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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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

**COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAMBODIAN GENOCIDE ON
APRIL 17TH OF 2025**

Introduced By: Representatives Morales, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Felix, Slater,
Chippendale, Batista, Kennedy, Ajello, and Paplauskas

Date Introduced: April 10, 2025

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, On April 17th of 1975, Cambodia's capital city, Phnom Penh fell, and thus
2 began an unimaginable tragedy and the slaughter of 2,000,000 Cambodians on the direct orders of
3 the Khmer Rouge regime under its leader, Pol Pot; and

4 WHEREAS, Beginning on that fateful day, and for the next four years, almost 25 percent
5 of the Cambodian nation's population were starved, tortured, and murdered; and

6 WHEREAS, Thousands of Cambodians fled their homeland, seeking refuge in camps in
7 Thailand before eventually being admitted into several nations, including the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, Today, Cambodia still struggles under the oppression of a former Khmer
9 Rouge Commander who over the past four decades has consolidated his power by threatening,
10 outlawing, and arresting those who oppose him; and

11 WHEREAS, Rhode Island is now home to a vibrant Cambodian-American population,
12 that have greatly contributed to the rich diversity of our State's culture; and

13 WHEREAS, The 50th Anniversary of the Cambodian Genocide is a day to remember and
14 pay homage and extend utmost respect and reverence for the lives that were lost, and to honor the
15 courage and resilience of those who survived; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
17 commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the Cambodian Genocide on April 17th of 2025, and
18 "celebrate the enduring spirit of the Cambodian people". We moreover extend heartfelt gratitude
19 to the Cambodian Society of RI, the Providence Youth Student Movement, the Alliance of Rhode

1 Island Southeast Asians for Education, and the elders of the Cambodian community for
2 empowering and organizing an annual day of remembrance; and be it further
3 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
4 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Cambodian Society of RI, the Providence
5 Youth Student Movement, and the Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education.

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