

## RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

### LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND,

IN FAVOR OF

*The passage of the joint resolution submitting to the legislatures of the several States an amendment to the Constitution of the United States abolishing slavery.*

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JANUARY 26, 1865.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS,  
*January session, A. D. 1865.*

RESOLUTION relative to a proposed amendment of the Constitution of the United States to abolish slavery.

Whereas the existence of African slavery, based upon the title to oppress a race because of its complexion, is at variance with the spirit of all free institutions of government, against the manifest principles of justice, and dire violence to the common sense of mankind; and whereas the existence of this institution has impelled a large majority of our federal population who uphold and support it to attempt to overthrow our federal constitution, and to involve the country in a terrible war, which has not only absolved us from all obligations to uphold the relations existing under this institution of master and slave, but has imposed upon us the duty of exerting ourselves to extinguish that relation forever: it is therefore

*Resolved*, That this general assembly heartily commends to the favorable action of the Congress of the United States the constitutional amendment pending before that body to abolish and forever prohibit the existence of slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, in any of the United States, or of the Territories thereof.

*Resolved*, That the governor be, and he hereby is, requested to forward a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolution to each of the senators and representatives in Congress, with the request that they be laid before the respective houses of that body.

I certify the foregoing to be a true copy.

In testimony whereof, I have hereto set my hand, and affixed the [SEAL.] seal of the State, this eighteenth day of January, A. D. 1865.

JOHN A. BARTLETT,  
*Secretary of State.*

JAMES Y. SMITH,  
*Governor of Rhode Island.*