



P.O. Box 6765
Providence, RI 02940

<http://www.ribraries.org>

S 2812 - Rhode Island Library Association in support

In recognition of the importance of public libraries in our society, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed legislation providing state grant-in-aid for public library services. Rhode Island general law (RIGL 29-6-2) establishes state aid for the support of local library services equal to at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount appropriated and expended by the city or town from local tax revenues or funds from the public library's private endowment two years prior.

Unfortunately, the state has not consistently met the 25% funding level. The General Assembly fully funded state aid at the 25% level in FY23, the Governor's budget included full funding in FY24, and the General Assembly again fully funded at the 25% level in FY25 and FY26. Prior to the past three years, the state had not funded at the mandated 25% level since 2008. With years of level funding and only periodic infusions of additional funding, the state has regularly underfunded its obligations to our public libraries.

The Governor's proposed FY27 budget level funds state grant-in-aid to libraries, which will result in only 24.1% of the amount appropriated and expended by municipalities on library services and the funds expended from a library's private endowment that supplemented the municipal appropriation in FY2025. The Governor's FY27 budget also signals that state grant-in-aid to libraries is expected to be level-funded for the next four years; as a result, the percentage of state aid for local libraries relative to local municipal appropriations will continue to decrease over the next four years, placing more pressure on municipalities to increase funding for public libraries. This proposed underfunding for FY27, and future years will further increase a structural deficit in funding that supports our public libraries.

Our libraries are a vital part of the Rhode Island community and an important part of an informed society. 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".

All Rhode Island residents benefit from state aid to public libraries. Libraries use state aid:

1. To participate in the statewide public library consortium that provides critical technology services and that enables residents to borrow materials from any public library across the state.
2. To build strong print and digital collections to meet the needs and interests of their communities.
3. To provide access to computers, the Internet and Wi-Fi for those who don't have access to broadband at home.

There are 21 Rhode Island libraries that will experience a reduction in state grant-in-aid with level funding. The amount to fully fund state grant-in-aid is a modest \$450,882. Although a small number in the overall state budget, this is a significant amount of funding for our public libraries.

The Rhode Island Library Association urges the General Assembly to fully fund state grant-in-aid to libraries.

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THE TOWN OF COVENTRY

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

“Requesting support to fully funding state aid to libraries to the full Twenty-five
(25) percent”

Resolution No. 2026-44

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%; and

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

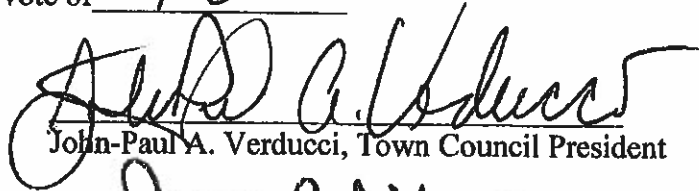
Whereas, at the full 25% funding level the Town of Coventry would receive an additional \$10,320 for its libraries; and

39 **Whereas**, H7691 and S2812 have been introduced in the Rhode General Assembly in support
40 of full funding of state aid to libraries; and
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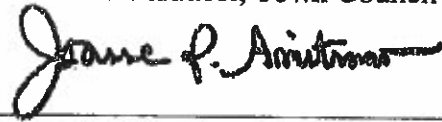
42 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Honorable Town Council, at the request
43 of the Coventry Public Library Board of Trustees, does hereby support legislation which would
44 restore funding for State Aid to Libraries to the full 25% level required in RI General Laws § 29-
45 6-2 (a) and urges the General Assembly to work diligently for its passage.
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47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Coventry Town Clerk transmit forthwith a copy of this
48 Resolution to the Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President, Chair of the House Finance
49 Committee, and to the members of Coventry's legislative delegation to the Rhode Island General
50 Assembly.
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52 Passed or Denied on April 28, 2026 on a vote of 4-0
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56 John-Paul A. Verducci, Town Council President

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58 Certification by Town Clerk by:

59 
60 Joanne Amitrano-Town Clerk
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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
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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

R-26-20

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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44 DATE ADOPTED: 4/15/26

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46 A TRUE COPY, ATTEST:

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51 SFK: 4/7/2026


Sandra M. Giovanelli, Town Clerk

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

R-26-20

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.

42

43

44 **DATE ADOPTED:** _____

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46 **A TRUE COPY, ATTEST:**

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Sandra M. Giovanelli, Town Clerk

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51 **SFK: 4/7/2026**



Cumberland

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

Ordinance 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: Kelley Morris Salvatore 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 _____ 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	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
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If yes - who is the point of contact for the agreement: _____

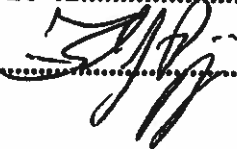
**Should a given piece of legislation prove to be extremely time sensitive, the Mayor's signature and only the Mayor's signature below authorizes said legislation to be exempt from the necessary route described above.*

Jeffrey J. Mutter, Mayor

**THE CITY OF WARWICK
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

NO.....R-26-42..... DATE 4-30-26.....

