

2013 -- H 5420

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Representatives Nunes, Tomasso, Shekarchi, and Marcello

Date Introduced: February 13, 2013

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 16-21-4 and 16-21-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-21
2 entitled "Health and Safety of Pupils" are hereby amended to read as follows:
3 **16-21-4. Fire, evacuation and lockdown drills required -- Failure to comply. --** (a) It
4 shall be the duty of the principal or other person in charge of every public school or private
5 school, college, university, or postsecondary institutions or educational institution within the
6 state, having more than twenty-five (25) pupils, to instruct and train the pupils by means of drills,
7 so that they may in a sudden emergency be able to leave school buildings and dormitories in the
8 shortest possible time and without confusion or panic. In all schools but colleges, universities, or
9 postsecondary institutions, there shall be fifteen (15) drills or rapid dismissals during the school
10 year, at least eight (8) of which shall be held during the months of ~~September, October, and~~
11 ~~November~~ August through December. The remaining seven (7) drills or rapid dismissals shall be
12 held ~~at the discretion of the principal or person in charge of the school~~ during the months of
13 January through June. At least four (4) drills or rapid dismissals shall be obstructed by means of
14 which at least one or more exits and stairways in the school building are blocked off or not used
15 and at least two (2) of the obstructed drills shall be held during the months of September and
16 October. There shall be two (2) evacuation drills and ~~two (2)~~ four (4) lockdown drills included
17 among the fifteen (15) mandatory drills in each school year. Evacuation drills shall be designed
18 and conducted for use when conditions outside the school building are safer than conditions
19 inside the building. Lockdown drills shall be designed and conducted for use to protect school

1 building occupants from potential dangers in the building.

2 (b) (1) In colleges, universities, postsecondary institutions, and residence facilities in
3 public schools or private schools there shall be at least four (4) drills or rapid dismissals during
4 the academic year for each school building or residence facility, at least two (2) of which shall be
5 held between the months of September through December. The remaining two (2) drills shall be
6 held between the months of January through June. Any college, university, or postsecondary
7 institution that holds a summer session shall hold a drill or rapid dismissal during the first full
8 week of the summer session.

9 (2) At least one drill or rapid dismissal shall be obstructed so that at least one or more
10 exits or stairways in the school building or dormitory are blocked off or not used.

11 (c) For purposes of this section "residence facility" means dormitory, fraternity, sorority,
12 or any other type of residence hall, whether on campus or off campus, owned or leased by a
13 college, university, postsecondary institutions, public schools, or private school with
14 accommodations for twenty (20) or more students.

15 (d) Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, fire drills shall be required in
16 colleges or universities only for buildings which are used for a residence facility.

17 (e) Neglect by any principal or any person in charge of any public or private school or
18 educational institution to comply with the provisions of this section shall be a misdemeanor
19 punishable by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500).

20 **16-21-5. Uniform fire code or drill tactics -- Reports.** -- (a) It shall be the duty of the
21 department of elementary and secondary education or the office of higher education, as
22 appropriate, to formulate a uniform fire code or drill tactics to be used in all schools in
23 accordance with section 16-21-4 and to furnish a sufficient number of copies for use in all schools
24 together with forms for reporting to the fire department of the city or town in which the schools
25 are located and to the department or office. These forms shall be furnished by the department or
26 office to all schools and shall be substantially as follows:

27 State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
28 Name of school
29 Principal or person in charge
30 day of time alarm a.m.
31 Date drill is held week sounded
32 p.m.
33 Time taken to empty building minutes seconds
34 Total time elapsed before school

- 1 work is resumed minutes seconds
- 2 check
- 3 type of drill one obstructed unobstructed
- 4 Signal used
- 5 Number of fire alarm button or station used
- 6 Name of person sounding alarm
- 7 Name of first responder notified of a drill.....
- 8 Weather conditions
- 9 Temperature
- 10 Remarks
- 11 (b) In the case of colleges, universities, and postsecondary institutions, these reports shall
- 12 remain on the premises available for review by fire officials.
- 13 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would require seven (7) fire drills during the months of January through June
2 and that four (4) lockdown drills be held in each school year.

3 This act would also require that the name of the first responder notified of a drill be
4 included in a form prescribed by statute.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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