspora Community seeks to annually launch  
3 “The State of African Diaspora in Rhode Island Report” in order to explore the inequities across  
4 Rhode Island’s economics, employment, public education, health, business development,  
5 housing, criminal justice, and civic participation systems through rigorous research and data  
6 collections that can be made available to public and private policy leaders across the State; now,  
7 therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not  
9 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2024-2025, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars  
10 (\$500,000) to the RI African Diaspora Community to advance public policy discourse and  
11 follow-on investment strategies; and the state controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw  
12 his orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of said sum, upon receipt of properly  
13 authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 TO THE RI AFRICAN DIASPORA  
COMMUNITY

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- 1 This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$500,000 to the RI
- 2 African Diaspora Community.

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