

2018 -- H 7873

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LC005075
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COUNCIL ON POST SECONDARY EDUCATION --
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FEE

Introduced By: Representatives Tanzi, Carson, Regunberg, Donovan, and Ajello

Date Introduced: February 28, 2018

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-59-9 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-59 entitled "Council on
2 Postsecondary Education [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]"
3 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **16-59-9. Educational budget and appropriations.**

5 (a) The general assembly shall annually appropriate any sums it deems necessary for
6 support and maintenance of higher education in the state and the state controller is authorized and
7 directed to draw his or her orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of the appropriations
8 or so much of the sums that are necessary for the purposes appropriated, upon the receipt by him
9 or her of proper vouchers as the council on postsecondary education may by rule provide. The
10 council shall receive, review, and adjust the budget for the office of postsecondary commissioner
11 and present the budget as part of the budget for higher education under the requirements of § 35-
12 3-4.

13 (b) The office of postsecondary commissioner and the institutions of public higher
14 education shall establish working capital accounts.

15 (c) Any tuition or fee increase schedules in effect for the institutions of public higher
16 education shall be received by the council on postsecondary education for allocation for the fiscal
17 year for which state appropriations are made to the council by the general assembly; provided that
18 no further increases may be made by the board of education or the council on postsecondary

1 education for the year for which appropriations are made. Except that these provisions shall not
2 apply to the revenues of housing, dining, and other auxiliary facilities at the university of Rhode
3 Island, Rhode Island college, and the community colleges including student fees as described in
4 P.L. 1962, ch. 257 pledged to secure indebtedness issued at any time pursuant to P.L. 1962, ch.
5 257 as amended.

6 (1) Provided, further, that commencing September 1, 2018, a public transportation fee of
7 fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall be assessed and collected each semester on students attending a Rhode
8 Island institution of public higher education, including the University of Rhode Island, the
9 Community College of Rhode Island, and Rhode Island College, in accordance with the
10 following schedule:

11 <u>Date assessment begins:</u>	<u>Applicable class fee is collected from:</u>
12 <u>September 1, 2018:</u>	<u>Freshman and sophomores;</u>
13 <u>September 1, 2019:</u>	<u>Freshman, sophomores and juniors;</u>
14 <u>September 1, 2020 and thereafter:</u>	<u>Freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors.</u>

15 The student identification card issued to each student shall be prepared to serve as a pass
16 for transportation services furnished and/or operated by the Rhode Island public transit authority
17 for each semester when the fee imposed by this subsection is paid. The Rhode Island public
18 transit authority shall work with the respective Rhode Island institutions of public higher
19 education to enable student identification cards to be prepared to serve as a pass for the applicable
20 semester.

21 (d) All housing, dining, and other auxiliary facilities at all public institutions of higher
22 learning shall be self-supporting and no funds shall be appropriated by the general assembly to
23 pay operating expenses, including principal and interest on debt services, and overhead expenses
24 for the facilities, with the exception of the mandatory fees covered by the Rhode Island promise
25 scholarship program as established by § 16-107-3. Any debt-service costs on general obligation
26 bonds presented to the voters in November 2000 and November 2004 or appropriated funds from
27 the Rhode Island capital plan for the housing auxiliaries at the university of Rhode Island and
28 Rhode Island college shall not be subject to this self-supporting requirement in order to provide
29 funds for the building construction and rehabilitation program. The institutions of public higher
30 education will establish policies and procedures that enhance the opportunity for auxiliary
31 facilities to be self-supporting, including that all faculty provide timely and accurate copies of
32 booklists for required textbooks to the public higher educational institution's bookstore.

33 (e) The additional costs to achieve self-supporting status shall be by the implementation
34 of a fee schedule of all housing, dining, and other auxiliary facilities, including but not limited to,

1 operating expenses, principal, and interest on debt services, and overhead expenses.

2 (f) The board of education is authorized to establish a restricted-receipt account for the
3 Westerly Higher Education and Industry Center (also known as the Westerly Job Skills Center or
4 Westerly Higher Education Learning Center) and to collect lease payments from occupying
5 companies, and fees from room and service rentals, to support the operation and maintenance of
6 the facility. All such revenues shall be deposited to the restricted-receipt account.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 39-18 of the General Laws entitled "Rhode Island Public Transit
8 Authority" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

9 **39-18-25. Use of student identification card as a transportation pass.**

10 The authority shall work in conjunction with the council on postsecondary education and
11 with the respective Rhode Island institutions of public higher education to enable student
12 identification cards to be prepared to serve as a pass for the applicable semester as provided for in
13 § 16-59-9.

14 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COUNCIL ON POST SECONDARY EDUCATION --
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FEE

1 This act would authorize and direct the council on postsecondary education to assess a
2 transportation fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per semester to students attending a Rhode Island
3 public institution of higher learning. The student identification cards issued to students assessed
4 these fees would be modified to serve as a pass for services furnished and/or operated by the
5 Rhode Island public transit authority.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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