

Portsmouth School Committee Resolution

RE: Out of District Transportation Resolution

WHEREAS, in 1977, the Rhode Island General Assembly enacted § 16-21.1 establishing five school bus regions based on the location of the then ten career and technical (CTE) centers, and there are now over 250 CTE programs statewide, and

WHEREAS, in addition to transporting students to public CTE centers, § 16-21.1 also requires transportation for students attending private and parochial schools, and

WHEREAS, eighty-five percent of private school transportation comes out of region three, placing a financial burden on public school districts in that region, resulting in some of the highest transportation costs in the state, and

WHEREAS, according to the Legislative Commission studying the statewide school bus transportation system, the cost of transporting students outside their home districts could reach \$40 million in FY 2025, and,

WHEREAS, according to the Commission, public school districts could save approximately \$3.5 million if the number of regions were increased to nine and reconfigured, and,

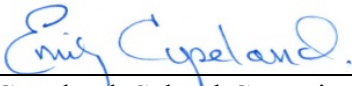
WHEREAS, 2025–H 6236 by Representative Terri Cortvriend and 2025 S–0972 Senator Linda Ujifusa would increase the regions to nine and also reconfigure them, and

WHEREAS, mindful of the impact on private school students, H 6236 & S 0972 would hold those students and their families fiscally harmless by grandfathering them in until July 1, 2029,

WHEREAS, the savings from reducing the size of transportation regions would be used to create a fund to help offset the cost of long-distance, high-cost statewide transportation of homeless students, students in foster care and those in high-cost special education programs,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Portsmouth School Committee urges the Rhode Island General Assembly to enact H 6236 & S 0972, and

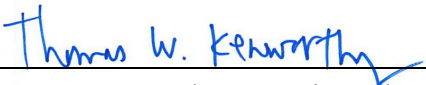
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: A copy of this Resolution should be forwarded to every State Senator, State Representative, and the Governor.



Emily Copeland, School Committee Chair



Karen McDaid, School Committee Clerk



Thomas W. Kenworthy, Superintendent of Schools

Passed: 5.13.25