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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TRANSPORTATION OF SCHOOL PUPILS BEYOND CITY  
AND TOWN LIMITS

Introduced By: Senators Ujifusa, Lauria, and Felag

Date Introduced: January 12, 2024

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 16-21.1-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-21.1 entitled  
2 "Transportation of School Pupils Beyond City and Town Limits [See Title 16 Chapter 97 — The  
3 Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended to read as follows:

4           **16-21.1-2. School bus districts established.**

5           (a) There are hereby established school bus districts within the state to provide bus  
6 transportation in the interest of public safety, health, and welfare for pupils in grades kindergarten  
7 through twelve (12), or in special education programs, who attend public schools, including  
8 vocational schools and special education programs provided in accord with regulations of the board  
9 of regents for elementary and secondary education, consolidated schools, regional schools  
10 established under the provisions of § 16-3-1 et seq., or who participate in cooperative programs as  
11 provided by § 16-3.1-1 et seq., and nonpublic nonprofit schools which are consolidated,  
12 regionalized, or otherwise established to serve residents of a specific area within the state which  
13 schools satisfy the requirements of law for any of the grades of school, kindergarten through twelve  
14 (12), as follows:

15           (1) Region I: The towns of Burrillville, North Smithfield, and Cumberland, and the city of  
16 Woonsocket;

17           (2) Region II: The county of Kent, except the town of West Greenwich and the towns of  
18 Foster, Glocester, and Scituate;

1 (3) Region III: The towns of Lincoln, Smithfield, Johnston, North Providence, Barrington,  
2 ~~Warren, and Bristol~~, and the cities of Cranston, Central Falls, East Providence, Pawtucket, and  
3 Providence;

4 (4) Region IV: The county of Washington and the towns of Jamestown and West  
5 Greenwich;

6 (5) Region V: The towns of Little Compton, Middletown, Portsmouth, Warren, and Bristol,  
7 and Tiverton, and the city of Newport.

8 (b) A pupil attending a school, including a public school, vocational school, special  
9 education program provided in accord with regulations of the board of regents for elementary and  
10 secondary education, a regional school established under the provisions of § 16-3-1 et seq., as  
11 authorized by § 16-3.1-1 et seq., or a nonpublic nonprofit school for grades kindergarten through  
12 twelve (12), consolidated, regionalized, or otherwise established to serve residents of a specific  
13 area within the state for any of the grades of schools, kindergarten through twelve (12), in the  
14 interest of public safety, health, and welfare, shall be provided with bus transportation to the school  
15 or facility which the pupil attends, within the region in which the pupil resides, by the school  
16 committee of the city or town within which the pupil resides. The cost of transporting a pupil  
17 attending a charter school, the William M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical High School  
18 (“Davies”), or the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center (“the Met Center”) within  
19 the established region shall be charged to the receiving school at the same grade level transportation  
20 per pupil cost of the resident district. Districts may offer transportation to charter schools, Davies,  
21 or the Met Center outside the established region in order to facilitate efficiency provided there is  
22 not additional cost to the resident district.

23 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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- 1           This act would remove the towns of Warren and Bristol from school bus district Region III
- 2           and place Warren and Bristol in school bus district Region V.
- 3           This act would take effect on July 1, 2024.

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