

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2009

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF
AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (CASINO GAMBLING AT
NEWPORT GRAND AND TWIN RIVER)

Introduced By: Senators Tassoni, P Fogarty, McBurney, Ciccone, and Ruggerio

Date Introduced: January 29, 2009

Referred To: Senate Constitutional & Regulatory Issues

1 WHEREAS, The General Assembly seeks to empower the citizens of the state of Rhode
2 Island with the right to determine by a vote of the people the question whether to authorize the
3 establishment and operation of a casino in Rhode Island; and

4 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Supreme Court has determined that, without an
5 amendment to the Constitution, a casino in Rhode Island cannot be privately owned and privately
6 operated; and

7 WHEREAS, Connecticut has approved or may soon approve gaming operations that
8 attract substantial spending by residents of this state, that divert substantial revenue from existing
9 video lottery facilities in Rhode Island, and that divert substantial tax revenue from this state; and

10 WHEREAS, The General Assembly acknowledges that the establishment of a casino
11 would generate substantial tax revenue and other economic benefits for Rhode Island, including
12 the creation of jobs and the stimulation of capital investment; and

13 WHEREAS, The majority of all members elected to each house of the General Assembly
14 is committed to granting to the electors of Rhode Island the right to vote on the establishment of a
15 casino in Rhode Island; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That a majority of all members elected to each house of the general
17 assembly voting therefore, an amendment to Article VI of the Constitution of the state shall be
18 proposed to the qualified electors of the state for their approval in accordance with the provisions
19 of Article XIV of the Constitution, and upon such approval, new section 23, set forth below, be

1 added to and included in Article VI of the Constitution; and that said proposition of amendment
2 shall be submitted to the electors for their approval or rejection at the next statewide general
3 election, and said proposition of amendment shall appear on the ballots as the first referendum
4 question posed and shall be preceded by the following explanation and space to "approve" or
5 "reject", all of which shall be in substantially the following form:

6 1. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT-CASINO GAMBLING

7 Approval of this amendment will authorize a casino in the City of Newport at Newport
8 Grand and in the Town of Lincoln at Twin River, to be privately owned and operated, and
9 regulated and taxed by the State of Rhode Island.

10 APPROVE _____

11 REJECT _____

12 A new section 23 shall be added to and included in Article VI of the Constitution to read
13 as follows:

14 Section 23. Casino Gambling – Notwithstanding sections 15 and 22 of this Article, and
15 provided that a majority of the electors of the City of Newport have voted to approve this
16 amendment, the establishment of casino gambling is authorized therein at Newport Grand in the
17 City of Newport; and further provided, if a majority of the electors of the Town of Lincoln have
18 voted to approve this amendment, the establishment of casino gambling is authorized therein at
19 Twin River in the Town of Lincoln. The casino shall be privately owned and privately operated
20 by a business entity established pursuant to Rhode Island law and shall be subject to regulation
21 and taxation by the State of Rhode Island. The per annum tax rate shall be established by the
22 general assembly.

23 RESOLVED, That the voting places in the several cities and towns shall be kept open
24 during the hours required by law for voting therein for general officers of the state; and be it
25 further

26 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause said proposition of amendment to be
27 published as a part of this resolution in the newspapers of the state prior to the date of the said
28 meetings of the said electors; and said proposition shall be inserted in the warrants or notices to
29 be issued previous to said meetings of the electors for the purpose of warning the town, ward, or
30 district meetings, and said proposition shall be read by the town, ward, or district clerks to the
31 electors in the town, ward, or district meetings to be held as aforesaid; and be it further

32 RESOLVED, That the town, ward, and district meetings to be held aforesaid shall be
33 warned, and the list of voters shall be canvassed and made up, and the said town, ward, and
34 district meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as now provided by law for the town,

1 ward, and district meetings for the election of general officers of the state.

=====
LC00230
=====