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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL OF 2026, TO BE "ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Casey, J. Brien,  
Baginski, Edwards, Bennett, Casimiro, and Solomon

Date Introduced: April 02, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

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

14 WHEREAS, According to the 2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH),  
15 approximately 33 percent (12.7 million) of young people aged 12 to 20 have consumed at least  
16 one alcoholic drink in their lives. Similarly, 27 percent (10.4 million) reported that they drank  
17 alcohol in the past year, and 13.3 percent (5.1 million) of young people aged 12 to 20 reported  
18 that they drank alcohol in the past month. In addition, 7.6 percent (2.9 million) reported that they  
19 engaged in binge drinking of alcohol in the past month; and

1           WHEREAS, According to the National Center For Health Statistics, collectively,  
2 alcohol-related deaths in the United States cost the United States Economy approximately \$249  
3 billion dollars and shorten the lives of those who die by an average of 24 years; and

4           WHEREAS, According to Susan G. Komen Foundation, excessive alcohol use is linked  
5 to at least seven types of cancer: breast, colorectal, esophagus, larynx (voice box), liver, mouth,  
6 and throat; and

7           WHEREAS, According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
8 Administration (SAMHSA), in 2024, there were an estimated total of 3.3 million emergency  
9 room visits in the United States related to alcohol. Overall, alcohol was the most prevalent in  
10 substance-related emergency room visits, with approximately 38.9 percent; and

11           WHEREAS, The National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics reports that nearly 18 percent  
12 of Rhode Islanders binge drink with approximately 500-600 deaths per year in Rhode Island are  
13 attributable to excessive alcohol use; now, therefore be it

14           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
15 proclaims April of 2026, to be "Alcohol Awareness Month"; and be it further

16           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
17 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Daniel McKee, Governor of the  
18 State of Rhode Island, Richard Charest, Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human  
19 Services, Jerome Larkin, MD, Director of the Department of Health, and Richard Leclerc,  
20 Director of the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals.

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