

May 20, 2025

Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
State House, Room 35  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: House Bill 6236 – An Act Relating to Education – Transportation of School Pupils Beyond City and Town Limits

Dear Chair Abney,

House Bill 6236 – An Act Relating to Education – Transportation of School Pupils Beyond City and Town Limits amends the Kindergarten through Grade 12 school transportation regions as defined in R.I.G.L. § 16-21.1-2. In addition, this bill provides students receiving transportation prior to December 30, 2025 shall not be impacted by the new regions until July 1, 2029. Finally, the bill also makes changes to the categorical funding for out-of-district non-public transportation costs.

This bill was the product of a recommendation by the Statewide Transportation Commission which the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) was a member. The current law includes five regions that contain disproportionate regions that have impacted school districts out-of-district transportation costs. This bill increases to nine regions and attempts to balance the size of each region. While RIDE is not taking a position on the newly defined regions, changes to these regions will impact parents in every region in the state. The four-year “phase-in” will allow for high school freshmen to continue to receive transportation through their senior year; however, other students who begin a school in Kindergarten or Sixth grade may be impacted.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this Honorable Committee.

Sincerely,

CC: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance  
Honorable Terri Cortvriend  
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker