

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING APRIL 3-9, 2022, AS "NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Euer, DiMario, Valverde, and DiPalma

Date Introduced: April 07, 2022

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Libraries of all types are at the heart of their cities, towns, schools, and
2 campuses, serving the communities in Rhode Island; and

3 WHEREAS, Libraries are accessible and inclusive places that foster a sense of belonging
4 and community; and

5 WHEREAS, Today's libraries and their services extend far beyond the four walls of a
6 building and everyone is welcome to use their resources; and

7 WHEREAS, For people lacking broadband at home, libraries provide access to
8 computers and Wi-Fi, even checking out internet hotspots and laptops; and

9 WHEREAS, Libraries strive to develop and maintain programs and collections that are as
10 diverse as the communities they serve and ensure equity of access for all; and

11 WHEREAS, In times of crisis, libraries, librarians, and library workers play an invaluable
12 role in supporting their communities both in person and virtually; and

13 WHEREAS, Libraries are cornerstones of democracy, promoting the free exchange of
14 information and ideas for all; and

15 WHEREAS, Libraries have long served as trusted and treasured institutions for all
16 members of the community regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, ability, sexual orientation, gender
17 identity, or socio-economic status; and

18 WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic statewide shutdown, Rhode Island's
19 libraries pivoted to provide virtual programs to the community including virtual storytime, book

1 discussions, reference services, and technology help for parents and students, and also
2 significantly expanded access to digital resources including ebooks and lifelong learning tools to
3 continue to serve the needs of residents; and

4 WHEREAS, Libraries are true beacons of democracy that strengthen our state and our
5 nation by preserving our nation's cultural heritage. Lady Bird Johnson once said, "Perhaps no
6 place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance
7 requirement is interest"; and

8 WHEREAS, Libraries empower individuals, strengthen families, and provide the
9 cornerstone for a brighter future for all our citizens; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby joins the libraries,
11 librarians, library workers, supporters and advocates across the nation in commemorating
12 "National Library Week" on April 3-9, 2022. We furthermore thank Rhode Island's libraries and
13 library workers for their service to our communities and encourage all residents to visit their local
14 library to access these valuable resources and services; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Office of Library and Information Services,
17 and each Rhode Island City and Town library.

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