

2024 -- H 8063

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

JOINT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING CONTINUED FOCUS AND ACTIONS FOR MAINTAINING AND
IMPROVING ADEQUATE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES BY THE RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY IN WEST WARWICK

Introduced By: Representatives Noret, Serpa, Shekarchi, Nardone, Roberts, Vella-
Wilkinson, Shanley, Bennett, and Edwards

Date Introduced: March 13, 2024

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

1 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (the “Authority”), an authority
2 created under the provisions of §39-18-2 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, is currently
3 reviewing, considering, and proposing the adjustment, reduction, and/or the elimination of select
4 public transit services and/or routes in and to the Town of West Warwick and surrounding
5 communities (collectively, "these communities") that, could adversely impact those communities;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes that access to public transportation is
8 vital to maintain community, family, and individual health and wellbeing, and for acquiring
9 nourishment, healthcare, employment, and other critical needs; and

10 WHEREAS, The proposed adjustments, reductions, and eliminations by the Authority
11 could have adverse consequences on the residents of West Warwick and the surrounding
12 communities in a number of areas, including, but not limited to, the areas of health, wellbeing,
13 and having access to nourishment, healthcare, employment, and other necessities; and

14 WHEREAS, These adverse consequences are inapposite to the purposes and mission of
15 the Authority as set forth in §39-18-3;

16 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes the hardship these proposed
17 modifications, reductions, and total cuts in transit service could produce in West Warwick and the
18 surrounding communities, and wishes to support these communities in this regard; now therefore,
19 be it

1 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly requests the Authority review the financial and
2 operational needs of the Authority, to revisit the issue of providing transit services to the Town of
3 West Warwick and surrounding communities, and to meet with civic and community leaders in
4 the Town of West Warwick and surrounding communities, where reduction in transit services are
5 being proposed, to:

6 • Review and reassess the impact these proposed reductions and cuts in transit
7 service would have on these communities, taking into account the total population in each of
8 these communities;

9 • Explore options to assess the transportation needs of these communities; and

10 • Ensure the public transit service provided is sufficient to meet the needs of these
11 communities outlined in this resolution; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state be and hereby is authorized and directed to
13 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority and
14 to the town council president and the town manager of the Town of West Warwick.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING CONTINUED FOCUS AND ACTIONS FOR MAINTAINING AND
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PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY IN WEST WARWICK

1 This joint resolution would direct the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority to review the
2 financial and operational needs of the Authority, to revisit the issue of providing transit services
3 to the Town of West Warwick and surrounding communities, and to host open meetings in the
4 Town of West Warwick and surrounding communities to address issues of transit services in the
5 area.

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