

2026 -- S 3247

=====  
LC006337  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

---

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING MAY 2026, TO BE "OLDER AMERICANS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF  
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Lawson, Gu, Felag, Urso, LaMountain, Appollonio,  
Tikoian, Murray, and Dimitri

Date Introduced: May 05, 2026

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, Older Americans Month was first established in May 1963 as “Senior  
2 Citizens Month” after a meeting between President John F. Kennedy and members of the  
3 National Council of Senior Citizens. Early proclamations encouraged the recognition of older  
4 Americans’ contributions to society and their needs. Later presidential proclamations continued  
5 the observance, and in 1980 the name was changed to Older Americans Month to broaden the  
6 celebration of older adults nationwide; and

7           WHEREAS, Rhode Island's own Congressman John E. Fogarty held a pivotal role in  
8 establishing the Older Americans Act (OAA). His contribution to older Americans remains a  
9 keystone piece of Legislation thereby providing comprehensive services for older adults  
10 throughout the United States; and

11           WHEREAS, In 1963, only about 17 million Americans were age 65 or older, and roughly  
12 one-third of them lived in poverty; and

13           WHEREAS, Today, there are more than 61 million Americans ages 65 or older,  
14 representing approximately 18 percent of the total U.S. population, and this number is projected  
15 to continue increasing so that older Americans will make up about 82 million or 23 percent of the  
16 population by 2050. In 2024, more than 17 million Americans ages 65 or older were  
17 economically insecure, living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL); and

18           WHEREAS, Older Americans Month acknowledges and celebrates the many  
19 contributions older adults have made and continue to make in support of our nation, especially

1 our senior veterans. The observance is celebrated across the nation with public ceremonies, fairs,  
2 activities, and other events that honor the achievements and service of older adults; and

3 WHEREAS, Every day, older Americans contribute their wisdom, experience, time and  
4 resources in support of their communities. They assist young families as they navigate through  
5 the joys and travails of raising children, are key supporters and contributors to many civic  
6 organizations and charities, and are a key component of the national economy; and

7 WHEREAS, Engagement and respect between younger and older generations are  
8 fundamental to American life. It is important that society offer older Americans the services,  
9 resources, and support they need to live as independently as possible, make choices that are best  
10 for them and their families, and pursue personal fulfillment as they age; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby proclaims the Month  
12 of May 2026 to be "Older Americans Month" in the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
14 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Maria Cimini, Director of the Rhode Island  
15 Office of Healthy Aging.

=====  
LC006337  
=====