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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING JANUARY 27, 2026 TO BE “RHODE ISLAND FOOD INSECURITY  
AWARENESS DAY” IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Valverde, Mack, Zurier, Dimitri, Appollonio, Famiglietti, Euer,  
Urso, Bissaillon, and DiMario

Date Introduced: January 27, 2026

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, In 2025, a record number of Rhode Islanders needed food assistance due to  
2 high food prices, the steep rise in housing costs, and the end of COVID-19 relief programs; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the 2026 annual Status Report on Hunger in Rhode Island,  
4 nearly one out of every five or 34% of Rhode Island households are unable to meet their basic  
5 food needs; and

6 WHEREAS, Communities of color are at the greatest risk of hunger, such that while 27%  
7 of white households are food insecure, the rate is 50% among Black households, 58% among  
8 Latino households, and 44% among all other households (including Asian, Native American, and  
9 more than one race/ethnicity); and

10 WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2025, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank (“Food Bank”)  
11 distributed 18.5 million pounds of food through its 147 member agencies across Rhode Island;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The Food Bank’s statewide network of 137 member agencies served an  
14 average of 85,000 individuals per month in 2025 (January through September), an increase of 5%  
15 from the previous year when an average 82,000 people were served monthly; and

16 WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2026 the Food Bank will spend \$7 million on food acquisition  
17 to keep pace with the high demand for food assistance; and

18 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island is committed to addressing the health and  
19 wellbeing of its residents by continuing public awareness of increased food insecurity and

1 seeking ways to address this increased need; now, therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby proclaims January 27,  
3 2026, to be “Rhode Island Food Insecurity Awareness Day” in the State of Rhode Island; and be  
4 it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
6 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Rhode Island, The  
7 Honorable Daniel J. Mckee.

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