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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

JOYOUSLY CELEBRATING "WORLD GREEK LANGUAGE DAY IN THE STATE OF
RHODE ISLAND" AS PROCLAIMED BY UNESCO

Introduced By: Representatives Paplauskas, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale,
Santucci, Quattrocchi, Read, McNamara, Shallcross Smith, and
Date Introduced: March 31, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, On November 12, 2025, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and
2 Cultural Organization (UNESCO), a specialized United Nations agency that promotes
3 international cooperation in education, science, culture and communication to build peace and
4 foster sustainable development, unanimously declared February 9, 2026, to be “World Greek
5 Language Day”; and
6 WHEREAS, On February 9, 2026, the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United
7 Nations hosted an event in celebration of World Greek Language Day in which the speakers
8 highlighted the many important contributions of the Greek language to international dialogue and
9 communication as well as its important contributions to global culture; and
10 WHEREAS, This important event was opened by the Permanent Representative of
11 Greece to the United Nations, Ambassador Aglaia Balta, who spoke about “the deep and lasting
12 imprint of the Greek Language”, and emphasized that “Language is not just a tool of
13 communication but a bridge of understanding”; and
14 WHEREAS, UNESCO explained in its explanatory note when it declared February 9,
15 2026, to be “World Greek Language Day”, that “Language is a carrier of culture, an ark of
16 values, concepts and identity, an instrument of expression and creation, a bridge of
17 communication, understanding and consensus, and among the thousands of languages, Greek
18 possesses an unbroken continuity of 40 centuries of oral tradition and 35 centuries of written
19 tradition, making it the longest continuously spoken and written language in Europe”; and

1 WHEREAS, For the orthodox world, the Greek Language is a crucial and vital key to
2 understanding, as Ecumenical Patriarch Bartolomew states, “what is perhaps the greatest
3 intellectual paradise in the world, where lie the great and unique works that have left their mark
4 on the course of world civilization, the Homeric epics, the Tragedies, the Platonic dialogues, the
5 Aristotelian corpus, the New Testament, and the writings of the Greek Fathers”; now, therefore
6 be it

7 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
8 joyously celebrates “World Greek Language Day” in the State of Rhode Island, as proclaimed by
9 UNESCO; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
11 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Greek Ambassador to the United Nations,
12 Aglaia Balta, Antonis Alexandridis, Ambassador of Greece to the United States and to His
13 Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America.

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