

2024 -- H 7885

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Representatives Lima, Cardillo, Costantino, Baginski, and J. Brien

Date Introduced: March 04, 2024

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-21 of the General Laws entitled "Health and Safety of Pupils" is  
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-21-42. Analysis for mandates affecting children.**

4 (a) The department of health, in conjunction with the department of education, shall  
5 conduct a cost-benefit analysis before a mandate relating to the health and safety of children in  
6 school is issued. Factors that shall be considered in the analysis include, but are not limited to, the  
7 following:

8 (1) A child's linguistic development throughout primary school;

9 (2) A child's cognitive development throughout primary school;

10 (3) Educational impacts of learning with the implementation of said mandate;

11 (4) Social, emotional, and physical impacts of the implementation of said mandate; and

12 (5) Any and all evidence that said mandate directly helps children.

13 (b) The department of health, in conjunction with the department of education, shall publish  
14 the contents of the cost-benefit analysis conducted in accordance with this section on their website.

15 (c) This section shall apply to any previously issued mandates that are related to the health  
16 and safety of children in school, including, but not limited to, the mandate forcing children in school  
17 to wear face masks during school days.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

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1           This act would require the department of health, in conjunction with the department of  
2 education, to conduct a cost-benefit analysis before a mandate relating to the health and safety of  
3 children in schools would be issued. This act would also apply to any previous mandates issued,  
4 including, but not limited to, the mandate forcing children to wear masks.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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