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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

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

Introduced By: Senator Hanna M. Gallo

Date Introduced: April 06, 2021

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

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

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