

**TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH, RI  
RESOLUTION # 2022-xx-xx**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH OPPOSITION TO RHODE ISLAND 2022 HB 6638 AND SB 2340 ZONING ORDINANCES – PROHIBITS SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL ZONING IN MUNICIPALITIES WITH POPULATIONS OVER TWENTY THOUSAND**

WHEREAS, the Town of Portsmouth ~~has~~ very effective Planning and Zoning Boards; ~~who have significantly contributed to the Town of Burrillville being one of very few municipalities achieving the 10% low and moderate income housing goal~~ who are in the process of completing a new Comprehensive Community Plan that would help to achieve the goal of 10% low and moderate income housing; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 6638 and Senate Bill 2340 preempts comprehensive plans and planning, and usurps local zoning control and decisions, under the flawed charade of solving an affordable housing problem; and

WHEREAS, forced “middle housing” zoning in single family residential zones disrespects the rightful governance and authority of cities and towns over their own jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, a threshold of 20,000 population is ~~absurd~~; impractical as it encompasses many non-urban communities; and

WHEREAS, Federal and State legislators should focus and prioritize their efforts on issues beyond the reach of local municipal governance such as lowering the cost of living and tax burdens; improving the safety, security and quality of life for the citizenry; developing sustainable housing infrastructure; and promoting small business economic development in the state’s urban communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Portsmouth strongly opposes House Bill 6638 and Senate Bill 2340 as it is a plain and simple Rhode Island state government overreach and a blatant power grab.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to every Rhode Island municipality and Portsmouth’s legislators requesting their support in opposition to this legislation.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of April 2022.

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Kevin M. Aguiar, President  
Portsmouth Town Council

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk