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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Introduced By: Senators Miller, Satchell, Sosnowski, Metts, and Goldin

Date Introduced: January 15, 2019

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 16-59-9 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-59 entitled "Council on  
2 Postsecondary Education [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]"  
3 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4           **16-59-9. Educational budget and appropriations.**

5           (a) The general assembly shall annually appropriate any sums it deems necessary for  
6 support and maintenance of higher education in the state and the state controller is authorized and  
7 directed to draw his or her orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of the appropriations  
8 or so much of the sums that are necessary for the purposes appropriated, upon the receipt by him  
9 or her of proper vouchers as the council on postsecondary education may by rule provide. The  
10 council shall receive, review, and adjust the budget for the office of postsecondary commissioner  
11 and present the budget as part of the budget for higher education under the requirements of § 35-  
12 3-4.

13           (b) The office of postsecondary commissioner and the institutions of public higher  
14 education shall establish working capital accounts.

15           (c) Any tuition or fee increase schedules in effect for the institutions of public higher  
16 education shall be received by the council on postsecondary education for allocation for the fiscal  
17 year for which state appropriations are made to the council by the general assembly; provided that  
18 no further increases may be made by the board of education or the council on postsecondary  
19 education for the year for which appropriations are made. Except that these provisions shall not

1 apply to the revenues of housing, dining, and other auxiliary facilities at the university of Rhode  
2 Island, Rhode Island college, and the community colleges including student fees as described in  
3 P.L. 1962, ch. 257 pledged to secure indebtedness issued at any time pursuant to P.L. 1962, ch.  
4 257 as amended.

5 (1) Provided, further, that commencing September 1, 2019, a public transportation fee of  
6 fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall be assessed and collected each semester on students attending a Rhode  
7 Island institution of public higher education, including the University of Rhode Island, the  
8 Community College of Rhode Island, and Rhode Island College, in accordance with the  
9 following schedule:

10 Date assessment begins: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicable class fee is collected from:

11 September 1, 2019: \_\_\_\_\_ Freshmen and sophomores;

12 September 1, 2020: \_\_\_\_\_ Freshmen, sophomores and juniors;

13 September 1, 2021 and thereafter: \_\_\_\_\_ Freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors.

14 The student identification card issued to each student shall be prepared to serve as a pass  
15 for transportation services furnished and/or operated by the Rhode Island public transit authority  
16 for each semester when the fee imposed by this subsection is paid. The Rhode Island public  
17 transit authority shall work with the respective Rhode Island institutions of public higher  
18 education to enable student identification cards to be prepared to serve as a pass for the applicable  
19 semester.

20 (d) All housing, dining, and other auxiliary facilities at all public institutions of higher  
21 learning shall be self-supporting and no funds shall be appropriated by the general assembly to  
22 pay operating expenses, including principal and interest on debt services, and overhead expenses  
23 for the facilities, with the exception of the mandatory fees covered by the Rhode Island promise  
24 scholarship program as established by § 16-107-3. Any debt-service costs on general obligation  
25 bonds presented to the voters in November 2000 and November 2004 or appropriated funds from  
26 the Rhode Island capital plan for the housing auxiliaries at the university of Rhode Island and  
27 Rhode Island college shall not be subject to this self-supporting requirement in order to provide  
28 funds for the building construction and rehabilitation program. The institutions of public higher  
29 education will establish policies and procedures that enhance the opportunity for auxiliary  
30 facilities to be self-supporting, including that all faculty provide timely and accurate copies of  
31 booklists for required textbooks to the public higher educational institution's bookstore.

32 (e) The additional costs to achieve self-supporting status shall be by the implementation  
33 of a fee schedule of all housing, dining, and other auxiliary facilities, including but not limited to,  
34 operating expenses, principal, and interest on debt services, and overhead expenses.

1 (f) The board of education is authorized to establish a restricted-receipt account for the  
2 Higher Education and Industry Centers established throughout the state to collect lease payments  
3 from occupying companies, and fees from room and service rentals, to support the operation and  
4 maintenance of the facilities. All such revenues shall be deposited to the restricted-receipt  
5 account.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 39-18 of the General Laws entitled "Rhode Island Public Transit  
7 Authority" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

8 **39-18-25. Use of student identification card as a transportation pass.**

9 Use of student identification card as a transportation pass. The authority shall work in  
10 conjunction with the council on postsecondary education and with the respective Rhode Island  
11 institutions of public higher education to enable student identification cards to be prepared to  
12 serve as a pass for the applicable semester as provided for in § 16-59-9.

13 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

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1           This act would authorize and direct the council on postsecondary education to assess a  
2 transportation fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per semester to students attending a Rhode Island  
3 public institution of higher learning. The student identification cards issued to students assessed  
4 these fees would be modified to serve as a pass for services furnished and/or operated by the  
5 Rhode Island public transit authority.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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