

2024 -- H 8229

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LC005960
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING MAY OF 2024, TO BE "MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND, AND JOYOUSLY CELEBRATES THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RHODE ISLAND MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Quattrocchi, Rea, Nardone, Roberts, Edwards, and Casey

Date Introduced: May 02, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Motorcycle Association was started in 1974 in West
2 Warwick, as a nonprofit motorcycle rights organization to protect the freedoms of riders in Rhode
3 Island through safety, education and legislation; and

4 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Motorcycle Association has worked closely with
5 Governors, legislators and the Rhode Island Department of Transportation to advance the
6 freedom of choice and the safety of motorcycle riders in Rhode Island with fair and equitable
7 solutions; and

8 WHEREAS, Motorcycle riding is an economical and popular form of transportation
9 enjoyed by about eight percent of the American people. It provides a more efficient mode of
10 transportation than cars or trucks, uses up fewer resources, causes less wear and tear on our roads
11 and highways, and increases available parking spaces; and

12 WHEREAS, Motorcycle accidents are unfortunately a common occurrence, with
13 estimates suggesting that such incidents occur approximately once every eight minutes in
14 America and account for more than 14 percent of all traffic fatalities, despite the fact only 3
15 percent of all registered vehicles are motorcycles; and

16 WHEREAS, Because motorcycles don't have seat belts or air bags, and they are much
17 smaller than cars, motorcyclists are 28 times more likely to die in a crash than those driving cars;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, As of January of 2023, the total number of public, personal, and commercial

1 motorcycles registered in the United States and the District of Columbia totaled approximately
2 8.8 million, with 24,833 registered in Rhode Island as of 2021; and

3 WHEREAS, Data reported by the National Highway Transportation Safety
4 Administration (NHTSA) states that on average, almost 5,000 motorcyclists die in traffic
5 accidents every year in the United States which is around 16 motorcyclists killed per day; and

6 WHEREAS, Distracted driving poses one of the biggest dangers to other motorists,
7 especially motorcyclists. Distractions can be any activity that takes a driver's focus off the task of
8 driving, including eating and drinking, talking or texting on the phone, and numerous other
9 distractions, all of which pose serious dangers to the motorcycle driving public; and

10 WHEREAS, While there are no prescribed means to prevent motorcycle wrecks, greater
11 awareness of motorist safety and potential existing risks can arm riders with the knowledge they
12 need to help mitigate dangerous situations while on the road; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
14 proclaims May of 2024, to be "Motorcycle Awareness Month" in the State of Rhode Island, urges
15 all motorists to avoid distracted driving, and joyously celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the
16 Rhode Island Motorcycle Association; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Rhode Island Motorcycle Association.

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