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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

**RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC
TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

Introduced By: Senators Kallman, Euer, DiMario, Ruggerio, Goodwin, Burke, Miller,
Valverde, Cano, and Murray

Date Introduced: January 06, 2022

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 39-18-9 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-18 entitled "Rhode Island
2 Public Transit Authority" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **39-18-9. Revenues.**

4 (a) The authority is hereby authorized and empowered to fix and revise, from time to time,
5 such schedules of service and rates of fare and charges for service furnished or operated as it
6 determines to be reasonable. The schedules of service, rates of fare, and charges for service shall
7 not be subject to supervision or regulation by any commission, board, bureau, or agency of the state
8 or of any municipality or other political subdivision of the state; except as provided in § 39-18-4.
9 Provided, however, any changes in frequency of services of more than fifteen percent (15%),
10 providers of service, rates of service, other than systemwide changes, and charges for service shall
11 be presented for comment in at least one public hearing scheduled in an accessible location in each
12 county affected, and the hearing shall be scheduled in two (2) sessions, one during daytime business
13 hours and one during evening hours. The revenues derived from the authority's operations and any
14 other funds or property received or to be received by the authority (including, without limitation,
15 any funds or other property received or to be received by the authority pursuant to § 39-18-
16 4(a)(10)), in whole or in part, at any time and from time to time, may be pledged to, and charged
17 with, the payment of the principal of and the interest on some or all of the authority's bonds as
18 provided for in the resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds or in the trust agreement

1 securing the bonds. The pledge shall be valid and binding from the time when the pledge is made;
2 the revenues, funds, or other property so pledged, and thereafter received by the authority, shall
3 immediately be subject to the lien of the pledge without any physical delivery thereof or further
4 act, and the lien of any pledge shall be valid and binding as against all parties having claims of any
5 kind, in tort, contract, or otherwise, against the authority, irrespective of whether the parties have
6 notice thereof. Neither the resolution nor any trust agreement by which a pledge is created need be
7 filed or recorded except in the records of the authority.

8 (b) There is hereby established a department of transportation--Rhode Island public transit
9 authority (RIPTA) R-line free service pilot program. The authority shall provide free fare bus route
10 service along the "R-line" for a twelve (12) month period beginning September 1, 2022. The
11 authority shall track ridership data related to the pilot program and submit a report to the speaker
12 of the house, the president of the senate, and the governor no later than March 1, 2024.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on September 1, 2022.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC
TRANSIT AUTHORITY

1 This act would establish a twelve (12) month pilot program to provide free RIPTA
2 transportation on the "R-line." A report on ridership would be provided to the speaker of the house,
3 president of the senate and the governor.

4 This act would take effect September 1, 2022.

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