

2022 -- H 7552

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - TRANSPORTATION
INVESTMENT AND DEBT PROTECTION ACT OF 2011

Introduced By: Representatives McEntee, Craven, Caldwell, Casimiro, Solomon,
Ruggiero, Fogarty, Cortvriend, Carson, and Speakman

Date Introduced: February 18, 2022

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 follows:

3 **39-18.1-5. Allocation of funds.**

4 (a) The monies in the highway maintenance fund to be directed to the department of
5 transportation pursuant to § 39-18.1-4(b)(1) -- (b)(3) shall be allocated through the transportation
6 improvement program process to provide the state match for federal transportation funds, in place
7 of borrowing, as approved by the state planning council. The expenditure of moneys in the highway
8 maintenance fund shall only be authorized for projects that appear in the state's transportation
9 improvement program.

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

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

17 (d) Provided, further, that from July 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, in addition to the
18 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, except for the period July 1, 2019, through June
2 30, 2022, during which such amount or a portion thereof may come from federal coronavirus relief
3 funds.

4 (e) Provided, further, that the Rhode Island public transit authority shall convene a
5 coordinating council consisting of those state agencies responsible for meeting the needs of low-
6 income seniors and persons with disabilities, along with those stakeholders that the authority deems
7 appropriate and are necessary to inform, develop, and implement the federally required coordinated
8 public transit human services transportation plan.

9 (1) The council shall develop, as part of the state's federally required plan,
10 recommendations for the appropriate and sustainable funding of the free-fare program for low-
11 income seniors and persons with disabilities, while maximizing the use of federal funds available
12 to support the transportation needs of this population. The council shall report these
13 recommendations to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the president of
14 the senate no later than November 1, 2018.

15 (2) The council shall develop a pilot program designed to address the needs of individuals
16 whose disability prevents independent use of the fixed route system and who do not fall within the
17 three quarter (3/4) of mile of a fixed route as required for ADA paratransit services. The council
18 shall implement the pilot program no later than January 1, 2023.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - TRANSPORTATION
INVESTMENT AND DEBT PROTECTION ACT OF 2011

1 This act would authorize the Rhode Island public transit authority's coordinating council
2 to develop a pilot program to address the needs of disabled individuals whose disability prevents
3 independent use of a fixed route system.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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