

**RESOLUTION
TOWN OF HOPKINTON, RHODE ISLAND
IN SUPPORT OF RHODE ISLAND HOUSE BILL H7971 INCREASING THE
THRESHOLD FOR PREVAILING WAGE**

WHEREAS, the Town of Hopkinton is committed to responsibly managing public funds while ensuring that public infrastructure projects are completed efficiently and to a high standard; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island's prevailing wage law requires contractors working on public construction projects above a specified cost threshold to pay wages set by the state for various trades; and

WHEREAS, the current threshold for prevailing wage applicability has not kept pace with inflation and the rising cost of construction, resulting in many smaller municipal projects being subject to administrative and cost burdens originally intended for larger projects; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island House Bill H7971 proposes to increase the project cost threshold at which prevailing wage requirements apply, thereby allowing municipalities greater flexibility to complete smaller-scale public works projects more efficiently; and

WHEREAS, for small municipalities such as Hopkinton, where construction costs are already significantly elevated due to geographic isolation, transportation costs, and limited contractor availability, the current prevailing wage threshold can substantially increase the cost of modest infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, increasing the threshold for prevailing wage applicability would enable the Town to undertake necessary maintenance and improvement projects—such as roadway repairs, public facility upgrades, and other community infrastructure—more cost-effectively while preserving prevailing wage protections for larger projects; and

WHEREAS, such a change would help ensure that limited municipal resources are used as efficiently as possible to benefit residents, taxpayers, and the long-term sustainability of public infrastructure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Hopkinton hereby expresses its support for Rhode Island House Bill H7971, which proposes to increase the threshold at which prevailing wage requirements apply to public works projects; and

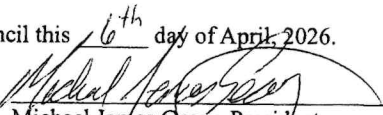
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council respectfully urges the Rhode Island General Assembly to pass House Bill H7971 and enact it into law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the members of the Hopkinton delegation to the Rhode Island General Assembly, the Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, the President of the Rhode Island Senate, and other appropriate state officials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be made part of the permanent record of the Town.

The **RESOLUTION** shall take effect upon passage.

Passed as a resolution of the Hopkinton Town Council this 6th day of April, 2026.


Michael James Geary, President
Hopkinton Town Council

ATTEST: Marita D. Murray
Marita D. Murray, Town Clerk

