

2026 -- H 8398

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF LAW, SCHOOL OF JUSTICE STUDIES, AND EXTENSION SCHOOL AND COMMEMORATING RWU LAW AND JUSTICE DAY ON APRIL 2, 2026

Introduced By: Representatives Speakman, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Donovan, Kennedy, Ajello, Fellela, Shallcross Smith, and Serpa

Date Introduced: April 02, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Roger Williams University School of Law was founded in 1993 in Bristol  
2 and has been accredited by the American Bar Association since 1997 and a member of the  
3 Association of American Law Schools since 2006; and

4           WHEREAS, RWU Law is the only law school in the State of Rhode Island and offers the  
5 Juris Doctor (JD) and Master of Studies in Law (MSL) degrees, as well as joint JD-master's  
6 degree programs in conjunction with Roger Williams University and the University of Rhode  
7 Island; and

8           WHEREAS, RWU Law is nationally recognized for its innovative and service-oriented  
9 curriculum, including its seven legal clinics, ten legal externship programs, and numerous pro  
10 bono programs that provide legal services and improve access to justice for underserved Rhode  
11 Islanders, as well as for its groundbreaking coursework and programming on how matters of race  
12 have shaped American law; and

13           WHEREAS, Roger Williams University's School of Justice Studies offers multiple  
14 degree programs related to law and justice, including Criminal Justice, Digital Forensics,  
15 Forensic Science, Leadership, Legal Studies, Political Science, and Public Administration, as well  
16 as a Public Policy Certificate, thereby serving as a leading provider of essential education and  
17 training in these and other critically important fields for Rhode Island; and

18           WHEREAS, Roger Williams University's Extension School offers multiple degree and  
19 certificate programs related to law and justice, including Community Development, Community

1 Policing, Corrections Agency Administration, Criminal Justice, Cybersecurity, Homeland  
2 Security, Police Agency Administration, Policing and Public Safety, Professional Legal Studies,  
3 and Public Administration, thereby providing Rhode Islanders with essential educational and  
4 career opportunities; and

5 WHEREAS, All three schools are committed to offering dynamic collaborative  
6 programming to improve educational and career opportunities for students and residents in Rhode  
7 Island, in order to provide significant pathways to the legal profession and justice-related  
8 professions; and

9 WHEREAS, All three schools hosted RWU Day of Law and Justice on April 2, 2026, to  
10 highlight the importance of legal and justice-related professions, promote access to justice, and  
11 celebrate their collective contributions to the State of Rhode Island; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
13 recognizes and commemorates RWU Law and Justice Day on April 2, 2026, and honors Roger  
14 Williams University's School of Law, School of Justice Studies, and Extension School for their  
15 important contributions to legal and justice-related professions, public service, and the people of  
16 the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
18 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Roger Williams University.

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