

2023 -- S 0445

LC000702

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO LIBRARIES -- HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARIES

Introduced By: Senators Mack, Britto, Acosta, Ujifusa, Gu, Lauria, Valverde, Kallman,
Lawson, and DiMario

Date Introduced: February 16, 2023

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 29-2-4 and 29-2-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 29-2 entitled
2 "Historical Society Libraries" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **29-2-4. Use of historical society libraries.**

4 All books, periodicals, and papers in the keeping of the Rhode Island Historical Society,
5 [the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society](#), and the Newport Historical Society, shall at all reasonable
6 times be open to the use of all the citizens of the state, under the same conditions pertaining to the
7 members of the society as long as funds are provided under §§ 29-2-1, 29-2-2, [29-2-2.1](#), and 29-2-
8 3.

9 **29-2-5. Reports on expenditures.**

10 (a) The Rhode Island Historical Society, [the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society](#), and the
11 Newport Historical Society, respectively, shall place on file with the state librarian annual reports
12 as to the manner in which the funds are expended, as long as funds are appropriated in accordance
13 with §§ 29-2-1, 29-2-2, and 29-2-3.

14 (b) The Rhode Island Historical Society, [the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society](#), and the
15 Newport Historical Society, respectively, shall submit to the general assembly and the state
16 librarian annually a plan for the preservation initiatives for the collections in its care. The report
17 shall be submitted as part of the annual report of each agency.

18 (c) The Rhode Island Historical Society, [the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society](#), and the
19 Newport Historical Society, respectively, shall submit to the state librarian a disaster preparedness

1 plan for the collection in its care on or before January 1, 1993. The plan will be maintained on file
2 at the state library and will be updated annually.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 29-2 of the General Laws entitled "Historical Society Libraries" is
4 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

5 **29-2-2.1. Appropriations for the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society.**

6 The general assembly shall annually appropriate such a sum as it may deem necessary, out
7 of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be expended by the state librarian for
8 the purpose of caring for, preserving, and cataloguing the property of the state in the keeping of the
9 Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, and for the purchase and binding of books relating to the
10 history of the state, and for copying and preserving the records of the several towns of the state,
11 and the state librarian, with the approval of the secretary of state, may pay this sum to the Rhode
12 Island Black Heritage Society for this purpose.

13 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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- 1 This act would include all books, periodicals and papers in the keeping of the Rhode Island
- 2 Black Heritage Society to be placed under the care of the state librarian.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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