

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

**RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT AND COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE STATE OF
RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senators Morgan, and de la Cruz

Date Introduced: March 18, 2021

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Anti-Semitism is a virulent, disgraceful, and ancient form of hate that
2 persists today specifically targeting Jewish people, and has resulted in violence, sometimes
3 widespread and organized, including, but not limited to, assault, murder, and genocide, as well as
4 discrimination, illegal harassment, and other acts inimical to a pluralistic, diverse society in which
5 everyone's rights and dignity are respected and upheld; and

6 WHEREAS, There is an alarming rise of anti-Semitism across the world and in the
7 United States that comes from across the ideological spectrum; and

8 WHEREAS, Anti-Semitism is not limited to historic forms of hatred or prejudice against
9 the Jewish people on account of their religion or ethnicity, but includes new forms such as those
10 outlined in the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's Working Definition of
11 Antisemitism (IHRA Definition); and

12 WHEREAS, The IHRA Definition is an accurate and helpful definition of anti-Semitism
13 that has been adopted by scores of entities worldwide, including, but not limited to, governments,
14 diverse and international religious leadership councils, international governing bodies, institutions
15 of higher education, state departments, and more; and

16 WHEREAS, History teaches that anti-Semitism cannot go unchecked if a pluralistic,
17 democratic society is to prevail, and must be combatted through various means, including
18 education, legal avenues, and state-sponsored awareness events and days; and

19 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island is obligated to identify and condemn anti-

1 Semitism regardless of where it comes from, its form, and no matter the motivation behind it; and
2 WHEREAS, Adopting the IHRA Definition is a very important first step but does not
3 suffice in combatting anti-Semitism; and

4 WHEREAS, Multiple United States' administrations have adopted the IHRA Definition,
5 and the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Coalition for Israel, The
6 Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center, the Chabad Center of West Bay Chai Center, and
7 the Va'ad Harabbonim (Council of Orthodox Rabbis) have all adopted the IHRA Definition; and

8 WHEREAS, April 7-8, 2021, is Yom HaShoah, the Holocaust Remembrance Day on the
9 Jewish calendar, and the subject of interfaith memorial events; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby declares Yom
11 HaShoah an annual Anti-Semitism Awareness Day beginning on April 8, 2021, and continuing to
12 recognize indefinitely this day on each date it falls on the Jewish Calendar; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby calls on all levels of state and local government to
14 adopt the IHRA Working Definition of Anti-Semitism, with examples, in 2021, in an effort to
15 help lead the movement to combat the spread of anti-Semitism and further declares Anti-
16 Semitism Awareness Day a state-recognized event; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Mr. James Pious, Chair, the Jewish Alliance of
19 Greater Rhode Island, Ms. Mary Greene, President, The Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education
20 Center, the Chabad of West Bay Chai Center, Rabbi Raphael Schochet, Va'ad Ha'ad Harabbonim,
21 the Rhode Island Coalition for Israel, and Rabbi Yossi Laufer, Co-Director, Chabad of West Bay
22 Chai Center.

=====
LC001831
=====