

2018 -- H 7551

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LC004543
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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

**RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT THE RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT
AUTHORITY, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES, DEVELOP A TRANSPORTATION LOCATOR SERVICE FOR OLDER
RHODE ISLANDERS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES NEEDING ASSISTANCE TO
ACCESS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

Introduced By: Representatives Ruggiero, McNamara, Carson, Shekarchi, and
Blazejewski

Date Introduced: February 09, 2018

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 decade, going from 152,000 in 2010, to 247,000, with almost
3 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 has found, through focus groups conducted across the state with Rhode
6 Island seniors, that transportation is one of the most important areas of concern not being
7 addressed, with significant unmet needs of older Rhode Islanders who no longer are able to drive
8 themselves; and

9 WHEREAS, Research findings suggest that after age 70, women may spend 10 years
10 dependent on others for transportation, with men spending seven years in such need. Thirty
11 percent of persons aged 75 and over have given up driving altogether; and

12 WHEREAS, Approximately six percent of the state's population have an ambulatory
13 disability, meaning they have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs. Others may have
14 cognitive or other disabilities which limit their ability to use regular fixed route bus service, and

15 WHEREAS, Family and friends of older Rhode Islanders are not always available to
16 provide transportation to those who are not able to drive or who lack vehicles; and

17 WHEREAS, Transportation availability impacts most aspects of successful community
18 living, including health care access, community and social engagement, food security,

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

2 WHEREAS, The January 2018 Rhode Island Coordinated Public Transit Human Services
3 Transportation Plan identified some 41 entities in the state, including state agencies,
4 municipalities and nonprofit organizations, that provide some form of transportation for transit-
5 dependent persons; and

6 WHEREAS, There exists no centralized place for transit-dependent persons to access
7 information about available transportation services; now therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
9 Providence Plantations hereby respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Public Transit
10 Authority collaborate with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to develop a
11 centralized transportation locator clearinghouse to provide older consumers and persons with
12 disabilities with information about the transportation programs available to assist them, to include
13 public fixed route, flex route and paratransit services operated by the authority, transportation
14 services for older persons and persons with disabilities provided by the state and municipalities,
15 transportation services provided for persons with disabilities by private community agencies and
16 companies, transportation services provided by veterans' service agencies, transportation provided
17 for persons on Medicaid, volunteer transportation programs and shared ride programs; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives respectfully requests that the
20 transportation locator clearinghouse shall include: a consumer toll-free call-in phone number and
21 a website to provide information about the transportation options noted above which shall include
22 contact information, eligibility requirements and cost or fee information for each type of program;
23 and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives respectfully requests that the Public
25 Transit Authority identify Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 "Enhanced
26 Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program" or other available grant funding to
27 develop the Transportation Locator Directory Program; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
29 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Director and Board members of the Rhode
30 Island Public Transportation Authority and the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and
31 Human Services.

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