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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2007

HOUSE RESOLUTION

OPPOSING TROOP ESCALATION IN IRAQ

Introduced By: Representatives Dennigan, Slater, Handy, Ajello, and Gallison

Date Introduced: January 24, 2007

Referred To: House Constituent Services

1 WHEREAS, The citizens of Rhode Island support our troops and are proud of the
2 commitment, bravery, sacrifice and patriotism of those who have served or are serving in Iraq;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The President has proposed an escalation in the number of US troops
5 deployed in Iraq; and

6 WHEREAS, U.S. involvement in Iraq has resulted in the deaths of more than 3,000 U.S.
7 soldiers and the wounding and disabling of more than 22,000 U.S. military personnel to date; and

8 WHEREAS, This proposed escalation will further extend National Guard tours in Iraq.
9 The costs to the states of the call-up of National Guard members for deployment in Iraq have
10 been significant, as reckoned in lost lives, combat injuries and psychic trauma, disruption of
11 family life, financial hardship for individuals, families and businesses, interruption of careers and
12 damage to the fabric of civic life in our communities; and

13 WHEREAS, The American troops have valiantly upheld their duty in Iraq under dire
14 circumstances; and

15 WHEREAS, More than \$357 billion has been appropriated by Congress to fund military
16 operations and reconstruction in Iraq to date, money that could fund desperately needed
17 education, health care, housing, nutrition and other social services in our communities in the
18 United States or humanitarian assistance abroad; and

19 WHEREAS, Previous budgets that have prioritized Iraq have led to cuts in critical block
20 grants for states and have increased the federal debt, which compounded by interest payments,

1 will likely lead to even larger cuts in funding for critical needs in the States; and

2 WHEREAS, Polls show that the majority of Americans do not support increasing the
3 number of troops in Iraq; and

4 WHEREAS, Most military experts oppose escalation in Iraq and press reports indicate
5 that even the Joint Chiefs of Staff have opposed such a strategy; and

6 WHEREAS, Legal experts on all sides have determined that Congress has not only broad
7 authority, but a long tradition of limiting escalation or forcing redeployment of troops through the
8 Constitutionally-designated power of the purse; now , therefore be it;

9 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
10 Providence Plantations, on behalf of its citizens, hereby urges that in a period when the Iraq Study
11 Group, leading military and diplomatic officials and allies around the world are calling for a
12 reduction in troops and the withdrawal of the US from Iraq, the United States government should
13 not escalate its involvement in Iraq or increase troop levels; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That this House believes that at a minimum, the President should obtain
15 explicit approval from Congress if he wants to send more American troops to Iraq, and be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That this House urges Congress to pass legislation prohibiting the President
18 from spending taxpayer dollars on an escalation in Iraq unless he first seeks Congressional
19 approval; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
21 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to George W. Bush, President of the United
22 States, the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation, and to the United States Congress.

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