

No. R-104. House concurrent resolution honoring the Playhouse Cooperative's creative effort to save and operate Randolph's Playhouse Movie Theatre.

(H.C.R.69)

Offered by: Representatives Townsend of Randolph, French of Randolph, Buxton of Tunbridge, Conquest of Newbury, Masland of Thetford, and Winters of Williamstown

Offered by: Senator MacDonald

Whereas, a movie studio's cost per copy to print and distribute a movie on 35 millimeter film is approximately \$1,500.00 while the comparative digital distribution cost is only \$150.00, and

Whereas, one major film studio has already warned theater owners that 35 millimeter film distribution will soon cease, and other studios are expected to follow, and

Whereas, the large national chains have mostly converted to digital projection, but the cost of up to \$75,000.00 per screen is often prohibitive for small independently owned theaters, forcing some to close, and

Whereas, one locally owned theater that is seeking to remain a thriving community cinema is Randolph's Playhouse Movie Theatre, which was established in 1919, and

Whereas, after exploring the option of operating as a tax-exempt nonprofit organization, the theatre's owners decided that the best option for the necessary fundraising drive and future ownership of the theatre was to establish a nonprofit consumer cooperative, which came into legal existence on August 8, 2012, and

Whereas, the Playhouse Cooperative is responsible for the approximately \$75,000.00 fundraising drive and would assume ownership of the theatre once the new equipment is installed, and

Whereas, initial capitalization is occurring through the selling of shares to area residents, who become the owners of the Playhouse Cooperative, and the community has shown great support for this project, and

Whereas, one of the creative fundraising events is a Drive the Community Day on May 4, an all-day event at the theatre, with a goal to sign up 300 persons to test drive a new Ford car, and

Whereas, if this number of drivers is reached, the Ford Motor Company will donate \$6,000.00 to the fundraising effort, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the Playhouse Cooperative's creative effort to save and operate Randolph's Playhouse Movie Theatre and wishes it every success, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Playhouse Cooperative in Randolph.