

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 101

Approved March 18, 2013

WHEREAS, For thousands of years, libraries have served as important cultural centers, improving education, spreading new ideas, and preserving our shared history; and

WHEREAS, Local libraries provide services that improve and enrich the lives of residents, especially children; and

WHEREAS, Libraries serve as centers of learning in our communities, offering after-school programs, homework assistance, and early childhood activities; and

WHEREAS, In a world of rapidly changing technology, libraries provide access to computers and internet, allowing them to obtain and utilize digital resources from around the world; and

WHEREAS, Offering English as a Second Language and adult literacy courses, a strong library system is especially important for recent immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Libraries act as a great economic equalizer by providing equal access to information to all citizens and offering many services for job seekers; and


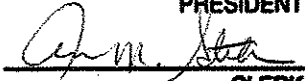
WHEREAS, House Bill 5550 would alter the State's local library funding formula to provide more support for local libraries statewide through fiscal year 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby urge the General Assembly to pass House Bill 5550.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the sponsors of House Bill 5550 and all members of the Providence General Assembly delegation.

IN CITY  
COUNCIL  
MAR 07 2013

FINAL READING  
READ AND PASSED

  
PRESIDENT  
  
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

  
Mayor

Date: 3/18/13

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

A N A C T

RELATING TO LIBRARIES -- STATE AID TO LIBRARIES

Introduced By: Representatives Hearn, Fox, Nunes, Marcello, and Ajello

Date Introduced: February 14, 2013

Referred To: House 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.** -- (a) For each city or town, the state's share to support  
4   local public library services shall be equal to at least twenty-five percent (25%) of both the  
5   amount appropriated and expended in the second preceding fiscal year by the city or town from  
6   local tax revenues and funds from the public library's private endowment that supplement the  
7   municipal appropriation; provided, however, the state in any year shall not be obligated to match  
8   any amount from the endowment that exceeds six percent (6%) of the three (3) year average  
9   market value, calculated at the end of the calendar year, of the investments in the endowment.  
10   The amount of the grant payable to each municipality in any year in accordance with this section  
11   shall be reduced proportionately in the event that the total of those grants in any year exceeds the  
12   amount appropriated that year for the purposes of this section. ~~Provided further, however, that the~~  
13   ~~reference year for the state's share of support to be paid in the year ending June 30, 2008 shall be~~  
14   ~~the third preceding year. Provided, however, for the year ending June 30, 2015, the state's share~~  
15   ~~of support shall be equal to at least twenty-five percent (25%) of both the amount appropriated~~  
16   ~~and expended in the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) preceding fiscal year by the city or town from local tax revenues~~  
17   ~~and twelve and one-half percent (12.5%) of the funds from the public library's private endowment~~  
18   ~~that supplement the municipal appropriation, and provided, further, however, for the years ending~~  
19   ~~June 30, 2016 and thereafter, the state's share of support shall be equal to at least twenty-five~~

1 percent (25%) of the amount appropriated and expended in the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) preceding fiscal year  
2 by the city or town from local tax revenues.

3 (b) Those public libraries that do not qualify for aid pursuant to the provisions of  
4 subsection (a) of this section may apply for resource sharing grants, to be used exclusively for the  
5 purpose of payment of the ocean state libraries (OSL) annual assessment charges. Eligible public  
6 libraries shall apply directly to the office of library and information services for these resource  
7 sharing grants, and the grants shall be awarded to the libraries individually, rather than to the city  
8 or town. Eligible libraries must be or become members of the OSL upon receipt of the grant,  
9 serve municipalities that meet minimum standards for Rhode Island public libraries, and meet  
10 standards for member libraries of the library of Rhode Island (LORI) network.

11 (c) Provided, that notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter to the contrary,  
12 the state's share to support local public library services shall also include funding to the Pontiac  
13 Free Library in the city of Warwick for said library's participation in the ocean state libraries  
14 (OSL). Such funding shall be provided regardless of whether the city of Warwick appropriates  
15 funds from local tax revenues to said library. The amount of said state support shall be equal to  
16 the average of the amount appropriated by the city of Warwick to each library in said  
17 municipality for participation in the OSL program, in accordance with the provisions of and  
18 formulas set forth in subsection (a) herein. Provided, further, that in the event the city of Warwick  
19 appropriates funds from local tax revenues for the Pontiac Free Library, then the amount of the  
20 state's share to said library shall be calculated in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a)  
21 herein for any year in which such calculation is applicable.

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

LC00688

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 alter the funding formula for state aid to local libraries.
- 2 This act would take effect upon passage.

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