

**THE CITY OF WARWICK
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

NO. _____ **DATE** _____

APPROVED _____ **MAYOR**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENACT LEGISLATION
PROVIDING MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF BY APPROPRIATING AT
LEAST 10% OF ADDITIONAL STATE GAMBLING REVENUES IN EXCESS OF
FY2019 LEVELS TO MUNICIPALITIES AS SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION AID**

Resolved that,

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Warwick are matters of paramount importance to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, investment in elementary and secondary education is critical to strengthening communities, invigorating the economy, and improving quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Article XII, Section 1 of the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island provides that it is the duty of the General Assembly to promote public schools and to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities of education; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the state expanded gambling options in the state by, among other forms, authorizing Table Gaming, establishing a second casino, opening retail sports books, and launching remote sportsbook via application and the internet; and

WHEREAS, the state lottery transferred \$302 million to the state’s General Fund in FY2021, an increase above the \$284 million transferred in FY2020, but significantly reduced from the pre-Covid-19 FY2019 transfer of \$398 million; and

WHEREAS, the November 2021 state Revenue Estimate Conference increased the FY2022 lottery transfer projections by \$17 million to \$393 million; and

WHEREAS, shortfalls in state funding for education exacerbate the property tax burden imposed by local government on residents and businesses in order to fulfill municipal education obligations from the state; and

WHEREAS, FY2022 state education aid entitlements to the City of Warwick contributes less than 25% of the funding required for the City’s \$174 million FY2022 school budget; and

1 WHEREAS, the Warwick City Council desires that the General Assembly appropriate to
2 municipalities a portion of additional state gambling revenues in excess of FY2019 levels in the
3 form of supplemental education aid so as to provide municipal property tax relief.
4

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Warwick City Council hereby respectfully
6 requests the General Assembly to enact legislation providing municipal property tax relief by
7 appropriating at least ten percent (10%) of additional state gambling revenues in excess of FY2019
8 levels to municipalities as supplemental education aid.
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk send a copy of this Resolution to the
11 City's Representatives and Senators in the Rhode Island General Assembly.
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13 This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.
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15 SPONSOR: COUNCILMAN FOLEY

16 COMMITTEE: INTERGOVERNMENTAL
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