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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING "REACH OUT AND READ RHODE ISLAND DAY" ON MARCH 3, 2026 IN
THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Caldwell, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale,
Kennedy, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Fellela, Diaz, and Fogarty

Date Introduced: March 03, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Reach Out and Read Rhode Island is a local, nonprofit organization
2 dedicated to building a world where every child is read to every day by supporting families with
3 young children through the power of shared reading and early literacy; and

4 WHEREAS, The organization partners with pediatricians and family medicine providers
5 across Rhode Island to encourage families to read aloud every day starting at birth as a way to
6 build early literacy skills, strengthen family bonds and empower parents to be their child's first
7 and most important teacher; and

8 WHEREAS, Families participating in the Reach Out and Read RI program receive
9 developmentally appropriate, new books at no cost during well-child visits from birth through age
10 five, helping to build home libraries and spark early developmental, language, and emotional
11 skills; and

12 WHEREAS, Reading aloud with young children not only promotes language acquisition
13 and cognitive development but also strengthens parent-child bonds and supports healthier brain
14 growth during the critical early years of life; and

15 WHEREAS, Reach Out and Read RI has served Rhode Island since 1999, currently
16 partnering with nearly 70 medical sites statewide and a network of over 400 medical clinicians,
17 providing books and literacy guidance at more than 100,000 well-child visits last year alone and
18 serving 50,000 children; and

19 WHEREAS, Recognizing and celebrating Reach Out and Read RI Day on March 3 raises

1 public awareness of the importance of early childhood literacy, encourages community support
2 for family reading, and honors the dedicated pediatric partners and volunteers who serve Rhode
3 Island's children; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
5 commemorates March 3, 2026, as "Reach Out and Read Rhode Island Day" in the State of Rhode
6 Island in recognition of the vital role that early literacy, family reading, and community
7 engagement play in the healthy development and lifelong success of Rhode Island's youngest
8 residents; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Aimee Falso, Executive Director of Reach Out
11 and Read RI.

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