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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE CELEBRATION OF THE CAMBODIAN NEW YEAR AND THE  
"YEAR OF THE HORSE" ON APRIL 13-15, 2026

Introduced By: Representatives Morales, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Slater,  
Kennedy, Ajello, Fellela, Boylan, and Tanzi

Date Introduced: April 09, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, One of the most important and popular of Cambodian holidays, ushering in  
2 the New Year, is Choul Chnam Thmey, which literally means "Enter the New Year." It occurs  
3 from April 13<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup> and marks the end of the harvesting season; and

4           WHEREAS, Each Cambodian year is popularly known by one of the 12 animals of the  
5 Zodiac. These names provide a ready reference because each is used only once in 12 years. This  
6 year, 2026, will be celebrated as the "Year of the Horse"; and

7           WHEREAS, The holiday celebration is a three-day event that begins on New Year's Day.  
8 Moha Sangkran is the first day of the event and symbolizes the ending of one year and beginning  
9 anew. Cambodians traditionally clean and decorate their homes and prepare food for the New  
10 Year inauguration and to welcome the "New Angels at every single home"; and

11           WHEREAS, Day two of the Cambodian New Year's celebration is Wanabot. It is a time  
12 to offer gifts to one's parents, grandparents, and elders, and to contribute to charity and help those  
13 less fortunate; and

14           WHEREAS, The third day of the New Year's celebration is called Thhnay Leung Sakk,  
15 which means the year "starts to be counted from this day." People generally go to temple in the  
16 morning and end the day with the "Pithi Srang Preah" where they cleanse the Buddha statues and  
17 their monks, elders, parents, and grandparents as an act of contrition to apologize for any  
18 transgressions done to them; and

19           WHEREAS, The Cambodian New Year's holiday is rich with tradition and a perfectly

1 wonderful time for men and women, both young and old, to come together and celebrate; now,  
2 therefore, be it

3           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
4 recognizes the celebration of the Cambodian New Year and the "Year of the Horse" on April 13-  
5 15, 2026; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That this House hereby wishes to extend its deepest respect and  
7 appreciation to the Rhode Island Cambodian community for all that it has contributed to the rich  
8 diversity of Rhode Island culture; 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 Suonriaksmay Keo, President of the  
11 Cambodian Society of Rhode Island, Inc.

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