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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING RICARDO PATIÑO FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND CONGRATULATING HIM ON THE OCCASION OF HIS  
RETIREMENT

Introduced By: Senators Quezada, Nesselbush, Crowley, Ruggerio, and Rogers

Date Introduced: May 16, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, Ricardo Patiño was born in the City of Pereira, Colombia. Upon graduation  
2 from high school, he enlisted in the Colombian Army. Consequent to his military service, he  
3 immigrated to the United States to join his family and enrolled at the New York City College of  
4 Technology, and later, transferred to the Pratt Institute's School of Architecture, where he  
5 received his Bachelor's degree in Architecture and a Master's degree in City and Regional  
6 Planning; and

7           WHEREAS, To the good fortune of the people of Rhode Island, Mr. Patiño relocated to  
8 Central Falls, married, and began his career at Rhode Island Housing, working as a construction  
9 specialist. An exceptionally astute businessman, he also began investing in local real estate and  
10 co-founded Latino Lead Inspectors, Inc.; and

11           WHEREAS, During these years, Mr. Patiño also began what would become a deep  
12 commitment to his community and the city's civic life, and particularly to zoning and planning  
13 issues; and

14           WHEREAS, In 1999, Mr. Patiño ran for a seat on the City Council, and although  
15 unsuccessful on his first attempt, on October 4, 2001, he ran again, earning a plurality of the votes  
16 to become the first Latino elected to office in the City of Central Falls; and

17           WHEREAS, While serving the people of Central Falls for four terms on the Council, Mr.  
18 Patiño was a consistent and outspoken advocate for affordable housing and economic  
19 development within the City, and ameliorated the diversification of the City's police and fire

1 departments; and

2 WHEREAS, In addition, during his tenure on the Council, Mr. Patiño frequently voiced  
3 prescient warnings about the City's pension mismanagement, which eventually came to fruition a  
4 decade later when Central Falls was plunged into bankruptcy; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Patiño is widely credited with opening the door for the many Latinos  
6 who subsequently entered politics in Central Falls, and ultimately to the election of current Mayor  
7 James Diossa, the City's first Latino executive; and

8 WHEREAS, On a statewide level, Mr. Patiño is still very actively involved promoting  
9 participation and leadership among Latinos. He was a founding member of the Latino Dollars for  
10 Scholars, the Blackstone Valley Political Action Committee, and the Rhode Island Latino Action  
11 Committee; and

12 WHEREAS, Currently, Mr. Patiño makes his home with his wife, Iris, in the Reservoir  
13 Triangle neighborhood in the City of Providence, where he has served several terms as Treasurer  
14 of Providence's ECAS Theater and as a Commissioner of the Providence Housing Authority;  
15 now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
17 hereby recognizes and thanks Ricardo Patiño for almost two decades of service as a Construction  
18 Specialist with Rhode Island Housing and wishes him continued happiness, success, and  
19 fulfillment in all his future endeavors; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
21 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Ricardo Patiño.

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