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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR, THE DIRECTOR OF THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (RIDOT), AND THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO EXPLORE INCREASING THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY’S (MBTA) EVENING SERVICE TO THE WICKFORD JUNCTION/PROVIDENCE/STOUGHTON LINE ON WEEKDAYS AND INITIATING A WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, DiMario, Valverde, Euer, Kallman, and Pearson

Date Introduced: March 07, 2025

Referred To: Senate Housing & Municipal Government

1 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) coordinates with
2 transportation partner agencies such as RIPTA, Amtrak and the MBTA to promote driving
3 alternatives through public bus and rail service; and
4 WHEREAS, Currently, The MBTA Providence/Stoughton Line and RIPTA bus routes
5 are the main ways to travel between Providence and Wickford Junction, Rhode Island; and
6 WHEREAS, The MBTA’s Providence/Stoughton Line connects Providence, T.F. Green
7 Airport, and Wickford Junction to Boston and is the longest and busiest line on the MBTA
8 Commuter Rail system; and
9 WHEREAS, On weekdays, as of February 2022, the Providence/Stoughton Line runs 20
10 round trips between Boston and Providence, with approximately half of those trips continuing on
11 to Wickford Junction; and
12 WHEREAS, On weekends, the Providence/Stoughton Line runs nine round trips between
13 Boston and Providence, but does not serve Wickford Junction; and
14 WHEREAS, Taking the commuter rail avoids highway traffic, parking in downtown
15 Providence or Boston, and means less congestion on the busy Route 4 and I-95 highways and in
16 downtown Providence, and helps to minimize commuters' environmental footprint; now,
17 therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby requests the Governor,
2 the Director of RIDOT, and the General Manager of the MBTA to explore the potential for
3 increasing the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's Wickford
4 Junction/Providence/Stoughton evening line on weekdays, initiating a weekend schedule, and to
5 report their findings to the Senate on or before June 1, 2025; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized ad directed to
7 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Governor of Rhode Island, the Director of
8 RIDOT, and the General Manager of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

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