

2026 -- H 8537

LC006424

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY (SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL) OF THE
FOUNDING OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Introduced By: Representatives J. Brien, Blazejewski, Kazarian, Chippendale, Kennedy,
Santucci, Shallcross Smith, Bennett, Corvese, and Fascia

Date Introduced: May 12, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, July 4, 2026, marks the 250th anniversary, or Semiquincentennial, of the
2 adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia
3 in 1776, signifying the founding of the United States of America; and

4 WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence proclaimed timeless principles of
5 profound significance to the national heritage of the United States, including that all are created
6 equal and endowed with certain inalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of
7 happiness, and that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed; and

8 WHEREAS, The founding of the United States established the principle of federalism,
9 emphasizing a decentralized system of government wherein powers are divided between national
10 and state governments, fostering liberty, accountability, and responsiveness to local communities;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, This decentralized governance model has allowed for innovation, diverse
13 policy approaches, and stronger accountability to the citizens of each state, ensuring that
14 government remains close to and reflective of the people's will; and

15 WHEREAS, The founding of the United States initiated a journey toward forming a
16 "more perfect Union," marked by historic achievements, struggles, and progress in realizing the
17 nation's founding ideals for all its citizens; and

18 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island has played a significant role throughout the
19 history of the United States, contributing to the nation's development, culture, economy, and

1 defense through the efforts and sacrifices of its citizens; and

2 WHEREAS, The Semiquincentennial offers a unique opportunity for the people of Rhode
3 Island to reflect on our shared history, honor the diverse contributions of all Americans, celebrate
4 our heritage of liberty, and look forward to the future we strive to create for subsequent
5 generations; and

6 WHEREAS, Commemorative activities across Rhode Island will provide educational
7 opportunities, foster civic engagement, encourage community participation, and strengthen
8 appreciation for the history, federalist principles, and foundational ideals upon which both the
9 nation and our state were built; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
11 recognizes and commemorates the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United
12 States of America on July 4, 2026; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we encourage all citizens, communities, educational institutions, civic
14 organizations, and businesses within Rhode Island to participate in commemorative events and
15 activities that reflect on our history, celebrate our achievements, and reaffirm our commitment to
16 the ideals of liberty, equality, self-government, and federalism; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the legislature strongly encourages educational institutions across
18 Rhode Island to enhance civics education, ensuring that future generations understand the critical
19 importance of active civic participation, the principles of federalism, and the decentralized
20 governance that protects liberty and promotes responsive government; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
22 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Rhode Island,
23 Daniel J. McKee.

=====
LC006424
=====