

TOWN OF CUMBERLAND

1 **RESOLUTION:** IN SUPPORT OF FULLY FUNDING STATE AID TO
2 LIBRARIES TO THE FULL TWENTY-FIVE
3 PERCENT (25%)
4

5 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CUMBERLAND TOWN COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:**
6

7 **WHEREAS:** For people lacking broadband at home, libraries provide access to computers and
8 Wi-Fi; and
9

10 **WHEREAS:** Libraries are cornerstones of democracy, promoting the free exchange of
11 information and ideas for all; and
12

13 **WHEREAS:** Libraries are accessible and inclusive places that foster a sense of belonging and
14 community; and

15 **WHEREAS:** Today’s libraries and their services extend far beyond the four walls of a building,
16 and everyone is welcome to use their resources; and

17 **WHEREAS:** The Constitution of the State of Rhode Island in Article XII, Section I, states that
18 it “shall be the duty of the General Assembly to promote public schools and public libraries, and
19 to adopt all means which it deems necessary and proper to secure to the people the advantages
20 and opportunities of education and public library services”; and

21 **WHEREAS:** In recognition of the importance of libraries in our society, the State of Rhode
22 Island passed legislation setting the level of state aid for library services at a minimum of twenty-
23 five (25%) of the amount spent on local tax funds and the library’s private endowment; and

24 **WHEREAS:** The Governor’s proposed FY 2027 budget funds state aid to libraries at 24.1%,
25 which is \$13,579 less than the Town of Cumberland received in the FY 2026 budget; and

26 **WHEREAS:** The Town of Cumberland recognizes the importance of fully funding our public
27 libraries and supports funding state aid to libraries at the 25% level in FY 2025; and

28 **WHEREAS:** H7691 and S2812 have been introduced in the Rhode General Assembly in support
29 of full funding of state aid to libraries; and

30 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CUMBERLAND TOWN COUNCIL**
31 **OF CUMBERLAND, RHODE ISLAND, AS FOLLOWS:**
32

33 **SECTION 1:** That the Cumberland Town Council, at the request of the Cumberland Public
34 Library Board of Trustees, does hereby support legislation which would restore funding for State
35 Aid to Libraries to the full 25% level required in RI General Laws § 29-6-2 (a) and urges the
36 General Assembly to work diligently for its passage.

37 **SECTION 2:** The Cumberland Town Clerk will transmit forthwith a copy of this Resolution to
38 the Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President, Chair of the House Finance

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TOWN OF CUMBERLAND

39 Committee, and to the members of Cumberland's legislative delegation to the Rhode Island
40 General Assembly.

41 **SECTION 3:** This resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage.

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43

44

DATE ADOPTED: 4/15/26

45

46

A TRUE COPY, ATTEST:

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Sandra M. Giovanelli, Town Clerk

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SFK: 4/7/2026

R-26-20

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Sandra M. Giovanelli, Town Clerk

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Town of Cumberland Routing Sheet for Legislation to Appear Before the Cumberland Town Council

Ordinance X Resolution Relating to IN SUPPORT OF FULLY FUNDING STATE AID TO LIBRARIES TO THE FULL TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT (25%)

(1) This legislation has been approved, and the language is acceptable for publication, by Kelley Morris Salvatore, Town Solicitor

Signed: [Signature] Date and Time: 4/7/2026

(2) This legislation and all attached information, specifically all proposed funding sources, has been approved by Melinda Benicard of the Town Finance Department, certifying that all financial notes and other financial documentation has been attached.

Check if no Fiscal Note is required.

Signed: [Signature] Date and Time: 4/7/26

(3) This legislation has been approved by Jeff Mutter of the Mayor's Office.

Signed: [Signature] Date and Time: 4/7/2026 @ 8:57pm Mayor Jeffrey J. Mutter

(4) This legislation has been accepted for placement on the Town Council Agenda for the meeting to be held on April 15, 2026 by [Signature] of the Town Clerk's Office. This authorization confirms that all four copies of the necessary document, including a copy in an electronic format, has been attached and signed by the designated department and has been received prior to the designated 3:30 p.m. deadline.

The Town Clerk's Office will issue a Legislation number.

Signed: [Signature] Date and Time: 4/8/26 @ 10:31 AM

(5) Does this resolution have an accompanying contract or agreement to be signed?

Yes No

If yes - who is the point of contact for the agreement:

*Should a given piece of legislation prove to be extremely time sensitive, the Mayor's signature and only the Mayor's signature below authorizes said legislation to be exempt from the necessary route described above.

Jeffrey J. Mutter, Mayor