

TOWN OF HOPKINTON, RHODE ISLAND
Resolution in Support of Rhode Island Senate Bill 2481

WHEREAS, the unauthorized occupation of residential or commercial property—commonly referred to as *squatting*—has become an increasing concern for property owners, landlords, and communities across the State of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, existing statutes do not adequately define squatting or provide clear, timely remedies for property owners facing unlawful occupation of their premises; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island Senate Bill 2481 seeks to establish a clear legal definition of squatting, distinguishing it from lawful tenancy and other protected forms of occupancy; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 2481 further provides for appropriate fines and penalties for individuals who knowingly and unlawfully occupy property without the consent of the owner or lawful landlord; and

WHEREAS, the protection of private property rights is essential to maintaining safe neighborhoods, stable housing markets, and the overall well-being of Rhode Island communities; and

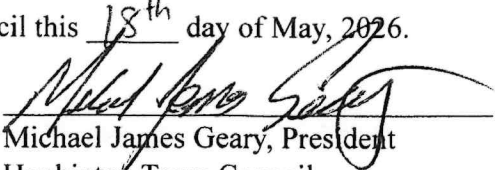
WHEREAS, Senate Bill 2481 represents a balanced and reasonable approach that respects due process while ensuring that property owners have meaningful recourse when confronted with unlawful occupation of their property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hopkinton Town Council expresses strong support for **Rhode Island Senate Bill 2481** and urges the Rhode Island General Assembly to pass this legislation to protect property owners, uphold the rule of law, and promote community safety;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the Governor of Rhode Island, and the members of the General Assembly representing the Town of Hopkinton.

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

Passed as a resolution of the Hopkinton Town Council this 18th day of May, 2026.



Michael James Geary, President
Hopkinton Town Council

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