



OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET


State Budget Office

One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5890

Office: (401) 222-6300
Fax: (401) 222-6410

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chairman, House Finance Committee
The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

From: Joseph Codega Jr., Budget Officer 

Date: April 7, 2023

Subject: Amendments to FY 2024 Appropriations Act (23-H-5200)

The Governor requests amendments be made to the FY 2024 Appropriations Act. The amendments include two new initiatives at Rhode Island College which result in changes to the appropriation amounts in Article 1, Relating to Making Appropriations in Support of FY 2024. A description of each amendment requested is provided in the attached documents, but the significant items include the following:

- Rhode Island College (RIC) Cybersecurity Center – Creation of a new Institute for Cybersecurity & Emerging Technologies housed at Rhode Island College, supported by \$2.0 million in State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) appropriated through the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner and additional institutional funds. The Institute will engage the greater regional and national cybersecurity community to deepen the institution's alignment to the field and expand the College's ability to deliver education and workforce training through short-term, baccalaureate, and graduate programs at Rhode Island College. The \$2.0 million in SFRF will augment existing and new institutional funds to support three years of program development and operating costs.
- RIC Hope Scholarship – Structured as a pilot program, the Hope Scholarship would provide last-dollar tuition support to RIC in-state students for their junior and senior years, provided they have met eligibility requirements of a minimum GPA and having accumulated sufficient credits towards their major field of study in their freshman and sophomore year to assure they can stay on track to graduate. This merit-based tuition reduction program will both incentivize and support students on their path to graduation. The Hope Scholarship is supported by \$9.4 million in SFRF appropriated through the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, as well as \$1.0 million in existing institutional financial aid. These funds would support an initial three-year budget that would serve juniors and seniors in both FY 2024 and FY 2025, and seniors only in FY 2026.

If you have any questions regarding these amendments, please feel free to call me or my staff at 222-6300.

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JC:23-Amend-9

Attachments

cc: Sharon Reynolds Ferland, House Fiscal Advisor
Stephen Whitney, Senate Fiscal Advisor
James E. Thorsen, Director of Administration
Brian Daniels, Director, Office of Management and Budget

ARTICLE 1, RELATING TO MAKING APPROPRIATIONS IN SUPPORT OF FY 2024

SECTION 1, APPROPRIATIONS IN SUPPORT OF FY 2024

Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner

Page 24, insert New Line 7 titled “Cybersecurity Center”, in the amount of \$2,000,000. This amendment creates a new Cybersecurity Center housed at Rhode Island College and supported by \$2.0 million in SFRF appropriated through OPC (24-OPC1).

Page 24, insert New Line 8 titled “Hope Scholarship”, in the amount of \$9,421,784. This amendment would support two years of attendance at Rhode Island College for qualified in-state students in their junior and senior years, supported by \$9.4 million in SFRF appropriated through OPC (24-OPC2).

Rhode Island College

Increase Other Funds – University and College Funds, Page 25, Line 17 by \$376,440 from \$101,032,657 to \$101,409,097. This amendment adds \$376,440 in institutional funds to reflect Rhode Island College’s investment in the new Cybersecurity Center (24-RIC1).

SECTION 16, APPROPRIATIONS IN SUPPORT OF FY 2024

Page 49, Insert New Lines beginning below Line 11 titled “OPC – RIC Cyber Center. These funds shall support the establishment of the Institute for Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies at Rhode Island College, which will provide certificate, baccalaureate, and master’s level courses with focuses on research and developing highly skilled cyber security professionals. Funding shall be appropriated through the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner.”

Page 49, Insert New Lines beginning below Line 11 titled “OPC – RIC Hope Scholarship. These funds shall support the Hope Scholarship pilot program to provide last-dollar scholarships to eligible students in the Rhode Island College graduating classes of 2024, 2025, and 2026. The scholarship would be provided to students at Rhode Island College in their third and fourth years. Recipients of the Rhode Island Promise scholarship program, as established by § 16-107-3, shall not be eligible for the Hope Scholarship. Funding shall be appropriated through the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner. As of January 1, 2026, any excess SFRF funding that Rhode Island college projects to be unspent by the conclusion of this pilot program on July 1, 2026, may be used by Rhode Island College to provide scholarships and other forms of financial aid outside this program.”

Summary of Governor's Article 1 Amendments to FY 2024 Appropriations Act (23-H-5200)

	General Revenue	Federal Funds	Restricted Receipts	Other Funds	Total	Amendment Code (24-AGENCY#)
FY 2024 Expenditures (Original Governor's Recommend)	5,302,778,725	5,526,017,996	386,814,952	2,535,441,068	13,751,052,741	
February 14, 2023 Amendments	25,667	(320,000)	(169,608)	5,237,284	4,773,343	
March 8, 2023 Amendments	183,073	(24,789,779)	-	4,000,000	(20,606,706)	
March 17, 2023 Amendments	(224,284)	2,057,963	2,891,838	-	4,725,517	
April 7, 2023 Amendments						
Office of Postsecondary Education						
<i>SFRF - Cybersecurity Center at RIC</i>		2,000,000			2,000,000	24-OPC1
<i>SFRF - Hope Scholarship</i>		9,421,784			9,421,784	24-OPC2
Rhode Island College						
<i>Cybersecurity Center RIC Institutional Funds</i>				376,440	376,440	24-RIC1
Total	-	11,421,784	-	376,440	11,798,224	
Grand Total	5,302,763,181	5,514,387,964	389,537,182	2,545,054,792	13,751,743,119	