

2013 -- H 6187

=====
LC02604
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**HONORING CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER HOWARD BOKSENBAUM ON THE OCCASION
OF HIS RETIREMENT**

Introduced By: Representative Joy Hearn

Date Introduced: May 30, 2013

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Literacy skills are essential for effective participation in our democracy, in
2 the workplace, and in the community. Lady Bird Johnson once said, "Perhaps no place in any
3 community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is
4 interest"; and

5 WHEREAS, Howard Boksenbaum earned a degree in linguistics from Washington
6 University in St. Louis and Waseda University in Tokyo. He continued his education, earning a
7 master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh; and

8 WHEREAS, Gaining diversification and becoming well-versed in the many aspects of
9 information technology, Mr. Boksenbaum coordinated the Island Interrelated Library System and
10 worked as the System Coordinator for the Greene County Library System and a cataloger of
11 Japanese materials at the East Asian Library at the University of Pittsburgh before entering state
12 service in 1997; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Boksenbaum worked for the Information Technology (IT) Division of
14 OLIS, directing the state's IT program and serving as Chief Information Officer from 2002 to
15 2003; and

16 WHEREAS, While at the Department of State Library Services (DSLS) and OLIS, Mr.
17 Boksenbaum served as the Supervisor of Technical Services, Chief of the Division of Library
18 Planning, Development, and Information Services, and finally as a Library Program Manager.
19 During his time at DSLS, he managed the RI Library Network's transition from five library

1 regions to a single statewide multitype network; and

2 WHEREAS, Approaching what he does as more of a calling than a job, Howard
3 Boksenbaum has overseen enormous changes in information technology. During his tenure in
4 state service, he played a significant role in bringing Rhode Island government online, including
5 the creation of RI.gov and in establishing the statewide interoperable public safety
6 communication network, RISCO. In addition, he created the Ocean State Free-Net and helped
7 create RINet and OSHEAN (Ocean State Higher Education Economic Development and
8 Administrative Network; and

9 WHEREAS, By consistently demonstrating an abiding passion for the value of
10 knowledge and the joy of reading, Howard Boksenbaum has proven to be a true beacon of
11 democracy and a champion of the important role libraries play in our Ocean State; now, therefore
12 be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
14 Providence Plantations hereby honors Howard Boksenbaum on the occasion of his retirement as
15 Chief Library Officer and thanks him for twenty-five years of devoted service to the people of
16 this state; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Howard Boksenbaum.

=====
LC02604
=====