

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
THE TOWN OF NORTH SMITHFIELD**

**RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
URGING AN EMERGENCY EXEMPTION IN THE COMPUTATION OF THE MAINTENANCE  
OF EFFORT REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY RIGL 16-7-23**

**WHEREAS:** The COVID-19 Pandemic has posed an unparalleled health threat to all Rhode Islanders, Americans, and the entire international community; and

**WHEREAS:** As a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Gina Raimondo declared a state of emergency in Rhode Island on March 9, 2020; and the President of the United States declared a national state of emergency on March 12, 2020; and

**WHEREAS:** The COVID-19 Pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented economic downturn in the United States including Rhode Island by causing the layoff of millions of Americans and thousands of Rhode Islanders; and

**WHEREAS:** Education is the cornerstone to economic prosperity and will be vital to our complete recovery from the current worldwide Pandemic and accompanying economic downturn, and is essential to Rhode Island's future fiscal security; and

**WHEREAS:** The North Smith Town Council has made education a top budget priority and has adopted a budget that increased its local contribution for the North Smithfield School Department by 2.2 percent for the fiscal year 2021; and

**WHEREAS:** Any reduction in state aid to education from the amount of \$6,006,868 as forecast by the RI Department of Education in January 2020 will make the 2.2 percent increase of local funds for the North Smithfield School Department insufficient to prevent a significant financial impact and academic inequities, thus increasing achievement gaps for the students of the North Smithfield School Department; and

**WHEREAS:** A reduction in State aid will therefore require the North Smithfield Town Council to appropriate additional local funds for schools in excess of the 2.2 percent increase in the adopted budget for the fiscal year 2021 to ensure that the North Smithfield School Department will meet the State mandates articulated in the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Basic Education Program.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That the North Smithfield Town Council respectfully requests, that in order to meet its moral and legal obligation to guarantee that all students receive an adequate, equitable and meaningful education, that the Rhode Island General Assembly enact legislation that provides that the Town of North Smithfield shall have an emergency exemption in the computation of the maintenance of effort requirements established by RIGL 16-7-23 for the fiscal year 2021 or any succeeding fiscal year thereafter as follows: *"Emergency Exemption from RIGL 16-7-23 for the Town of North Smithfield: To the extent that the North Smithfield Town Council appropriates additional local funds to the North Smithfield School Department that exceeds the 2.2 percent increase adopted in its budget for the fiscal year 2021 to offset reductions in forecasted state aid to education, the additional appropriation shall not be used in the computation of the maintenance of effort requirements established by RIGL 16-7-23 for the fiscal year 2021 or any succeeding fiscal year thereafter."*

**RESOLVED:** That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to every Rhode Island Municipality, State Senator, State Representative, and the Governor.

The undersigned the duly elected Town Council of the Town of North Smithfield have hereunto set their hands and caused this resolution to be adopted.

This resolution shall take effect upon passage.

Passed by the Town Council

on August 3, 2020

Lillian Silva Scott  
Town Clerk

Approved as to form:

David V. Igliozi  
David V. Igliozi, Town Solicitor

NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Paul E. Vadenais  
Paul Vadenais, President

Paul J. Zwolenski  
Paul J. Zwolenski, Vice President

Claire V. O'Hara  
Claire V. O'Hara

Douglas Osier, Jr.  
Douglas Osier, Jr.

Teresa Bartomioli  
Teresa Bartomioli

Approved by the Town Administrator

Gary Ezovski  
Gary Ezovski