

2026 -- S 2825

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LC005389  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$5,000,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC  
TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Introduced By: Senators McKenney, Appollonio, Urso, Bissailon, Zurier, DiPalma, and  
Quezada

Date Introduced: March 04, 2026

Referred To: Senate Finance

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

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

7           WHEREAS, An appropriation of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) is essential in order to  
8 support RIPTA's hiring and training of more bus operators by increasing wages and benefits to be  
9 competitive and in line with the rising cost of living in Rhode Island and with our neighboring  
10 states, and to keep services running at the current levels to get Rhode Islanders where they need  
11 to go; now, therefore be it

12           RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of money in the treasury not  
13 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2026-2027, the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000)  
14 to the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority to continue current service throughout the State, hire  
15 and train more bus operators, and implement the State's Act on Climate goals; and the state  
16 controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw their orders upon the general treasurer for the  
17 payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may be from time to time required, upon receipt

1 of properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
JOINT RESOLUTION  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$5,000,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC  
TRANSIT AUTHORITY

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- 1           This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of five million dollars
- 2   (\$5,000,000) to the RI Public Transit Authority to continue services, hire and train more bus
- 3   operators, and implement the State's Act on Climate goals.

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