

**SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
IN SUPPORT OF FULLY FUNDING STATE AID TO LIBRARIES TO THE FULL  
TWENTY-FIVE (25) PERCENT**

**Whereas**, for people lacking broadband at home, libraries provide access to computers and Wi-Fi; and

**Whereas**, libraries are cornerstones of democracy, promoting the free exchange of information and ideas for all; and

**Whereas**, libraries are accessible and inclusive places that foster a sense of belonging and community; and

**Whereas**, today's libraries and their services extend far beyond the four walls of a building, and everyone is welcome to use their resources; and

**Whereas**, the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island in Article XII, Section I, states that it "shall be the duty of the General Assembly to promote public schools and public libraries, and to adopt all means which it deems necessary and proper to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities of education and public library services"; and

**Whereas**, in recognition of the importance of libraries in our society, the State of Rhode Island passed legislation setting the level of state aid for library services at a minimum of twenty-five (25%) of the amount spent from local tax funds and the library's private endowment; and

**Whereas**, the Governor's proposed FY 2027 budget funds state aid to libraries at 24.1%, which is less than the Town of Smithfield received in the FY 2026 budget; and

**Whereas**, the Town of Smithfield recognizes the importance of fully funding our public libraries and supports funding state aid to libraries at the 25% level in FY 2027; and

**Whereas**, at the full 25% funding level the Town of Smithfield would receive an additional \$14,394 for its libraries; and

**Whereas**, H7691 and S2812 have been introduced in the Rhode General Assembly in support of full funding of state aid to libraries; and

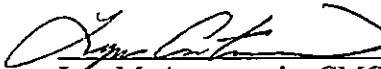
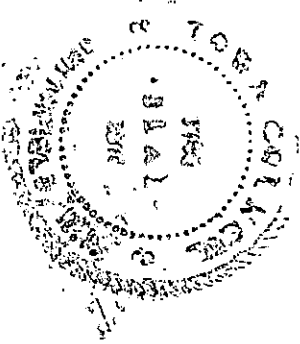
**Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Town Council of Smithfield, Rhode Island, as follows, that the Smithfield Town Council, at the request of the Boards of Trustees of the East Smithfield**

and Greenville Public Libraries, does hereby support legislation which would restore funding for State Aid to Libraries to the full 25% level required in RI General Laws § 29-6-2 (a) and urges the General Assembly to work diligently for its passage.

Be it also resolved that the Smithfield Town Clerk transmit forthwith a copy of this Resolution to the Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President, Chair of the House Finance Committee, and to the members of Smithfield's legislative delegation to the Rhode Island General Assembly.

**PASSED:** April 21, 2026

**APPROVED:**

  
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John J. Tassoni, President  
Smithfield Town Council  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lyn M. Antonuccio, CMC  
Town Clerk

**Recommended Motion:**

That the Smithfield Town Council hereby adoptS a resolution in support of House Bill 7691 and Senate Bill 2812 on fully funding State Aid to libraries to the full twenty-five (25) percent.

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**Whereas**, H7691 and S2812 have been introduced in the Rhode General Assembly in support of full funding of state aid to libraries; and

**Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Town Council of Smithfield, Rhode Island, as follows**, that the Smithfield Town Council, at the request of the Boards of Trustees of the East Smithfield

and Greenville Public Libraries, does hereby support legislation which would restore funding for State Aid to Libraries to the full 25% level required in RI General Laws § 29-6-2 (a) and urges the General Assembly to work diligently for its passage.

Be it also resolved that the Smithfield Town Clerk transmit forthwith a copy of this Resolution to the Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President, Chair of the House Finance Committee, and to the members of Smithfield's legislative delegation to the Rhode Island General Assembly.

**PASSED:** April 21, 2026

**APPROVED:**

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John J. Tassoni, President  
Smithfield Town Council

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Lyn M. Antonuccio, CMC  
Town Clerk

2026 -- H 7691

LC004798

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO LIBRARIES -- STATE AID TO LIBRARIES

Introduced By: Representatives Stewart, Morales, Casimiro, Giraldo, Alzate, McNamara,  
Tanzi, Boylan, Kazarian, and Messier

Date Introduced: February 11, 2026

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Findings of facts.

2 The general assembly makes the following findings:

3 (1) The Constitution of the State of Rhode Island Article XII of Education, Section 1 states  
4 that it "shall be the duty of the general assembly to promote public schools and public libraries, and  
5 to adopt all means which it may deem necessary and proper to secure to the people the advantages  
6 and opportunities of education and public library services."

