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LC001051/SUB A  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017**

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC TRANSIT-- BUS PASSES

Introduced By: Representatives O'Brien, Slater, Ruggiero, Carson, and Morin

Date Introduced: January 26, 2017

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 39-18.1-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-18.1 entitled  
2 "Transportation Investment and Debt Reduction Act of 2011" is hereby amended to read as  
3 follows:

4           **39-18.1-5. Allocation of funds.**

5           (a) The monies in the highway maintenance fund to be directed to the department of  
6 transportation pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall be allocated through the  
7 transportation improvement program process to provide the state match for federal transportation  
8 funds, in place of borrowing, as approved by the state planning council. The expenditure of  
9 moneys in the highway maintenance fund shall only be authorized for projects that appear in the  
10 state's transportation improvement program.

11           (b) Provided however, that beginning with fiscal year 2015 and annually thereafter, the  
12 department of transportation will allocate necessary funding to programs that are designed to  
13 eliminate structural deficiencies of the state's bridge, road and maintenance systems and  
14 infrastructure.

15           (c) Provided further that beginning July 1, 2015, five percent (5%) of available proceeds  
16 in the Rhode Island highway maintenance account shall be allocated annually to the Rhode Island  
17 public transit authority for operating expenditures.

18           (d) Provided further that from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019, in addition to the  
19 amount above, the Rhode Island public transit authority shall receive an amount of not less than

1 five million dollars (\$5,000,000) each fiscal year.

2 (e) Provided further that the Rhode Island public transit authority shall convene a  
3 coordinating council consisting of those state agencies responsible for meeting the needs of low-  
4 income seniors and persons with disabilities, along with those stakeholders that the authority  
5 deems appropriate and are necessary to inform, develop, and implement the federally-required  
6 Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan.

7 The council shall develop, as part of the state's federally-required plan, recommendations  
8 for the appropriate and sustainable funding of the free-fare program for low-income seniors and  
9 persons with disabilities, while maximizing the use of federal funds available to support the  
10 transportation needs of this population.

11 The council shall report these recommendations to the governor, the speaker of the house  
12 of representatives, and the president of the senate, no later than November 1, 2018.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC TRANSIT-- BUS PASSES

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1           This act would require that five million dollars (\$5,000,000) be appropriated to the Rhode  
2   Island public transit authority between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019. RIPTA shall assemble a  
3   coordinating council of state agencies responsible for meeting the needs of low-income seniors  
4   and persons with disabilities to help implement the federally-required Coordinated Public Transit  
5   Human Services Transportation Plan.

6           This act would take effect on July 1, 2017.

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