

2026 -- H 8516

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF MAY 2026 AS “EYEGLOSS RECYCLING MONTH” IN
THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Phillips, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Corvese,
Hull, Ajello, Fellela, Cortvriend, and Diaz

Date Introduced: May 05, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Lions Sight Foundation is a nonprofit organization
2 dedicated to assisting visually impaired persons by providing vision screenings, eyeglasses,
3 medical support, prosthetics, adaptive equipment, training, and recreational services designed to
4 improve quality of life throughout the State of Rhode Island; and

5 WHEREAS, Founded in 1961 as the charitable arm of Lions Clubs International, District
6 42, the Rhode Island Lions Sight Foundation is composed of representatives from Lions Clubs
7 across the State; and

8 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Lions Sight Foundation carries out its mission of
9 supporting visually impaired persons through financial, material, social, developmental, and
10 rehabilitative assistance, with the goal of enhancing independence, accessibility, and quality of
11 life for individuals with vision loss in Rhode Island communities; and

12 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Lions Sight Foundation administers a comprehensive
13 network of programs and services, including statewide vision pre-screenings in schools, day care
14 centers, and community settings, provision of eye examinations and eyeglasses for uninsured and
15 underserved individuals, support for low-vision and adaptive equipment services, operation of the
16 Abbie Frances Lawton Memorial Home Eye Clinic, and coordination of referrals for
17 ophthalmological and vision care services; and

18 WHEREAS, The Foundation further supports recreational, educational, and
19 developmental programs for individuals who are visually impaired, including Camp Mauchatea

1 for youth, Visually Impaired Persons fishing tournaments, rowing and kayaking programs, VIP
2 golf instruction and tournaments, and other structured activities designed to promote
3 independence, mobility, and community engagement; and

4 WHEREAS, In Rhode Island communities, the Foundation collects used eyeglasses
5 through partnerships with Lions Clubs, eye care providers, schools, libraries, and community
6 collection sites for reuse and recycling; and

7 WHEREAS, These collected eyeglasses are contributed to the global “Recycle for Sight”
8 initiative of Lions Clubs International, through which usable prescription and non-prescription
9 eyewear is processed at Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers, where it is sorted, cleaned, and
10 classified prior to being distributed through international vision missions to underserved
11 populations worldwide; and

12 WHEREAS, Millions of people worldwide suffer from uncorrected refractive errors that
13 can be corrected with proper eyeglasses but lack access to basic vision care services; and

14 WHEREAS, Lions volunteers and recycling centers play a critical role in reducing
15 landfill waste by repurposing usable eyeglasses and responsibly recycling unusable materials; and

16 WHEREAS, Residents of Rhode Island are encouraged to donate unused eyeglasses
17 through local Lions Clubs, eye care providers, and community collection sites, thereby
18 contributing to a global humanitarian effort that restores sight and improves quality of life; and

19 WHEREAS, Designating May 2026 as “Eyeglass Recycling Month” will promote
20 awareness of vision health, environmental responsibility, and charitable service throughout the
21 State of Rhode Island; now, therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That this House of the State of Rhode Island hereby designates the month
23 of May 2026 as “Eyeglass Recycling Month” in the State of Rhode Island, and encourages
24 residents to support the Rhode Island Lions Sight Foundation and local Lions Clubs by donating
25 used eyeglasses and participating in community collection efforts; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
27 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Rhode Island Lions Sight Foundation and to
28 Lions Clubs International.

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