

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE WEEK OF MAY 5TH THROUGH 11TH , 2019, AS "NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK" AND PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF MAY 6TH THROUGH MAY 10TH, 2019, TO BE "RHODE ISLAND SMALL BUSINESS WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Picard, Cano, Ruggerio, Paolino, and de la Cruz

Date Introduced: May 08, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Every year the State of Rhode Island sets aside time to honor small business
2 owners and their employees and to thank them for helping to ensure that the United States
3 remains the world's economic leader and for their contributions to the economic growth and
4 vitality of our state; and

5 WHEREAS, Small businesses are responsible for the creation of close to two-thirds of all
6 new jobs in America and employ more than half of all Americans. In Rhode Island, as of 2015,
7 small businesses employed 224,254 people equaling 52.7 percent of the private workforce.
8 Businesses with fewer than 100 employees have the largest share of small business employment;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The creativity, ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit exhibited on a daily basis
11 by hard-working small business owners and employees form the backbone of our nation and are
12 the lifeblood of the cities and towns across America and within Rhode Island; and

13 WHEREAS, Each year, the United States Small Business Administration hands out
14 various "Small Business Week Awards" to outstanding small business leaders in every state and
15 region in the nation. This year, during the week of May 6 through May 10, the Rhode Island State
16 Senate will be honoring the United States Small Business Administration Rhode Island honorees;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The distinguished 2019 recipients are: Small Business Persons of the Year

1 Award, Justin Oakley and Michael Vieira, Owners of Oakley Home Access; Rhode Island & New
2 England Small Business Manufacturer Award, Sennen G. Conte, Owner/CFO, Gerbs Allergen
3 Friendly Foods; Rhode Island & New England Veteran-Owned Small Business Award,
4 Christopher Sanford, Owner of PuroClean Disaster Restoration Services; Rhode Island & New
5 England Woman-Owned Small Business Award, Susan Pascale-Frechette, Owner and Director of
6 PODS Swimming, Inc.; Rhode Island & New England Young Entrepreneur Award, Bryan Gibb
7 Co-Owner of Bolt Coffee; Small Business Exporter Award, Naresh Mehta, Co-Founder & CEO,
8 Aman Mehta, Co-Founder, and Christopher Mainiero, Partner of Grow Materials, LLC; Financial
9 Services Champion Award, Pamela LaBreche, AVP, Relationship Manager of Navigant Credit
10 Union; Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Small Business Award, Gwendolyn Graham, President,
11 Roger Graham, Vice President of Miller's Roast Beef; Microenterprise Award, Matthew Banoub,
12 Owner of Alten Energy Conservation LLC; Minority-Owned Small Business Award, Lei Nichols,
13 CEO of Wise Mouth Inc.; Rhode Island District Director Award, Posthumously, Raymond
14 Fogarty, Director, The John H. Chaffee Center for International Business, Bryant University; and
15 the Joseph G.E. Knight Award For Entrepreneurial Excellence, Kristi Langslet, CEO of
16 Sommerfly LLC; now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
18 hereby celebrates the week of May 5th through May 11th, 2019, as "National Small Business
19 Week" and proclaims the week of May 6th through May 10th, 2019, to be "Rhode Island Small
20 Business Week" in the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
22 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Mark S. Hayward, District Director, Rhode
23 Island District Office, United States Small Business Administration.

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