

2010 -- S 2175

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LC00491
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- STATE EMBLEMS

Introduced By: Senators Blais, Bates, Maher, and Goodwin

Date Introduced: February 09, 2010

Referred To: Senate Constitutional & Regulatory Issues

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 42-4 of the General Laws entitled "State Emblems" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **42-4-18. State Poem. -- (a) The poem entitled "Jerimoth Hill", written by Tom Chandler,**
4 **shall be and is hereby established as and declared to be the state poem.**

5 **(b) The poem of the state shall be presented as follows:**

6 **Jerimoth Hill**

7
8 **812 feet, the highest point in Rhode Island**

9
10 **You will not recognize any bald knob of granite**

11 **or sheer cliff face silhouetted against clouds,**

12 **in fact, you won't realize you're anywhere at all**

13 **except by this bullet-riddled sign by the road**

14 **that curves through these scragged third growth**

15 **woods that was once a grove of giant pines**

16 **that were cut down for masts that were used**

17 **to build ships to sail away to the rest of the world**

18 **from the docks of Providence Harbor, their holds**

19 **filled with wool from the sheep that grazed**

20 **in the field that had once been the giant pines**

21 **till the shepherds died off and the applers took over**

1 [and grew orchards of Cortlands and MacIntosh](#)
2 [Delicious to fill the holds of the ships that sailed](#)
3 [to the rest of the world from the docks of Providence](#)
4 [Harbor with masts made from the giant pines till](#)
5 [the orchards moved west along with everything](#)
6 [else to less glacial land and the fields became](#)
7 [overgrowth of berries and hobblebush crisscrossed](#)
8 [by walls made of stones that had slept beneath](#)
9 [one inch of topsoil for twelve thousand years](#)
10 [till the settlers found when they tried to plant crops](#)
11 [that this was a country that grew only rocks which](#)
12 [they made into walls to pen in the sheep that provided](#)
13 [the wool that filled the holds of the ships that sailed](#)
14 [to the rest of the world from the docks of Providence Harbor.](#)

15 [Tom Chandler](#)

16 [Poet Laureate of Rhode Island emeritus](#)

17 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- STATE EMBLEMS

- 1 This act would establish as the State poem, "Jerimoth Hill" written by Tom Chandler.
- 2 This act would take effect upon passage.

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