

2023 -- S 0851

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL

Introduced By: Senator Samuel D. Zurier

Date Introduced: March 30, 2023

Referred To: Senate Education

(Dept. of Revenue)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-77.2-8 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-77.2 entitled "District
2 Charter School [See Title 16 Chapter 97 — The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby
3 amended to read as follows:

4 **16-77.2-8. Charter school reporting.**

5 (a) All district charter schools shall continuously monitor their financial operations by
6 tracking actual versus budgeted revenue and expense. The chief financial officer of the district
7 charter school shall submit a report on a quarterly basis to the ~~state office of municipal affairs~~
8 [commissioner](#) certifying the status of the district charter school budget.

9 (b) The quarterly reports shall be in a format prescribed by the ~~state office of municipal~~
10 ~~affairs~~ [commissioner](#) and the state auditor general. The reports shall contain a statement as to
11 whether any actual or projected shortfalls in budget line items are expected to result in a year-end
12 deficit, the projected impact on year-end financial results including all accruals and encumbrances,
13 and how the district charter school plans to address any such shortfalls. The auditor general or the
14 state director of administration may petition the superior court to order the district charter school
15 to file said reports. The director of administration may also direct the state controller and general
16 treasurer to withhold any funding to the district charter school until the school complies with the
17 reporting requirements hereunder. Failure to comply with this section shall be cause for the
18 revocation of the school charter.

19 SECTION 2. Section 16-77.3-8 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-77.3 entitled

1 "Independent Charter Schools [See Title 16 Chapter 97 — The Rhode Island Board of Education
2 Act]" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-77.3-8. Charter school reporting.**

4 (a) All independent charter schools shall continuously monitor their financial operations
5 by tracking actual versus budgeted revenue and expense. The chief financial officer of the
6 independent charter school shall submit a report on a quarterly basis to the ~~state office of municipal~~
7 ~~affairs~~ [commissioner](#) certifying the status of the independent charter school budget. The quarterly
8 reports shall be in a format prescribed by the ~~state office of municipal affairs~~ [commissioner](#) and the
9 state auditor general. The reports shall contain a statement as to whether any actual or projected
10 shortfalls in budget line items are expected to result in a year-end deficit, the projected impact on
11 year-end financial results including all accruals and encumbrances, and how the independent
12 charter school plans to address any such shortfalls.

13 (b) The auditor general or the state director of administration may petition the superior
14 court to order the independent charter school to file said reports. The director of administration may
15 also direct the state controller and general treasurer to withhold any funding to the independent
16 charter school until the school complies with the reporting requirements hereunder. Failure to
17 comply with this section shall be cause for the revocation of the school charter.

18 SECTION 3. Section 16-77.4-8 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-77.4 entitled "Mayoral
19 Academies [See Title 16 Chapter 97 — The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby
20 amended to read as follows:

21 **16-77.4-8. Mayoral academy reporting.**

22 (a) All mayoral academies shall continuously monitor their financial operations by tracking
23 actual versus budgeted revenue and expense. The chief financial officer of a mayoral academy shall
24 submit a report on a quarterly basis to the ~~state office of municipal affairs~~ [commissioner](#) certifying
25 the status of that mayoral academy's budget. The quarterly reports shall be in a format prescribed
26 by the ~~state office of municipal affairs~~ [commissioner](#) and the state auditor general. The reports shall
27 contain a statement as to whether any actual or projected shortfalls in budget line items are expected
28 to result in a year-end deficit, the projected impact on year-end financial results including all
29 accruals and encumbrances, and how the mayoral academy plans to address any such shortfalls.

30 (b) The auditor general or the state director of administration may petition the superior
31 court to order a mayoral academy to file said reports. The director of administration may also direct
32 the state controller and general treasurer to withhold any funding to a mayoral academy until the
33 school complies with the reporting requirements hereunder. Failure to comply with this section
34 shall be cause for the revocation of the school charter.

1 SECTION 4. 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 -- DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL

1 This act would require that certain quarterly reports required to be filed by district charter
2 schools, mayoral academies and independent charter schools be submitted to the commissioner of
3 elementary and secondary education.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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