

2026 -- H 8392

LC004531

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING APRIL OF 2026, TO BE "SECOND CHANCE MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Cruz, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Sanchez, Stewart, J. Brien, Giraldo, Felix, and Kennedy

Date Introduced: April 02, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Second Chance Act (SCA), passed in 2008, is the largest source of
2 federal funding established to break incarceration cycles and help people reenter their
3 communities after jail or prison; and

4 WHEREAS, The SCA has fueled significant drops in recidivism and has saved
5 governments money, made and kept neighborhoods safer, and is helping people lead healthy and
6 meaningful lives; and

7 WHEREAS, Second Chance Month (SCM) is a nationally-recognized celebration of
8 second chances, fresh starts, and breaking barriers for people who have been impacted by the
9 legal system; and

10 WHEREAS, Many of the statistical figures cited in relation to these issues are based on
11 studies and analyses that may differ in methodology and scope, and therefore should be
12 understood as estimates rather than precise or uniform measures; and

13 WHEREAS, Between 70 - 100 million people in the United States have a past arrest or
14 conviction record, which includes arrests that did not lead to convictions, misdemeanors, and
15 felonies, but can create significant barriers to employment, housing, education, and long-term
16 stability; and

17 WHEREAS, A staggering 92-96 percent of employers, 90 percent of landlords, and
18 approximately 66 to more than 90 percent of all types of educational institutions, utilize
19 background checks, which often limits opportunities for those persons with records. In addition,

1 over 42,000 state and federal restrictions impose additional obstacles, many affecting essential
2 aspects of life; and

3 WHEREAS, Past arrest or conviction records have resulted in nearly half of all children
4 in the United States currently having at least one parent with a record; and

5 WHEREAS, Millions of people with arrest or conviction records report difficulty getting
6 a job and maintaining employment and they are 50 percent less likely to get a callback for a job
7 interview, contributing to cycles of unemployment and poverty; and

8 WHEREAS, Support for the sealing of eligible records for people who have remained
9 crime-free for a period of time is:

10 • A person is no more likely to commit an offense after staying crime-free for 4 to 7
11 years than anyone else;

12 • Studies have shown that within one year of having a record sealed, people were 11
13 percent more likely to be employed and saw an over 22 percent increase in income; and

14 • Over 15 million people are currently eligible for full or partial record sealing in the 12
15 states, representing the full political spectrum, that have already enacted legislation to meet
16 sealing of eligible records criteria; and

17 WHEREAS, The purpose and vision of Second Chance Month is to no longer define a
18 person only by their past record, but to provide them with a fair opportunity to work, get an
19 education and a job, and reach their full potential; now, therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
21 proclaims April of 2026, to be "Second Chance Month" and reinforces support and commitment
22 to providing second chances; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
24 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Meko Lincoln and Dawn Trimble, Board of
25 Directors, The Formerly Incarcerated Union of Rhode Island, Cara Zimmerman, MD, MBA,
26 Chairperson, Project Weber/RENEW.

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