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# THE CITY OF CRANSTON

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## RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

“School Transportation Resolution in Support of 2025 – H 5420 & S 636 & S 397”

Resolution No. 2025-

10 *Passed:*

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*Jessica M. Marino, Council President*

**WHEREAS**, Rhode Island General Law (RIGL) 31-22.1-1. Pupil transportation vehicle is defined as a vehicle designed and constructed to seat not more than eight (8) passengers, including the operator, and

**WHEREAS**, increasing from eight (8) to ten (10) the number of students allowed to be transported would result in an estimated collective savings of between six hundred, fifty thousand and one million dollars for Local Education Agencies, and

**WHEREAS**, the Rhode Island Department of Education contracted with a school bus vendor to provide transportation services to students with developmental disabilities for the current school year, and

**WHEREAS**, the vendor failed to comply with Rhode Division of Motor Vehicles regulation 280-RICR-30-05-2 “Rules and Regulations for School Bus Driver Certification” by employing school bus drivers certified in an adjoining State but not certified in Rhode Island, and

**WHEREAS**, a lack of sufficient certified Rhode Island school bus drivers resulted in transportation delays and cancellations at the start of the school year for students with developmental disabilities, and

**WHEREAS**, these delays and cancellations adversely impacted the education of these students, and

**WHEREAS**, S 397 would allow the Division of Motor Vehicles to abbreviate and reduce the School Bus Driver Certification training course for applicants holding a commercial driver’s license, and

**WHEREAS**, S 397 would also allow the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a temporary school bus driver’s certificate to applicants who have been certified as a school bus driver in a State bordering Rhode Island, and

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**WHEREAS**, The Special Joint Legislative Commission to Study Student Transportation Needs and System Costs has unanimously endorsed passage of 2025 – H 5420 and 2025 – S 397 & S 636,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Honorable Cranston City Council respectfully requests the Rhode Island General Assembly to enact 2025 – H 5420 & S 636 amending (RIGL) 31-22.1-1 to increase the allowable pupil passenger limit to ten (10) Rhode Island and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Honorable Cranston City Council requests the Rhode Island General Assembly to enact S 397 reducing the bus driver certification training course for applicants holding a commercial driver’s license and allow the Division of Motor Vehicles to grant temporary licenses to school bus drivers licensed in bordering States.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to every Rhode Island Municipality, School Committee, State Senator, State Representative, and the Governor.

Sponsored by: Councilman Buonanno and Councilman Traficante

Referred to: Ordinance Committee May 15, 2025