RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY RHODE ISLAND GENERAL LAWS SECTION 36-6-21.1 (2008) A RECOMMENDATION REGARDING INCENTIVES TO INCREASE BUS RIDERSHIP AND REDUCE VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED BY STATE EMPLOYEES COMMUTING TO WORK

Introduced By: Representatives O’Grady, Handy, Ruggiero, Tomasso, and Reilly

Date Introduced: June 15, 2011

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

WHEREAS, Rhode Island is dedicated to environmental protection, efficient use of resources, sound fiscal policy, and sustainable development; and

WHEREAS, Reducing the number of vehicle miles traveled commuting to work can lead to reductions in air pollution emissions, greenhouse gases, energy consumption, road congestion, and parking shortages; and

WHEREAS, Reducing vehicle miles traveled would also lead to lower motor vehicle fuel consumption, keeping more energy dollars that now flow out-of-state inside the state for local consumption and investment; and

WHEREAS, A state government plan to reduce “drive alone” commuting and to increase carpooling, transit use, and walk-to-work modes is required; and

WHEREAS, Several private employers have recently enrolled in RIPTA’s company-sponsored EcoPass unlimited ride pass program; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island general laws section 36-6-21.1 (2008) call upon the Rhode Island Department of Administration to set up a committee to develop, publicize, and implement a plan to give incentives to state employees to reduce vehicle miles traveled in commuting to work; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island general laws section 36-6-21.1 state that the plan will also include an offer of a RIPTA pass to employees in lieu of parking privileges; and
WHEREAS, The aforementioned committee has developed a means for determining base values for achieving statutory vehicle miles traveled reduction goals and has determined that such goals can be met if 16 percent of state employees that currently drive alone begin commuting by bus; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Department of Administration report to the committee a recommendation regarding incentives to increase bus ridership and reduce vehicle miles travelled by state employees commuting to work; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Administration.

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