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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2008

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

Introduced By: Representatives Segal, Pacheco, Almeida, Rice, and Ferri

Date Introduced: February 06, 2008

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 36-6 of the General Laws entitled "Salaries and Traveling
2 Expenses" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **36-6-21.1. State employee transportation guide plan. – (a) Findings: Rhode Island is**
4 dedicated to environmental protection, efficient use of resources, sound fiscal policy, and
5 sustainable development. Reducing vehicle miles traveled for commuting to work can lead to
6 reductions in air pollution emissions, greenhouse gases, energy consumption, road congestion,
7 and parking shortages. Reduced vehicle miles traveled would also lead to lower total motor fuel
8 consumption, keeping more energy dollars that now flow out-of-state available in the state for
9 local consumption and investment; a state government plan to reduce “drive alone” commuting
10 and an increase in carpooling, transit use, and walk-to-work modes is required. State
11 government, as a major employer can lead by example in promoting alternative forms of travel
12 that can reduce vehicle miles traveled.

13 (b) The department of administration shall set up a committee on state employee
14 transportation which shall consist of the directors of the department of administration, RIDOT,
15 RIDEM, RIDOH and statewide planning, or their designees, the general manager of RIPTA or
16 designee, and a representative from a state employee union, to develop, publicize, and implement
17 a plan to give incentives to state employees to reduce vehicle miles in commuting to work. The
18 committee will investigate employee incentives for reducing commuting vehicle miles offered by
19 other public bodies around the country, investigate practices developed by the environmental

1 protection agency’s “Best Workplaces for Commuters Program”, consider the implementation of
2 carpool, telecommuting, guaranteed-ride-home, bike-to-work and walk-to-work programs, and
3 incorporate or adopt those ideas deemed appropriate for Rhode Island into the plan. The plan
4 shall include, but is not limited to, a means for determining base year values of the proportion of
5 single occupant vehicle commute trips and the commute trip vehicle miles traveled per employee
6 and progress toward meeting commute trip reduction plan goals on an annual basis. The goals of
7 miles traveled per employee for all state agencies shall not be less than fifteen percent (15%)
8 reduction from the base year value by January 1, 2012, twenty-five percent (25%) reduction from
9 the base year values by January 1, 2014, and thirty-five percent (35%) reduction from the base
10 year values by January 1, 2016. The plan will also include an offer of a RIPTA transit pass to
11 employees in lieu of parking privileges.

12 (c) The director of the department of administration shall report annually to the governor
13 and the committee as to the progress being made to meet the goals.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

1 This act would create a committee to study alternative methods for state employees to
2 travel to work.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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