APPROVED .....MAYOR

**RESOLUTION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION
FUNDING STATE AID TO LIBRARIES AT 25% OF THE LOCAL FUNDS EXPENDED**

Resolved that,

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Warwick are matters of paramount importance to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, for many people, public libraries are their only means of access to books, computer services, technology training, and all forms of media essential for fulfilling and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, free public libraries are essential to the general enlightenment of citizens in democracy and provide for the cultural, educational, informational, and research needs of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, Article XII of the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island provides 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 General Assembly enacted legislation setting state aid to libraries at the twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount spent from local tax funds and a library's private endowment as prescribed in RIGL §29-6-2; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed FY2027 budget funds state aid to libraries at 24.1%, which if enacted would result in \$35,301 less state aid to the City of Warwick than at the 25% level; and

WHEREAS, the Warwick City Council desires that the State Aid to Libraries be funded at the 25% level as presented in H 7691 and S 2812.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Warwick City Council hereby respectfully requests the Rhode Island General Assembly to restore funding for State Aid to Libraries at the twenty-five percent (25%) level presented in H 7691 and S 2812 in the FY2027 budget.

The City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Representatives and Senators from the City of Warwick, and the clerks of the House and Senate Finance Committees.

This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.

**SPONSORED BY: COUNCIL PRESIDENT SINAPI
ON BEHALF OF MAYOR PICOZZI**

COMMITTEE: INTERGOVERNMENTAL

RESOLUTION NO. 257

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL 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%; and

WHEREAS, the City of East Providence 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 City of East Providence would receive an additional \$21,633 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the East Providence City Council, at the request of the East Providence Public Library Board of Trustees, 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 FURTHER RESOLVED that the East Providence City 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 East Providence's legislative delegation to the Rhode Island General Assembly.

This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.

Adopted by the City Council: 4/21/26

Attest:

Andy Stapwort
City Clerk of East Providence, Rhode Island

Introduced by: Council President Rodericks

**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:



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.

**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:

John J. Tassoni, President
Smithfield Town Council

Lyn M. Antonuccio, CMC
Town Clerk

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

- 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.

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: 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

- 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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THE CITY OF CRANSTON

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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

No. 2026-17

Passed:
April 20, 2026


Daniel R. Wall, Council President

Resolved that,

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 \$9,500 less than the City of Cranston received in the FY 2026 budget; and

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

41 **Whereas**, at the full 25% funding level the City of Cranston would receive an additional
42 \$23,011 for its libraries; and

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

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47 **Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved By The City Council of Cranston, Rhode Island, As**
48 **Follows**, that the Cranston City Council, at the request of the Cranston Public Library Board of
49 Trustees, does hereby support legislation which would restore funding for State Aid to Libraries
50 to the full 25% level required in RI General Laws § 29-6-2 (a) and urges the General Assembly
51 to work diligently for its passage.

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53 **Be It Also Resolved**, that the Cranston City Clerk transmit forthwith a copy of this
54 Resolution to the Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President, Chair of the House Finance
55 Committee, and to the members of Cranston's legislative delegation to the Rhode Island General
56 Assembly.

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59 Sponsored by Councilmen Campopiano, Buonanno and Council President Wall
 Co-Sponsored by Council Vice-President Haroian, Councilman Traficante,
 Councilwoman Vaziri, Councilman Ritz, and Councilwoman Graziano

Lincoln Town Council Resolution

“In support of fully funding state aid to libraries to the full twenty-five (25) percent in FY 2027”

Resolution 2026-10

Whereas, for many people, public libraries are their only means of access to books, computer services, technology training, and all forms of media essential for fulfilling and productive lives; and

Whereas, Free public libraries are essential to the general enlightenment of citizens in a democracy and provide for the cultural, educational, informational, and research needs of all citizens; and

Whereas, The Constitution of the State of Rhode Island at Article XII, Section 1 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 Rhode Island General Assembly has set the level of state aid for library services at a minimum of twenty-five (25%) of amount spent from local tax funds and a library’s private endowment; and

Whereas, the Governor’s proposed FY 2027 budget funds state aid to libraries at 24.1%, which is \$10,150 less than the Lincoln would receive at the required 25% level; and

Whereas, the Town of Lincoln supports fully funding State Aid to Libraries at the 25% level in FY 2027.

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 THAT, the Honorable Lincoln Council here at the request of the Lincoln Public Library Board of Trustees, does hereby support legislation which would restore funding for State Aid to Libraries to the full 25% level required in RI General Laws Section 29-6-2 (a) and urges the General Assembly to work diligently for its passage.

Be it resolved, that the Lincoln Town Clerk transmit forthwith a copy of this Resolution to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, the members of Lincoln’s state legislative delegation to the Rhode Island General Assembly and all municipalities in the State of Rhode Island.

Adopted: April 21, 2026

A true copy, ATTEST:



Lillian Frye, Town Clerk