

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

JOINT RESOLUTION CELEBRATING PORTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, Portland Public Library is a vital civic and cultural center for the City of Portland and for the State, fostering learning and engagement for all; and

WHEREAS, Portland Public Library is committed to "Building a City of Readers" for all the joy, learning and wisdom that reading provides; and

WHEREAS, Portland Public Library improves the creative, economic, educational and technological health of the region through its collections, programs, outreach and partnerships throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, Portland Public Library is the most visited cultural institution in the State and provides open access and support to 675,000 visitors annually, who make use of its services and its collection of more than 300,000 books, audiobooks, recordings, movies, archives and digital resources; and

WHEREAS, Portland Public Library serves as the Area Reference and Research Center for the Maine State Library, offering free library services to residents of York County, Cumberland County and assigned areas in Oxford County as well as providing services and support for the libraries in these communities; and

WHEREAS, Portland Public Library is a leader in collaborative library service initiatives statewide, particularly Maine InfoNet and its shared systems, and in national initiatives that connect patrons in the State to the collections of the world's great libraries; and

WHEREAS, Portland Public Library is a key partner within the City of Portland and statewide in the preservation of local history and promotion of the community's cultural vitality; and

WHEREAS, incorporated on January 22, 1867, following the Portland fire of 1866, Portland Public Library was described shortly thereafter by Mayor Charles J. Chapman as "so veritable a home of true democracy ... an atmosphere of philosophy, knowledge, and fancy"; and

WHEREAS, Portland Public Library was founded on the principles of civil and civic engagement and of free access for persons from all walks of life, which continue to today; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, honor Portland Public Library on the occasion of its 150th anniversary and recognize the library for its sustained and transformative impact on the City of Portland and communities throughout the State; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to Portland Public Library.