



Association of Independent
Colleges & Universities of Rhode Island

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February 27, 2024

The Honorable Joseph Solomon
Chairman, House Committee on Corporations
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Representative Solomon,

On behalf of the AICU *Rhode Island* membership, I am writing to express my support for House Bill 7509, which alters current legislation surrounding gift cards.

At non-profit institutions of higher education in Rhode Island and across the country, students and employees use campus account cards (also known as campus bucks, dining dollars, etc.) to make purchases on campus. They are typically used in dining halls, bookstores, and other retail operations on and off campus. Upon a student's and/or an employee's departure from an institution, unused funds may remain on the campus card.

Under current Rhode Island Law, campus card accounts are treated as gift cards, and they cannot be exchanged for their cash value. Remaining balances on student and employee campus card accounts post-departure are unable to be refunded to the former student or employee or recouped by the institution. Unable to return these funds, they remain as liabilities on an institution's balance sheet indefinitely as institutions are unable to escheat these dollars to the state.

This legislation does more than just remedy an accounting issue at member institutions, but also allows the opportunity for funds that rightfully belong to the cardholder to be returned. If unable to be returned, the funds are then escheated to the state and used for the public good after a period of two years.

For the reasons stated above, AICU *Rhode Island* supports H 7509 and encourages the House Committee on Corporations to recommend its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Egan", written in a cursive style.

Daniel P. Egan
President