WHEREAS, Every Rhode Islander deserves the opportunity to achieve financial security and stability regardless of zip code or background; and

WHEREAS, The economic and health impacts of COVID-19 have highlighted the compounded financial disparities in our nation and state; and

WHEREAS, Too many Rhode Islanders are struggling with financial challenges at a rate higher than national peers; and

WHEREAS, Too many Rhode Islanders have unequal access to financial education and this has contributed to racial wealth and income gaps that persist in our society; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with strong personal finance skills have the knowledge to make informed decisions regarding budgeting, maintaining strong credit, saving, investing, and protecting and insuring their assets; and

WHEREAS, Governments, private businesses, community-based organizations, and institutions of education must work together to empower consumers to make informed decisions about their finances, appropriately plan for economic instability, and avoid deceptive or predatory practices; and

WHEREAS, General Treasurer Magaziner launched the Rhode Island Financial Empowerment Roundtable which regularly brings together representatives from government, nonprofits, education, businesses, and banking to network and share ideas on how to encourage economic growth and financial stability among Rhode Islanders; and
WHEREAS, There is a strong coalition of organizations, passionate educators, and invested individuals working tirelessly to expand financial literacy and personal finance education in Rhode Island schools; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island should endeavor to expand the availability of personal finance education, because teaching financial skills to students gives them more economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Strengthening the financial skills of all Rhode Islanders is an investment in the fundamental promise of a brighter future and building a more prosperous nation. April is National Financial Literacy Month, during which Rhode Island 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 hereby proclaims April of 2021, to be "Financial Literacy Month" in the State of Rhode Island. 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.

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