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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019**

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**S E N A T E   R E S O L U T I O N**

**HONORING STEVEN A. FLORIO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON THE DEAF AND  
HARD OF HEARING**

Introduced By: Senators Archambault, Miller, Sosnowski, Crowley, and Ruggerio

Date Introduced: January 29, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, Steven A. Florio earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from  
2   Gallaudet University, and his Master's degree in Leadership from Northeastern University. In  
3   addition, he has a Certificate in Planning and Functional and Access Needs from the Federal  
4   Emergency Management Agency; and

5           WHEREAS, For the past sixteen years, Mr. Florio has utilized his considerable talents  
6   and energy serving as the Executive Director for the Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and  
7   Hard of Hearing (RICDHH). He also serves as Treasurer and the Co-Founding Board Member at  
8   the National Association of State Agencies of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and was the  
9   organization's President from 2010 through 2016; and

10          WHEREAS, Prior to being named Executive Director in Rhode Island in 2002, Mr.  
11   Florio was an Accounting Financial Specialist at J.P. Morgan Chase in Newark, Delaware; and

12          WHEREAS, Mr. Florio is fluent in American Sign Language (ASL) and skilled in  
13   partnering with organizations and agencies to enhance service delivery to the deaf and hard of  
14   hearing community. During his tenure as Executive Director of RICDHH, Mr. Florio has  
15   successfully advocated for myriad legislative advancements and has initiated a panoply of  
16   technological and communication improvements for those who are deaf and hard of hearing; and

17          WHEREAS, In February of 2019, Mr. Florio will become the Commissioner of the  
18   Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH). The MCDHH provides  
19   accessible communication, education, and support to individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing,

1 late deafened and deaf blind; and

2 WHEREAS, Highly regarded among his peers, Steve Florio is a dedicated advocate for  
3 the deaf and hard of hearing population and a proven leader. His efforts have had a positive and  
4 rewarding impact on the lives of many people, and he is enormously worthy of our emulation and  
5 acknowledgement; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
7 hereby honors Steven A. Florio on the occasion of his retirement as the Executive Director for the  
8 Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. We moreover thank him for his  
9 sixteen years of dedicated service to the deaf and hard of hearing community in Rhode Island and  
10 wish him continued success with the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of  
11 Hearing; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
13 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Steven A. Florio.

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