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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- ESTABLISHMENT OF CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Introduced By: Representative David J. Place

Date Introduced: February 11, 2026

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 16-77 of the General Laws entitled "Establishment of Charter Public  
2 Schools [See Title 16 Chapter 97 — The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended  
3 by adding thereto the following section:

4           **16-77-13. Local communities permitted to adopt all-charter public school model for**  
5 **public education.**

6           (a) Each city and town of this state may adopt, as an alternative to traditional public schools,  
7 an all-charter public school model, to provide public education. This process may utilize the  
8 establishment of all new charter public schools, a conversion of traditional public schools to charter  
9 public schools, or a combination thereof. A municipality seeking to convert to an all-charter public  
10 school model shall submit a plan detailing the provision of education under the plan ("the plan"),  
11 as well as how the municipality shall transition into the plan.

12           (b) The plan referred to in subsection (a) of this section shall be presented to both the  
13 municipality's council, board, or other governing body, and to the school committee or board of  
14 the municipality. If both the governing body and the school committee of the municipality vote in  
15 favor of the plan, then the plan shall be presented and submitted to the voters of the municipality  
16 as a referendum at either a special or general election. Upon affirmative vote of those voting in the  
17 election in favor of and approving the plan, the plan shall be deemed approved. In such event, the  
18 municipality may undertake such measures as set forth in the plan and as are otherwise necessary  
19 to implement the all-charter public school model within the municipality.

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 -- ESTABLISHMENT OF CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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1           This act would permit local communities to adopt an all-charter public school model for  
2 public education. This act would provide that adoption of this model would require an affirmative  
3 vote of the local municipality's council and school committee, followed by an affirmative vote on  
4 a referendum of the adoption, at a special or general election in the municipality.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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