

2017 -- H 5294

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LC001085
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY
TO CONDUCT AN ELDER MOBILITY TRANSPORTATION STUDY AS PART OF
UPDATING THE STATE'S COORDINATED HUMAN SERVICES TRANSIT PLAN

Introduced By: Representatives Ruggiero, Abney, Bennett, McNamara, and Carson

Date Introduced: January 27, 2017

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island population of people aged 65 and over is projected to
2 increase dramatically over the next few decades, going from 152,000 in 2010, to 247,000 in 2030,
3 with almost one out of every four Rhode Islanders being aged 65 and over; and

4 WHEREAS, The Aging in Community Subcommittee of the Long Term Care
5 Coordinating Council, in response to the Aging in Community Act of 2014, has identified
6 services important to helping older Rhode Islanders to remain living in the community; and

7 WHEREAS, The Subcommittee has found, through focus groups conducted across the
8 state with Rhode Island seniors, that transportation is one of the most important areas of concern.
9 The unmet needs of older Rhode Islanders must be addressed; and

10 WHEREAS, Research findings suggest that after age 70, older women may spend 10
11 years dependent on others for transportation, with older men spending seven years in such need;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Family and friends of older Rhode Islanders are not always available to
14 provide transportation to those who are no longer able to drive or who lack vehicles; and

15 WHEREAS, Many Rhode Island seniors live in areas not conducive to walking or
16 convenient to public bus routes or, due to physical limitations, cannot access and use regular bus
17 service; and

18 WHEREAS, Transportation availability impacts most aspects of successful aging in the
19 community, including healthcare access; community and social engagement; food security; and

1 use of open spaces, parks and public venues; and

2 WHEREAS, Rhode Island needs to develop and fund an affordable and accessible public
3 transportation system to assist older Rhode Islanders with their transportation needs; and

4 WHEREAS, The State-Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan is outdated and
5 the Rhode Island Public Transportation Authority is initiating development of a revised
6 coordinated human services transit plan; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
8 Providence Plantations hereby respectfully requests that in developing the revised coordinated
9 planning for the human service transportation study, the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority
10 conducts a comprehensive Elder Mobility Study to examine the mobility needs of the state's
11 elderly population, recognizing the significant projected increase in persons age sixty-five and
12 over, identify gaps in current state transit programs for seniors, best practices for more responsive
13 senior transit programs, and available transportation options to include ride share programs,
14 volunteer programs, and the estimated needed resources to help meet the projected demand; and
15 be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
17 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Director and Board members of the Rhode
18 Island Public Transportation Authority.

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