

2026 -- H 8456

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE 78TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S DAY OF INDEPENDENCE ON  
APRIL 21ST THROUGH APRIL 22ND, 2026, AND REAFFIRMING THE BONDS OF  
FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN RHODE ISLAND, THE UNITED STATES,  
AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Introduced By: Representatives Edwards, Finkelman, Corvese, Kennedy, Shekarchi,  
Blazejewski, McNamara, Chippendale, Paplauskas, and Newberry

Date Introduced: April 16, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to  
2 partition British Mandatory Palestine into a Jewish state and Arab state, a decision welcomed by  
3 Jewish leadership and rejected by the Arab world; and

4 WHEREAS, On May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the  
5 sovereign and independent State of Israel, and the United States government established full  
6 diplomatic relations after Israel's first election in 1949; and

7 WHEREAS, The desire of the Jewish people to establish an independent modern State of  
8 Israel is directly linked to the existence of the historic kingdom of Israel established in the land of  
9 Israel more than 3,000 years ago, with the City of Jerusalem as its capital both then and now; and

10 WHEREAS, For over 2,000 years, Jews living in other parts of the world maintained a  
11 profound spiritual and emotional connection to the Land of Israel, and there has been continuous  
12 Jewish presence in the land comprising the modern State of Israel; and

13 WHEREAS, The establishment of the modern State of Israel as a homeland for the  
14 Jewish people followed the destruction of much of European Jewry during the Holocaust; and

15 WHEREAS, Since its establishment 78 years ago, the modern State of Israel has rebuilt  
16 the nation, forged a new and dynamic society, and created a thriving economic, political, cultural,  
17 and intellectual life despite the heavy burdens of war, terrorism, and unjustified diplomatic and  
18 economic boycotts against the people of Israel; and

1           WHEREAS, The people of Israel, in the spirit of Israel's Declaration of Independence,  
2 have established a vibrant, pluralistic, democratic political system, which includes freedom of  
3 speech, association, and religion; a vigorously free press; free, fair and open elections; the rule of  
4 law; a fully independent judiciary; and other democratic principles and practices; and

5           WHEREAS, Israel has developed some of the world's leading universities, has an  
6 advanced, entrepreneurial economy, is among the world's leaders of the high-tech industry, and is  
7 at the forefront of research and development in the fields of renewable energy sources and  
8 medicine; and

9           WHEREAS, Israel regularly sends humanitarian aid, search and rescue teams, mobile  
10 hospitals, and other emergency supplies, to help victims of disasters around the world; and

11           WHEREAS, Israel has taken in millions of Jews from countries throughout the world and  
12 sought to fully integrate them into Israeli society; and

13           WHEREAS, Israel has established peaceful bilateral relations with Egypt and Jordan and  
14 has sought to achieve a secure peace with the Palestinians and Israel's other Arab neighbors; and

15           WHEREAS, For more than seven decades, Rhode Island, the United States, and Israel  
16 have maintained a special relationship based on mutually shared democratic and moral values,  
17 common strategic interests, and bonds of friendship and mutual respect; and

18           WHEREAS, The American people and the people of Rhode Island feel a strong affinity  
19 for the Israeli people based on common values and shared cultural heritage; and

20           WHEREAS, The United States and Rhode Island continue to regard Israel as a trusted  
21 ally and vital strategic partner in the volatile Middle East; now, therefore be it

22           RESOLVED, That this House of Representative of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
23 recognizes the historic significance of the 78th Anniversary of the reestablishment of the  
24 sovereign and independent State of Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people; and be it further

25           RESOLVED, That this House hereby reaffirms the bonds of friendship and cooperation  
26 which have existed between Rhode Island, the United States, and Israel for more than 70 years,  
27 and commits to strengthening those bonds; and be it further

28           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
29 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Ms. Gail Putnam, Chief Administrative Officer  
30 of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and Mr. Benjamin Sharoni, Israeli Consulate  
31 General in Boston.

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