

2024 -- H 7774

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LC005234
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

**MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$78,000,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND TRANSIT
AUTHORITY (RIPTA)**

Introduced By: Representatives Alzate, Cortvriend, Tanzi, Morales, Stewart, Giraldo,
Casimiro, Donovan, Diaz, and Hull

Date Introduced: February 28, 2024

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, The Governor's proposed 2024-2025 budget contains an Operating Grant of
2 \$10,000,000 for the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA); and

3 WHEREAS, Public transportation is a lifeline for thousands of Rhode Islanders. It builds
4 thriving communities, creates jobs, eases traffic congestion and promotes a cleaner environment;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The current 2024-2025 proposed fiscal budget amount will leave an \$8
7 million dollar deficit resulting in a loss of crucial services to Rhode Islanders whose livelihood
8 depends on public transportation; and

9 WHEREAS, In myriad areas across the State, Rhode Island's workforce is severely
10 limited and understaffed. To begin to rectify this growing challenge, initiatives must be instituted
11 to counter the downward trend; and

12 WHEREAS, An appropriation of \$24 million is essential in order to support RIPTA's
13 hiring and training of more bus operators by increasing wages and benefits to be competitive and
14 in line with the rising cost of living in Rhode Island and with our neighboring states; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition, \$46 million, granted annually, is critical for the implementation
16 of the Transit Master Plan that would expand transit service statewide – a key strategy for
17 reaching the state's legally mandated Act on Climate goals; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of money in the treasury not
19 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2024-2025, the sum of seventy-eight million dollars

1 (\$78,000,000) to the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority to continue current service throughout
2 the State, hire and train more bus operators, and implement the State's Act on Climate goals; and
3 the state controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw his orders upon the general treasurer
4 for the payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may be from time to time required, upon
5 receipt of properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$78,000,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND TRANSIT
AUTHORITY (RIPTA)

- 1 This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$78,000,000 to the
- 2 Rhode Island Public Transit Authority.

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