

2026 -- H 8518

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING MAY 2026, TO BE "OLDER AMERICANS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Fogarty,
Shallcross Smith, Cortvriend, Hull, Ajello, and Fellela

Date Introduced: May 05, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Older Americans Month was first established in May 1963 as “Senior
2 Citizens Month” after a meeting between President John F. Kennedy and members of the
3 National Council of Senior Citizens. Early proclamations encouraged the recognition of older
4 Americans’ contributions to society and their needs. Later presidential proclamations continued
5 the observance, and in 1980 the name was changed to Older Americans Month to broaden the
6 celebration of older adults nationwide; and

7 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's own Congressman John E. Fogarty held a pivotal role in
8 establishing the Older Americans Act (OAA). His contribution to older Americans remains a
9 keystone piece of Legislation thereby providing comprehensive services for older adults
10 throughout the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1963, only about 17 million Americans were age 65 or older, and roughly
12 one-third of them lived in poverty; and

13 WHEREAS, Today, there are more than 61 million Americans ages 65 or older,
14 representing approximately 18 percent of the total U.S. population, and this number is projected
15 to continue increasing so that older Americans will make up about 82 million or 23 percent of the
16 population by 2050. In 2024, more than 17 million Americans ages 65 or older were
17 economically insecure, living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL); and

18 WHEREAS, Older Americans Month acknowledges and celebrates the many
19 contributions older adults have made and continue to make in support of our nation, especially

1 our senior veterans. The observance is celebrated across the nation with public ceremonies, fairs,
2 activities, and other events that honor the achievements and service of older adults; and

3 WHEREAS, Every day, older Americans contribute their wisdom, experience, time and
4 resources in support of their communities. They assist young families as they navigate through
5 the joys and travails of raising children, are key supporters and contributors to many civic
6 organizations and charities, and are a key component of the national economy; and

7 WHEREAS, Engagement and respect between younger and older generations are
8 fundamental to American life. It is important that society offer older Americans the services,
9 resources, and support they need to live as independently as possible, make choices that are best
10 for them and their families, and pursue personal fulfillment as they age; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
12 proclaims the Month of May 2026 to be "Older Americans Month" in the State of Rhode Island;
13 and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
15 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Maria Cimini, Director of the Rhode Island
16 Office of Healthy Aging.

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