

**2025 -- H 6020**

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LC002272  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025**

**J O I N T   R E S O L U T I O N**

**MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$32,594,799 TO THE RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC  
TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

Introduced By: Representatives Alzate, Kislak, Stewart, Morales, Donovan, Fogarty,  
Batista, Carson, Speakman, and Tanzi

Date Introduced: February 28, 2025

Referred To: House Finance

1           WHEREAS, The Governor's proposed 2026 budget contains an Operating deficit of  
2           \$32,594,799 for the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA); and

3           WHEREAS, Public transportation is a lifeline for thousands of Rhode Islanders. It builds  
4           thriving communities, creates jobs, eases traffic congestion and promotes a cleaner environment;  
5           and

6           WHEREAS, The current 2026 proposed fiscal budget amount will leave a \$32,594,799  
7           deficit resulting in a loss of crucial services to Rhode Islanders whose livelihood depends on  
8           public transportation; and

9           WHEREAS, In myriad areas across the State, Rhode Island's workforce is severely  
10          limited and understaffed. To begin to rectify this growing challenge, initiatives must be instituted  
11          to counter the downward trend; and

12          WHEREAS, An appropriation of \$32,594,799 is essential in order to support RIPTA's  
13          hiring and training of more bus operators by increasing wages and benefits to be competitive and  
14          in line with the rising cost of living in Rhode Island and with our neighboring states; and to keep  
15          services running at the current levels to get Rhode Islanders where they need to go; now,  
16          therefore be it

17          RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of money in the treasury not  
18          otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2025-2026, the sum of thirty-two million five hundred  
19          ninety-four thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine dollars (\$32,594,799) to the Rhode Island

1 Public Transit Authority to continue current service throughout the State, to hire and train more  
2 bus operators, and to implement the State's Act on Climate goals; and the state controller is  
3 hereby authorized and directed to draw their orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of  
4 said sum, or so much thereof as may be from time to time required, upon receipt of properly  
5 authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
JOINT RESOLUTION  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$32,594,799 TO THE RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC  
TRANSIT AUTHORITY

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- 1 This resolution would appropriate the sum of \$32,594,799 to the Rhode Island Public
- 2 Transit Authority.

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