

TOWN OF HOPKINTON, RHODE ISLAND
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF H 5204 – RELATING TO EDUCATION –
TRANSPORTATION OF SCHOOL PUPILS BEYOND CITY AND TOWN
LIMITS

WHEREAS, the Chariho Regional School District (“Chariho”) is a tri-town school district comprising of Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton. Chariho is the geographically largest regional school district in Rhode Island, spanning a geographic area of 126 square miles; and

WHEREAS, the Hopkinton Town Council has previously adopted a resolution of its support for full finding of transportation categorical aid funding (2025 – H2501) between the state and regional school districts to partially offset the higher transportation costs of the geographically larger regional districts; and

WHEREAS, RIGL 16-21.1-1 (Transportation of School Pupils Beyond City and Town Limits – General Purposes) requires Chariho to provide bus transportation to pupils who attend nonpublic nonprofit schools; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for this service in FY25 is \$902,578.63 on out-of-district transportation, after an estimated credit of non-public offset of \$474,896.00 the total cost to Chariho is \$427,682.63 for an average cost of \$8,385.93 per student; and

WHEREAS, RIGL 16-21.1-8 (Transportation of School Pupils Beyond City and Town Limits – Statewide Transportation System for All Students) requires Chariho to utilize the statewide transportation system to meet this need; and

WHEREAS, Chariho employs contracted transportation service through Ocean State Transit, an in-district vendor located 0.8 miles away from the main campus; and

WHEREAS, 2025 – H5204 would enable Chariho and every other school district to “utilize its own buses or vendors to transport students outside the district, at a lower cost than the statewide school transportation system,” and submit these costs to the RI Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to receive reimbursement from state funds whenever a district can provide transportation outside its community at a lower cost than the statewide transportation system; and

WHEREAS, 2025 – H5204 would promote economic efficiency as the statewide transportation system and school districts compete to lower costs, the original goal of the statewide transportation system.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hopkinton Town Council,

1. Respectfully requests that Chariho is permitted to utilize its own vendor to transport students outside of the district at a lower cost of the statewide transportation system.
2. Respectfully requests that Chariho should be permitted to submit these costs to the RI Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to receive reimbursement from state funds.

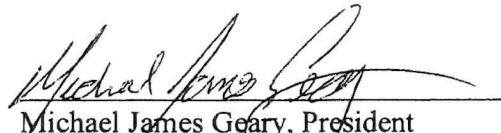
3. Seeks the support of all regional School Committees, Town Councils of towns having regional school districts, and legislators representing towns served by regional school districts regarding this matter of mutual interest to the students, schools, and taxpayers of our school districts.

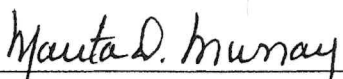
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Charlestown Town Council, the Richmond Town Council and legislators serving the towns of the Chariho Regional School District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent as well to the Governor of the State of Rhode Island; the Rhode Island General Assembly; and every RI Municipality, School Committee and Town Council.

The **RESOLUTION** shall take effect upon passage.

Passed as a resolution of the Hopkinton Town Council this 21st day of April, 2025.


Michael James Geary, President
Hopkinton Town Council

ATTEST: 
Marita D. Murray, Town Clerk

