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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING MARCH 5, 2015, TO BE "SMOKE FREE 10 DAY" IN THE STATE OF
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, Goodwin, Metts, Ottiano, and Paiva Weed

Date Introduced: March 05, 2015

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The use of cigarettes and other tobacco products remains the nation's and
2 Rhode Island's number one cause of preventable death and disease. Smoking kills more than
3 sixteen hundred Rhode Island residents annually, more than all the deaths caused by alcohol,
4 AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murder, and suicides combined; and

5 WHEREAS, Cigarette smoke contains over 7,000 chemicals, 69 of which are known to
6 cause cancer, and secondhand smoke involuntarily inhaled by nonsmokers from other people's
7 cigarettes is classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a known human (Group
8 A) carcinogen; and

9 WHEREAS, According to the American Lung Association, secondhand smoke is
10 responsible for approximately 3,400 lung cancer deaths and 46,000 (ranging 22,700-69,600) heart
11 disease deaths in adult nonsmokers annually in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, Nonsmokers exposed to secondhand smoke at work are at increased risk for
13 adverse health effects. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, levels
14 of secondhand smoke in restaurants and bars were found to be 2 to 5 times higher than in
15 residences with smokers and 2 to 6 times higher than in office workplaces; and

16 WHEREAS, Ten years ago Rhode Island chose health by enacting the 2004 Public
17 Health and Workplace Safety Act, banning indoor smoking in bars, restaurants, offices, factories
18 and nearly every workplace in the state, encompassing industries where a disproportionate
19 percentage of this priority population is likely to work; and

1 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that "studies have
2 shown that smoke-free laws that prohibit smoking in public places like bars and restaurants help
3 improve the health of workers and the general population"; and

4 WHEREAS, A decade of smoke-free workplaces and public places, together with a high
5 state tax on cigarettes and support for smokers to quit, has delivered significant health benefits for
6 Rhode Islanders, helping to reduce the adult smoking rate from 23% in 2001 to 17.4% in 2013,
7 and the youth smoking rate from 35% in 2001 to 8.1% in 2013, the second lowest in the nation;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, A 2012 study from the Rhode Island Department of Health showed that
10 hospitalization rates in Rhode Island for acute myocardial infarction (AMI), commonly known as
11 heart attack, dropped 28.4% since 2005, representing a potential savings to the state of over six
12 million dollars; and

13 WHEREAS, Rhode Island helped lead the way nationwide by becoming only the seventh
14 state to ban indoor smoking in workplaces and public places in 2004, with 18 other states
15 following suit in the following four years, and 30 states now legally designating smoke-free
16 indoor areas; now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
18 hereby proclaims March 5, 2015 to be "Smoke Free 10 Day" in the State of Rhode Island,
19 honoring the tenth anniversary of the enactment of the 2004-2005 Public Health and Workplace
20 Safety Act; 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 the Director of the Rhode Island Department of
23 Health.

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