



# Broward County

## Legislation Text

File #: 20-199, Version: 1

### **Broward County Commission Regular Meeting**

**Director's Name:** Beam Furr

**Department:** County Commission

### Information

#### Requested Action

MOTION TO ADOPT Resolution No. 2020-041, the title of which is as follows: (Commissioner Furr)

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING EQUITABLE PUBLIC ACCESS TO E-BOOKS; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

#### Why Action is Necessary

Formal Board approval is necessary for the adoption of a Resolution.

#### What Action Accomplishes

Enables the adoption of the above Resolution.

#### Is this Action Goal Related

No

#### Previous Action Taken

#### Summary Explanation/Background

Broward County is committed to standing with libraries across America to protect library resources and strengthen their foundation in our community. Libraries across the nation are currently working to affect change in the digital rights (and limitations) imposed by certain publishers restricting the public's access to certain e-books and e-audiobooks.

For example, one publisher has required that during the first eight weeks following a title's publication, libraries may purchase no more than one electronic copy, severely restricting the ability of the public to access that material through their public library. This deprives libraries of a fundamental service and makes access even more difficult for populations that already face barriers to information and equitable knowledge. As Broward County leads the way nationally in numerous aspects of library service, it is important that the Board articulate its support for efforts to ensure free and equitable access to library resources.

This Resolution, if adopted, would express the Board's disapproval of practices by publishers that

limit public access to information through their local public libraries. A copy of the Resolution would be forwarded by the Libraries Division to the Urban Libraries Council, which is coordinating a response to the publishers.

**Source of Additional Information**

Kelvin Watson, Director, Broward County Libraries Division, 954-357-7376

**Fiscal Impact**

**Fiscal Impact/Cost Summary**

None.