

2022 -- H 8088

LC003872

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**PROCLAIMING APRIL OF 2022, TO BE "ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Casey, Edwards, Craven, Shanley, Phillips, Speakman,
Noret, O'Brien, Kazarian, and Hawkins

Date Introduced: April 05, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Alcohol Awareness Month is a public health program which began in April
2 of 1987, and is organized by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence as a way
3 of increasing outreach and education regarding the dangers of alcoholism and issues related to
4 alcohol; and

5 WHEREAS, The disease of addiction, including dangerous alcohol use, continues to
6 devastate Rhode Island's communities and remains a public health emergency that poses a
7 significant public health and safety threat to the State; and

8 WHEREAS, The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
9 (SAMHSA) reports that Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) was the most common substance abuse
10 disorder among adults in the United States in 2018. In the same year, SAMHSA reported that
11 around 59,000 Rhode Island adults qualify as suffering from AUD. Unfortunately, only 10.2
12 percent of Rhode Island adults suffering from AUD receive the treatment they need; and

13 WHEREAS, AUD affects every community and demographic in Rhode Island. It is a
14 chronic brain disorder that is characterized by an impaired ability to stop or control alcohol use
15 despite adverse social, occupational, or health consequences and often goes untreated; and

16 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that in 2010, excessive
17 drinking cost Rhode Island over \$886 million, which accounts for \$842 per person in Rhode
18 Island. These costs result from losses in workplace productivity, health care expenses, criminal
19 justice expenses, and motor vehicles crashes. About \$2 of every \$5 of the economic costs of

1 excessive alcohol use were paid by federal, state, and local governments; and

2 WHEREAS, Alcohol consumption is the third-leading cause of preventable death in the
3 United States. The CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report states that in Rhode Island
4 there were approximately 337 alcohol-attributable deaths each year and 27.4 years of life lost per
5 alcohol-attributable death from 2011-2015; and

6 WHEREAS, Emergency Department visit-related diagnoses increased by 47 percent for
7 both men and women from 2006-2014, and the costs for such visits increased from \$4.1 billion to
8 \$15.3 billion in the same time period. In 2020, alcohol-related disorders were the 4th most
9 common reason, among all Rhode Islanders, for a visit to a Rhode Island emergency department;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic and its associated effects have led to elevated
12 levels of harmful substance use, including an increase in alcohol use and related consequences.
13 The dangers of excessive alcohol use should not be ignored; and

14 WHEREAS, According to the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International, average
15 drinks per day and binge drinking increased from February 2020 to April 2020; and

16 WHEREAS, A 2020 study funded by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and
17 Alcoholism found overall increases in alcohol consumption among adults, including a 41 percent
18 increase in heavy drinking among women; and

19 WHEREAS, Some hospital systems nationally have noted increases in admissions for
20 alcohol-related liver disease during the pandemic ranging from 30 percent to 50 percent higher
21 than previous years; and

22 WHEREAS, Meeting people where they are in their recovery journey is a critical
23 component of public health and every setting of care should be aware of the signs of dangerous
24 alcohol use, trained in assessing and/or identifying AUD, and treating AUD; and

25 WHEREAS, In December of 2020, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021
26 (P.L.116-260) was enacted, which included \$1.65 billion in the supplemental Substance Abuse
27 Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant funding as provided as part of the law's section
28 dedicated to COVID-19 relief; and

29 WHEREAS, In March of 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2) was
30 enacted, which included \$1.5 billion in longer term supplemental SAPT Block Grant funding;
31 now, therefore be it

32 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
33 proclaims April of 2022, to be "Alcohol Awareness Month"; and be it further

34 RESOLVED, That this House hereby respectfully requests that the Governor of the State

1 of Rhode Island, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the Department of
2 Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals, the Department of Corrections,
3 and the Department of Health consider utilizing the supplemental SAPT Block Grant funding
4 provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act and the American Rescue Plan for these efforts;
5 and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
7 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Daniel McKee, Governor of the
8 State of Rhode Island, Womazetta Jones, MA, Secretary of the Rhode Island Executive Office of
9 Health and Human Services, Patricia A. Coyne-Fague, Esq., Director of the Rhode Island
10 Department of Corrections, the Rhode Island Department of Health, and the Rhode Island
11 Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals.

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