

2024 -- H 8080

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING MARCH 18, 2024, TO BE "TRANSIT EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY"
IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Morales, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Tanzi, Chippendale,
Fellela, Ajello, Handy, Edwards, and Bennett

Date Introduced: March 19, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, In 2022, approximately 6.19 billion people used public transportation in the
2 United States. It is estimated that approximately eight percent of the United States population,
3 twenty-eight million people, are public transportation dependent; and

4 WHEREAS, Across the United States, it is estimated that 399,316 hard-working
5 Americans work in the public transportation industry. Each day they strive tirelessly to ensure
6 that their riders are picked up and dropped off promptly at their intended destination, be it for
7 work, doctor's offices or any other number of destinations such as the beach in the summertime,
8 and these fine professionals ensure that they arrive safely; and

9 WHEREAS, Public transportations workers secure safe rides for many handicapped
10 passengers, elderly passengers, minors and students attending college. They work in all weather
11 conditions and stayed on the job during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic healthcare issues;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, It is estimated that every \$1 billion dollars invested in American public
14 transportation yields 5 billion dollars in additional economic impact, including the creation of
15 18,000 new jobs. In addition, public transportation is certainly one of the weapons that will be an
16 essential component in the fight to mitigate global warming and its devastating impact on planet
17 Earth; and

18 WHEREAS, In Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Public Transportation Authority (RIPTA)
19 was created in 1966, and since then it has provided public transportation services for the past 58

1 years to countless Rhode Islanders. RIPTA operates seven days a week and operates 2,700 daily
2 trips on more than 58 statewide-fixed bus routes. RIPTA also operates ADA Paratransit services
3 statewide, and provides Park N Ride Service at 32 sites across Rhode Island. RIPTA employs 873
4 hard-working employees, maintains a fleet of 229 fixed-route buses, 72 paratransit buses, and 13
5 flex vans, and operated 9,627, 384 fixed-route vehicle miles in 2022; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
7 proclaims March 18, 2024, to be “Transit Employee Appreciation Day” in the State of Rhode
8 Island; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Scott Avedisian, Chief
11 Executive Officer, Rhode Island Public Transit Authority.

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