WHEREAS, Rhode Island's prosperity is directly linked to the economic health of its residents; and;

WHEREAS, Our nation's financial system has grown increasingly complex, leaving too many Americans without the means to secure a strong financial future; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island continues to recover from the worst economic crisis in generations. Therefore, it is more important than ever to be knowledgeable about the consequences of our financial decisions; and

WHEREAS, Strengthening the financial ability of all Rhode Islanders is an investment in the fundamental promise of a brighter future and the building of a more prosperous nation; and

WHEREAS, Financial literacy is a tool to achieve economic security and protection against fraud and predatory banking practices; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Islanders are seeking to improve their personal finances through a broad range of banking and financial products; and

WHEREAS, Personal financial literacy education involves active engagement on the part of individuals and families in an ongoing and evolving process; and

WHEREAS, Governments, private businesses, community-based organization, and institutions of education should work together to help consumers make informed decisions about their finances and avoid deceptive or predatory practices; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island should endeavor to expand the availability of financial
products and services that are fair, affordable, and understandable; and

WHEREAS, April is National Financial Literacy Month, where the financial community highlights its commitment to teaching ourselves and our children about the basics of financial education; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby proclaims April, 2017, to be "Financial Literacy Month." We moreover urge all Rhode Islanders to take advantage of various programs and activities that will increase their personal financial literacy both during the month of April and throughout the year; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the RI JumpStart Coalition.