

2021 -- H 6206

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING APRIL 4-10, 2021, AS "NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK" IN THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Fenton-Fung, Baginski, Potter, Blazejewski, Shekarchi,
Kazarian, and Casimiro

Date Introduced: April 06, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

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 who were and those who continue to be unable to visit the
4 library in person; and

5 WHEREAS, In addition, during the COVID-19 pandemic, libraries expanded outdoor
6 parking lot Wi-Fi networks to help provide high-speed internet access to those who do not have it
7 available in their homes; and

8 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's public libraries began to re-open to the public in June 2020
9 and provided curbside and in-person pick-up of library materials and access to public computers;
10 now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
12 joins the libraries, librarians, library workers, supporters and advocates across the nation in
13 commemorating "National Library Week" on April 4 - 10, 2021. We furthermore thank Rhode
14 Island's libraries and library workers for their service to our communities and encourage all
15 residents to visit their local library to access these valuable resources and services; and be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Ed Garcia, Cranston Public Libraries, and The
19 Rhode Island Library Association.

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