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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE PAUL W. CROWLEY RHODE ISLAND STUDENT  
INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

Introduced By: Senator Samuel D. Zurier

Date Introduced: March 21, 2025

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 16-7.1-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7.1 entitled "The Paul  
2 W. Crowley Rhode Island Student Investment Initiative [See Title 16 Chapter 97 — The Rhode  
3 Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended to read as follows:

4           **16-7.1-5. Intervention and support for failing schools.**

5           (a) The board of regents shall adopt a series of progressive support and intervention  
6 strategies consistent with the Comprehensive Education Strategy and the principles of the "School  
7 Accountability for Learning and Teaching" (SALT) of the board of regents for those schools and  
8 school districts that continue to fall short of performance goals outlined in the district strategic  
9 plans. These strategies shall initially focus on: (1) technical assistance in improvement planning,  
10 curriculum alignment, student assessment, instruction, and family and community involvement; (2)  
11 policy support; (3) resource oversight to assess and recommend that each school has adequate  
12 resources necessary to meet performance goal; and (4) creating supportive partnerships with  
13 education institutions, business, governmental, or other appropriate nonprofit agencies. If after a  
14 three (3) year period of support there has not been improvement in the education of students as  
15 determined by objective criteria to be developed by the board of regents, then there shall be  
16 progressive levels of control by the department of elementary and secondary education over the  
17 school and/or district budget, program, and/or personnel. This control by the department of  
18 elementary and secondary education may be exercised in collaboration with the school district and

1 the municipality. If further needed, the school shall be reconstituted. Reconstitution responsibility  
2 is delegated to the board of regents and may range from restructuring the school's governance,  
3 budget, program, personnel, and/or may include decisions regarding the continued operation of the  
4 school. [The board of regents \(or successor body\) may, if further needed, authorize the](#)  
5 [commissioner to appoint a receiver to manage a school district with the authority described in § 16-](#)  
6 [7.1-5.2.](#) The board of regents shall assess the district's capacity and may recommend the provision  
7 of additional district, municipal and/or state resources. If a school or school district is under the  
8 board of regents' control as a result of actions taken by the board pursuant to this section, the local  
9 school committee shall be responsible for funding that school or school district at the same level as  
10 in the prior academic year increased by the same percentage as the state total of school aid is  
11 increased.

12 (b) For FY 2007, the department shall dedicate one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)  
13 from funds appropriated to support progressive support and intervention and SALT visits to support  
14 the Rhode Island Consortium for Instructional Leadership and Training. This consortium is  
15 engaged in training school leaders to be more effective instructional leaders in the standards based  
16 instruction environment.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE PAUL W. CROWLEY RHODE ISLAND STUDENT  
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1           This act would allow the board of regents to appoint a receiver to manage a school district  
2 with the authority described in § 16-7.1-5.2 relating to state intervention in the Providence public  
3 school district.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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