

**2023 -- H 6250**

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LC000246  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023**

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**H O U S E   R E S O L U T I O N**

**PROCLAIMING APRIL OF 2023 TO BE "ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Casey, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Craven,  
Caldwell, Dawson, O'Brien, Phillips, and Marszalkowski

Date Introduced: April 04, 2023

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Alcohol Awareness Month is a public health program which began in April  
2 of 1987, and is organized by the National Council of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence as a way  
3 of increasing outreach and education regarding the dangers of alcoholism and issues related to  
4 alcohol; and

5           WHEREAS, Alcohol abuse affects everyone, not simply the person with the drinking  
6 problem. It impacts family, friends, and the workplace. The numerous initiatives promulgated  
7 during Alcohol Awareness Month benefits everyone, and all people and organizations are  
8 welcome to participate including parents, schools, healthcare facilities, medical professionals, law  
9 enforcement, substance abuse organizations, faith-based groups and other important community  
10 organizations; and

11           WHEREAS, The disease of addiction, including dangerous alcohol use, continues to  
12 devastate Rhode Island's communities and remains a public health emergency that poses a  
13 significant public health safety threat to our State; and

14           WHEREAS, According to the National Institute of Health's 2020 Monitoring the Future  
15 Survey, alcohol is the most used substance by both young people and adults in the United States.  
16 Their survey results showed that more than 55 percent of high school seniors used alcohol, with  
17 more than 25 percent of people 18 or older admitting that they engaged in binge drinking in the  
18 past month. Approximately 95,000 Americans die from alcohol-related causes each year; and

19           WHEREAS, According to the National Center For Health Statistics, alcohol-related

1 deaths in the United States increased from 39,000 in 2019, to 40,000 in 2020, and preliminary  
2 data from 2021 shows that the number of alcohol-related deaths increased again to 52,000. The  
3 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that excessive alcohol use costs the United  
4 States Economy approximately 249 billion dollars; and

5 WHEREAS, According to the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence,  
6 excessive alcohol abuse causes 75 percent of esophageal cancers, 36 percent of the cases of  
7 primary liver cancer, and nearly 50 percent of cancers of the mouth, pharynx and larynx. Chronic  
8 drinking increases a woman's chance of getting breast cancer by 10 percent, and causes 65  
9 percent of all cases of pancreatitis. Among emergency room patients admitted for injuries, 47  
10 percent tested positive for alcohol and 35 percent were intoxicated. Overall, alcoholics are ten  
11 times more likely to develop general carcinoma, accidents related to alcohol use are among the  
12 leading causes of death for teenagers, and more than 140,000 Americans die from the effects of  
13 alcohol yearly; and

14 WHEREAS, The National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics reports that nearly 18 percent  
15 of Rhode Islanders over the age of 18 binge drink at least once per month. Annually, 493 deaths  
16 in Rhode Island are attributable to excessive alcohol abuse. Overall, alcohol related deaths per  
17 capita in Rhode Island increased by 39 percent from 2015 to 2019; and

18 WHEREAS, In December of 2020, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (P.L.  
19 116-260) was enacted, which included \$1.65 billion in the supplemental Substance Abuse  
20 Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant funding as provided as part of the law's section  
21 dedicated to COVID-19 relief and in March of 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (P.L. 117-2)  
22 was enacted, which included \$1.5 billion in longer term supplemental SAPT Block Grant  
23 funding; now, therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
25 proclaims April of 2023 to be "Alcohol Awareness Month"; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That this House hereby respectfully requests that the Governor of the State  
27 of Rhode Island, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the Department of  
28 Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals, the Department of Corrections,  
29 and the Department of Health consider utilizing the supplemental SAPT Block Grant funding  
30 provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act and the American Rescue Plan for these efforts;  
31 and be it further

32 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
33 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Daniel McKee, Governor of the  
34 State of Rhode Island, Ana P. Novais, Acting Secretary of the Rhode Island Executive Office of

- 1 Health and Human Services, Patricia A. Coyne-Fugue, Esq., Director of the Rhode Island
- 2 Department of Corrections, Utpala Bandy, MD, MPH, Interim Director of The Rhode Island
- 3 Department of Health, and Richard Charest, Director of the Rhode Island Department of
- 4 Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals.

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