

2018 -- H 8199

LC005666

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Introduced By: Representatives Ucci, Fellela, and Costantino

Date Introduced: May 16, 2018

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-21.1-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-21.1 entitled  
2 "Transportation of School Pupils Beyond City and Town Limits [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The  
3 Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **16-21.1-2. School bus districts established.**

5 (a) There are hereby established school bus districts within the state to provide bus  
6 transportation in the interest of public safety, health, and welfare for pupils in grades kindergarten  
7 through twelve (12), or in special education programs, who attend public schools, including  
8 vocational schools and special education programs provided in accord with regulations of the  
9 board of regents for elementary and secondary education, consolidated schools, regional schools  
10 established under the provisions of § 16-3-1 et seq., or who participate in cooperative programs as  
11 provided by § 16-3.1-1 et seq., and nonpublic nonprofit schools which are consolidated,  
12 regionalized, or otherwise established to serve residents of a specific area within the state which  
13 schools satisfy the requirements of law for any of the grades of school, kindergarten through  
14 twelve (12), as follows:

15 (1) Region I: The towns of Burrillville, North Smithfield, and Cumberland, and the city  
16 of Woonsocket;

17 (2) Region II: The county of Kent, except the town of West Greenwich and the towns of  
18 Foster, Glocester, and Scituate;

19 (3) Region III: The towns of Lincoln, Smithfield, Johnston, North Providence,

1 Barrington, Warren, and Bristol, and the cities of Cranston, Central Falls, East Providence,  
2 Pawtucket, and Providence;

3 (4) Region IV: The county of Washington and the towns of Jamestown and West  
4 Greenwich;

5 (5) Region V: The towns of Little Compton, Middletown, Portsmouth, and Tiverton, and  
6 the city of Newport.

7 (b) A pupil attending a school, including a public school, vocational school, special  
8 education program provided in accord with regulations of the board of regents for elementary and  
9 secondary education, a regional school established under the provisions of § 16-3-1 et seq., as  
10 authorized by § 16-3.1-1 et seq., or a nonpublic nonprofit school for grades kindergarten through  
11 twelve (12), consolidated, regionalized, or otherwise established to serve residents of a specific  
12 area within the state for any of the grades of schools, kindergarten through twelve (12), in the  
13 interest of public safety, health, and welfare, shall be provided with bus transportation to the  
14 school or facility which the pupil attends, within the region in which the pupil resides, by the  
15 school committee of the city or town within which the pupil resides; provided, however that the  
16 town of Johnston shall be required to provide transportation to its residents attending Bishop  
17 Hendricken High School in Warwick. The cost of transporting a pupil attending a charter school,  
18 the William M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical High School ("Davies"), or the Metropolitan  
19 Regional Career and Technical Center ("the Met Center") within the established region shall be  
20 charged to the receiving school at the same grade level transportation per pupil cost of the  
21 resident district. Districts may offer transportation to charter schools, Davies, or the Met Center  
22 outside the established region in order to facilitate efficiency provided there is not additional cost  
23 to the resident district.

24 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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RELATING TO EDUCATION -- STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

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1           This act would require the town of Johnston to provide transportation to its residents who  
2 attend Bishop Hendricken High School in Warwick.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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