State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
**Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State**
**Nellie M. Gorbea,** *Secretary of State*

I, Stacy DiCola, Acting Deputy Secretary of State of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations **hereby Certify** that the aforegoing is a true xerographic copy of:
House Resolution 20R130 (20-H7643) entitled "House Resolution Recognizing the Rhode Island Slave History Medallion Statewide Education Program"
taken from the records in this office and compared with the original House Resolution 20R130 (20-H7643) passed in the House of Representatives at the January session, A.D. 2020, on the twenty-fifth day of February, A.D. 2020, and now remaining in this office.

Proposed by: Representatives Carson, Abney, Almeida, Hull, and Williams

**In Testimony Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations this twelfth day of March, A.D. 2020

Acting Deputy Secretary of State

# 2020 -- H 7643

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# S T A T E  O F  R H O D E  I S L A N D

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020**

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H O U S E  R E S O L U T I O N

RECOGNIZING THE RHODE ISLAND SLAVE HISTORY MEDALLION STATEWIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, Abney, Almeida, Hull, and Williams

Date Introduced: February 25, 2020

Referred To: House read and passed

WHEREAS, Rhode Island Slave History Medallions is a non-profit statewide public awareness program committed to educating the Rhode Island public about the state's role in the slave trade during the colonial period from 1638 to 1843, and marking with slave history medallions those historic Rhode Island sites that were connected to the transatlantic slave trade; and

WHEREAS, Tragically, Rhode Island played a significant part in the slave trade through its role in building, owning, sailing, and insuring slave ships, making the slave trade a major part of the Rhode Island economy during this period. Rhode Islanders also distilled molasses into rum and built the barrels for the rum that was used in the slave trade. Rhode Islanders also owned sugar plantations in Cuba and Barbados that used and exploited African and Native American slaves, shipped agricultural commodities to the Caribbean which allowed the slave plantations to stay in operation, and even manufactured iron chains and manacles for the slave trade; and

WHEREAS, To be eligible for a Rhode Island Slave History Medallion, a site must have verifiable evidence of a connection to the slave trade history in Rhode Island. Sites selected can be public or private. They can be homes, offices and work sites of those that were involved in the slave trade. It can also be sites where slaves lived and/or labored as well as sites that were connected to government officials who shaped the policies of the slave trade in Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, The Rhode Island History Medallions Project will make the history of the Slave Trade in Rhode Island more accessible to Rhode Islanders. The Medallions placed at slave-

related historical localities serve as awareness educational symbols. In the words of Mr. Lonnie B. Bunch, III, 14th Secretary of the Smithsonian, “Let us use history to inspire us to push a country forward, to help us believe that all things are possible and to demand a country lives up to its stated ideals”; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby recognizes the Rhode Island Slave History Medallions awareness program and we hope all Rhode Islanders will take some time to learn more about this important part of Rhode Island history; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Charles Roberts, Chairman, Rhode Island Slave History Medallions.

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