

2026 -- H 8304

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**PROCLAIMING MARCH 18, 2026, TO BE "TRANSIT EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY"
IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Morales, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Cruz,
Stewart, McEntee, Shanley, Kennedy, and Ackerman

Date Introduced: March 17, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, In 2024, approximately 7.7 billion public transportation rides occurred in
2 the United States, an estimated 7 percent increase over 2023. It is estimated that approximately
3 eight percent of the United States population, twenty-eight million people, are public
4 transportation dependent; and

5 WHEREAS, Across the United States, it is estimated that more than 400,000 hard-
6 working Americans work in the public transportation industry. Each day they strive tirelessly to
7 ensure that their riders are picked up and dropped off promptly at their intended destination, be it
8 for work, doctor's offices or any other number of destinations such as the beach in the
9 summertime, and these fine professionals ensure that they arrive safely; and

10 WHEREAS, Public transportation workers secure safe rides for many passengers with
11 disabilities, older adults, minors and students attending college. They work in all weather
12 conditions and remained on the job during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic healthcare
13 issues; and

14 WHEREAS, It is estimated that every \$1 billion dollars invested in American public
15 transportation yields \$5 billion dollars in additional economic impact, including the creation of
16 18,000 new jobs. In addition, public transportation is certainly one of the weapons that will be an
17 essential component in the fight to mitigate global warming and its devastating impact on planet
18 Earth; and

19 WHEREAS, In Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Public Transportation Authority (RIPTA)

1 was created in 1966, and since then it has provided public transportation services for the past 60
2 years to countless Rhode Islanders. RIPTA operates seven days a week and operates 2,700 to
3 3,300 daily trips on more than 58 statewide-fixed bus routes. RIPTA also operates ADA
4 Paratransit services statewide, and provides Park N Ride Service at many key locations across
5 Rhode Island. RIPTA employs approximately 900 hard-working employees, maintains a fleet of
6 230 fixed-route buses with 58 to 59 fixed-bus routes, 96 paratransit buses, and 20 flex vans; now,
7 therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
9 proclaims March 18, 2026, to be “Transit Employee Appreciation Day” in the State of Rhode
10 Island; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
12 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Christopher Durand, Chief Executive Officer,
13 Rhode Island Public Transit Authority.

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