7 (2) Free public libraries are essential to the general enlightenment of citizens in a  
8 democracy;

9 (3) Free public libraries provide for the cultural, educational, informational, and research  
10 needs of all citizens;

11 (4) Free public libraries are an integral part of the educational system at all levels and a  
12 source for vocational information and continued learning, following the period of formal education;

13 (5) It is the responsibility of government at all levels to provide adequate financial support  
14 for all free public libraries;

15 (6) Throughout the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, public libraries across Rhode Island  
16 have adopted creative strategies to support their communities through daily virtual programming,  
17 free audiobook subscriptions, takeaway activity bags for youth, curbside book pick-ups, printing  
18 services, and limited indoor browsing.

19 SECTION 2. Section 29-6-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 29-6 entitled "State Aid to

1 Libraries" is hereby amended to read as follows:

2           (a) For each city or town, the state's share to support local public library services shall be  
3 equal to at least twenty-five percent (25%) of both the amount appropriated and expended in the  
4 second preceding fiscal year by the city or town from local tax revenues and funds from the public  
5 library's private endowment that supplement the municipal appropriation; provided, however, the  
6 state in any year shall not be obligated to match any amount from the endowment that exceeds six  
7 percent (6%) of the three-year (3) average market value, calculated at the end of the calendar year,  
8 of the investments in the endowment. The amount of the grant payable to each municipality in any  
9 year in accordance with this section shall be reduced proportionately in the event that the total of  
10 those grants in any year exceeds the amount appropriated that year for the purposes of this section.

11           (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, in fiscal year 2027, the  
12 state shall pay each city and town a fixed twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount appropriated  
13 and expended by the city or town in the second preceding fiscal year, from local tax revenues and  
14 from the public library's private endowment that supplement the municipal appropriation for public  
15 library services.

16           SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC004798  
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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO LIBRARIES -- STATE AID TO LIBRARIES

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1           This act would require that the state's share to support public library services in fiscal year  
2 2027 be fixed at twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount appropriated and expended by the city  
3 or town in the second preceding fiscal year.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC004798  
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2026 -- S 2812

LC005438

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO LIBRARIES -- STATE AID TO LIBRARIES

Introduced By: Senators McKenney, Appollonio, Burke, LaMountain, Murray, Gallo,  
Dimitri, and DiMario

Date Introduced: March 04, 2026

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 29-6-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 29-6 entitled "State Aid to  
2 Libraries" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **29-6-2. Public library services.**

4 (a) The general assembly makes the following findings:

5 (1) The Constitution of the State of Rhode Island Article XII of Education, Section 1 states  
6 that it "shall be the duty of the general assembly to promote public schools and public libraries, and  
7 to adopt all means which it may deem necessary and proper to secure to the people the advantages  
8 and opportunities of education and public library services."

9 (2) Free public libraries are essential to the general enlightenment of citizens in a  
10 democracy;

11 (3) Free public libraries provide for the cultural, educational, informational, and research  
12 needs of all citizens;

13 (4) Free public libraries are an integral part of the educational system at all levels and a  
14 source for vocational information and continued learning following the period of formal education;

15 (5) It is the responsibility of government at all levels to provide adequate financial support  
16 for all free public libraries.

17 (b) For each city or town, the state's share to support local public library services shall be  
18 equal to at least twenty-five percent (25%) of both the amount appropriated and expended in the  
19 second preceding fiscal year by the city or town from local tax revenues and funds from the public

1 library's private endowment that supplement the municipal appropriation; provided, however, the  
2 state in any year shall not be obligated to match any amount from the endowment that exceeds six  
3 percent (6%) of the three-year (3) average market value, calculated at the end of the calendar year,  
4 of the investments in the endowment. The amount of the grant payable to each municipality in any  
5 year in accordance with this section shall be reduced proportionately in the event that the total of  
6 those grants in any year exceeds the amount appropriated that year for the purposes of this section.

7 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, in fiscal year 2027, the  
8 state shall pay each city and town a fixed twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount appropriated  
9 and expended by the city or town in the second preceding fiscal year from local tax revenues and  
10 from the public library's private endowment that supplement the municipal appropriation for public  
11 library services.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC005438  
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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO LIBRARIES -- STATE AID TO LIBRARIES

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1           This act would require that the state's share to support public library services in fiscal year  
2 2027 be fixed at twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount appropriated and expended by the city  
3 or town in the second preceding fiscal year.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC005438  
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