

2021 -- H 5236

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE  
RECOMMENDATIONS TO HELP STABILIZE COSTS AND OTHER FACTORS  
ASSOCIATED WITH RHODE ISLAND'S CITIES' AND TOWNS' STUDENT  
TRANSPORTATION

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Amore, Noret, and Casimiro

Date Introduced: January 29, 2021

Referred To: House Education

1 WHEREAS, School transportation complexity and costs have grown exponentially over  
2 the past three years; and

3 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's School Districts' transportation contracts are up 15 percent  
4 and more, as school transportation companies try to recoup losses from the 2019-2020 school  
5 year; and

6 WHEREAS, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirements have greatly expanded  
7 school districts' transportation requirements; and

8 WHEREAS, The majority of states across the country include school transportation costs  
9 in their state's school funding formula; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created  
11 consisting of eleven (11) members; three (3) of whom shall be members of the House of  
12 Representatives, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the  
13 Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Rhode Island Commissioner of Elementary and  
14 Secondary Education, or designee; one of whom shall be the President of the Rhode Island  
15 Association of School Committees, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director of  
16 the Rhode Island School Superintendents Association, or designee; one of whom shall be the  
17 President of the Rhode Island Association of School Principals, or designee; one of whom shall  
18 be employed by a Rhode Island school transportation company, to be appointed by the Speaker;

1 one of whom shall be Director of the Rhode Island Department of Administration, or designee;  
2 one of whom shall be the President and CEO of the Rhode Island Foundation, or designee; and  
3 one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Association of School Business  
4 Officials (RIASBO), or designee.

5 In lieu of any appointment of a member of the legislature to a permanent advisory  
6 commission, a legislative study commission, or any commission created by a General Assembly  
7 resolution, the appointing authority may appoint a member of the general public to serve in lieu  
8 of a legislator, provided that the majority leader or the minority leader of the political party which  
9 is entitled to the appointment consents to the appointment of the member of the general public.

10 The purpose of said commission shall be to study and provide recommendations to help  
11 stabilize costs and other factors associated with Rhode Island's cities' and towns' student  
12 transportation including, but not limited to, examination of the inclusion of school transportation  
13 costs into the state's education aid formula.

14 Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at  
15 the call of the Speaker of the House and organize and shall select, from among the legislators, a  
16 chairperson.

17 Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

18 The membership of said commission shall receive no compensation for their services.

19 All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and information,  
20 documentary and otherwise, to said commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or  
21 desirable by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution.

22 The Speaker of the House is hereby authorized and directed to provide suitable quarters  
23 for said commission; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
25 House of Representatives no later than January 4, 2022, and said commission shall expire on  
26 April 4, 2022.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This resolution would create an eleven (11) member special legislative commission  
2 whose purpose it would be to study and provide recommendations to help stabilize costs and  
3 other factors associated with Rhode Island's cities' and towns' student transportation, and who  
4 would report back to the House of Representatives no later than January 4, 2022, and whose life  
5 would expire on April 4, 2022.

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