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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING MARCH 19, 2026, AS "RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE DAY" IN THE STATE
OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Lawson, Ciccone, Tikoian, Gallo, Raptakis, Vargas,
Appollonio, Murray, DiPalma, and McKenney

Date Introduced: March 16, 2026

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Established by the General Assembly in 1854, and originally named the
2 "Rhode Island State Normal School", Rhode Island College (RIC) is a public college located in
3 the City of Providence and is the second oldest institution of higher education – and the oldest
4 public institution of higher education – in Rhode Island; and

5 WHEREAS, Comprised of a 180-acre campus, RIC has 282 full-time faculty members,
6 and a student body of more than 6,500 undergraduate and graduate students. The college offers
7 more than 50 undergraduate and over 25 graduate degree programs, and a doctoral program in
8 nursing practice; and

9 WHEREAS, In addition, RIC offers programs and classes in professional and workforce
10 development, continuing and adult education, and community programs and initiatives that
11 "empower our citizens and strengthen our communities"; and

12 WHEREAS, RIC also offers a panoply of athletic opportunities as a member of the
13 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III with 21 varsity sports, including 9
14 men's sports teams and 12 women's sports teams; and

15 WHEREAS, Earning recognition throughout the Northeast for its excellence, RIC is
16 among the top 10 regional public colleges/universities in New England and the top 10
17 college/universities in New England for social mobility in a 2026 U.S. News and World Report
18 article; and its Zvart Onanian School of Nursing was named “one of the best nursing master’s
19 programs for your money” in 2025, according to Money Magazine’s annual rankings; and

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's motto "Hope", became reality for Rhode Island residents in
2 the fall of 2023, as the college initiated the Hope Scholarship, which will benefit its students
3 seeking a 4-year degree; and since its inception in 2023, 568 Rhode Island students have
4 benefited from the scholarship; and

5 WHEREAS, Rhode Island College is now on the cutting edge of programs in healthcare,
6 cybersecurity, biotechnology, data science and artificial intelligence, allowing its students
7 opportunities to find meaningful and lucrative work in these critical fields. The programs will
8 also ensure that our State, as well as our nation, will have the needed expertise in these emerging
9 technological fields; and

10 WHEREAS, The people of Rhode Island have chosen to invest in the State's high-tech
11 future at Rhode Island College, approving funding in two successive bond referenda to
12 completely modernize the College's physical sciences facility, Clark Science, which opened in
13 the Fall of 2025, and to transform Whipple Hall, one of the oldest buildings on campus, into a
14 state-of-the-art Institute for Cybersecurity & Emerging Technologies with a cyber range and
15 security operations center; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby celebrates March 19,
17 2026, as "Rhode Island College Day" and thanks the College and staff for the significant
18 contributions they provide to the citizens of our State; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
20 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Dr. Jack R. Warner, President of Rhode Island
21 College.

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