

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations



IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
JANUARY SESSION, A. D. 1965

H 1637

Resolution

MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES PROHIBITING LITERACY TEST, SO-CALLED, IN THE STATES, AS A PREREQUISITE TO THE EXERCISE OF VOTING RIGHTS.

WHEREAS, The right to vote is a right guaranteed to all citizens by the Constitution of the United States, regardless of race, color, creed or national origin, and

WHEREAS, There are now in force in some states laws which, in effect, frustrate this constitutional right by imposing certain conditions, restrictions and prerequisites on the right to vote, which have the effect of disfranchising many citizens of the United States, and

WHEREAS, Literacy tests, so-called, as a prerequisite to the right to vote, have the effect of disfranchising many citizens of the United States, who are otherwise qualified to vote, and guaranteed the right to vote by virtue of the United States Constitution; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the general assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations place itself on record as respectfully requesting the Congress of the United States to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States prohibiting literacy test, so-called, in the states, as a prerequisite to the exercise of voting rights, and to submit said proposed amendment to the legislatures of the several states for ratification, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the secretary of state prepare certified copies of this resolution and send them to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate in the United States congress, the majority and minority leaders of both houses of congress and the members of the Rhode Island delegation in the congress.

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations



Department of State

Office of the Secretary of State

I, AUGUST P. LA FRANCE Secretary of State  
of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations,  
hereby Certify that the foregoing is a true \_\_\_\_\_

copy of resolution (H 1637) entitled  
RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE  
UNITED STATES TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE  
CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES PROHIBITING  
LITERACY TEST, SO-CALLED, IN THE STATES, AS A  
PREREQUISITE TO THE EXERCISE OF VOTING RIGHTS

taken from the records in this office and compared with the  
original resolution (H 1637) passed by the General Assembly at the  
January Session, A. D. 1965 and approved by the Governor on the  
eighth day of April, 1965

and now remaining on file and of record in this office.



In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto  
set my hand and affixed the seal  
of the State of Rhode Island, this  
twenty-seventh day of  
April, A. D. 1965

August P. La France  
Secretary of State.

AUGUST P. LAFRANCE  
SECRETARY OF STATE



PRIMO IACOBUCCI  
FIRST DEPUTY  
RONALDO E. LEMAY  
SECOND DEPUTY

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
PROVIDENCE

April 27, 1965

Honorable Carl Albert  
House Majority Leader  
House Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I am directed by the General Assembly to transmit to you the enclosed certified copy of resolution (H 1637), introduced by Representatives Brunero, Cook, Peloquin, Cunningham, Baronian and others, entitled RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES PROHIBITING LITERACY TEST, SO-CALLED, IN THE STATES, AS A PREREQUISITE TO THE EXERCISE OF VOTING RIGHTS, passed by the General Assembly at the January Session, A. D. 1965 and approved by the Governor on the eighth day of April, 1965.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "August P. LaFrance".

August P. LaFrance  
Secretary of State

APL:em

Enc.

May 3, 1965

judiciary

The Honorable August P. LaFrance  
Secretary of State  
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your letter and enclosed certified copy of a resolution adopted by your General Assembly memorializing the Congress to propose an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting literacy tests as a prerequisite to the exercise of voting rights. I appreciated being advised of the views of the General Assembly in this matter and indeed will give them careful consideration.

Sincerely,

CARL ALBERT, M.C.

CA/v