

2024 -- H 8136

=====
LC005751
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL OF 2024, TO BE "ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Casey, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Kazarian,
Solomon, Edwards, Voas, Giraldo, and J. Brien

Date Introduced: April 04, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

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

5 WHEREAS, Alcohol abuse affects everyone, not simply the person with the drinking
6 problem. It impacts family, friends, and the workplace. The numerous initiatives promulgated
7 during Alcohol Awareness Month benefits everyone, and all people and organizations are
8 welcome to participate including parents, schools, healthcare facilities, medical professionals, law
9 enforcement, substance abuse organizations, faith-based groups and other important community
10 organizations; and

11 WHEREAS, The disease of addiction, including dangerous alcohol use, continues to
12 devastate Rhode Island's communities and remains a public health emergency that poses a
13 significant public health safety threat to our State; and

14 WHEREAS, According to the National Institute of Health's 2020 Monitoring the Future
15 Survey, alcohol is among the most used substances by both young people and adults in the United
16 States. Their survey results showed that approximately 52 percent of high school seniors used
17 alcohol, with more than 24 percent of people 18 or older admitting that they engaged in binge
18 drinking in the past month. In 2023, more than 140,000 Americans died from alcohol-related
19 causes; and

1 WHEREAS, According to the National Center For Health Statistics, collectively,
2 alcohol-related deaths in the United States costs the United States Economy approximately 249
3 billion dollars and Americans lose 3.59 million years of potential life due to excessive drinking;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, According to the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence,
6 excessive alcohol abuse causes 75 percent of esophageal cancers, 36 percent of the cases of
7 primary liver cancer, and nearly 50 percent of cancers of the mouth, pharynx and larynx. Chronic
8 drinking increases a woman's chance of getting breast cancer by 10 percent, and causes 65
9 percent of all cases of pancreatitis. Among emergency room patients admitted for injuries, 47
10 percent tested positive for alcohol and 35 percent were intoxicated. Overall, alcoholics are ten
11 times more likely to develop general carcinoma, and accidents related to alcohol use are among
12 the leading causes of death for teenagers; and

13 WHEREAS, The National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics reports that nearly 18 percent
14 of Rhode Islanders over the age of 18 binge drink at least once per month. From 2018 to 2022,
15 approximately 367 deaths per year in Rhode Island are attributable to excessive alcohol abuse;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The FY 2024, President's Budget includes a total of \$10.8 billion for
18 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); now, therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
20 proclaims April of 2024, to be "Alcohol Awareness Month"; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
22 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Daniel McKee, Governor of the
23 State of Rhode Island, Richard Charest, Secretary of the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health
24 and Human Services, Utpala Bandy, MD, MPH, Director of the Rhode Island Department of
25 Health, and Richard Ledere, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare,
26 Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals.

=====
LC005751
=====