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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - REVERSE TRANSFER CREDITS

Introduced By: Senators Pichardo, Gallo, Satchell, DiPalma, and Lombardi

Date Introduced: February 28, 2013

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 16 of the General Laws entitled "EDUCATION" is hereby amended
2 by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 100

4 REVERSE TRANSFER CREDITS

5 **16-100-1. Legislative findings. --** (a) According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS),
6 overall people with an associate's degree earned more than do those whose highest level of
7 educational attainment is a high-school diploma.

8 (b) According to the BLS, among the fastest growing occupations and occupations with
9 plentiful job openings are those often requiring workers with an associate's degree. According to
10 some estimates, employment of Americans with an associate's degree has increased by 578,000
11 over the time period of April to October 2012.

12 (c) According to census data, by the year 2020 over fifty percent (50%) of Rhode Island
13 jobs will require some form of postsecondary training

14 (d) According to census data among Rhode Islanders without a postsecondary degree,
15 nineteen and seven-tenths percent (19.7%) had at least some college but did not receive a degree.

16 (e) By allowing students to transfer more of the credits they have earned towards an
17 associate's degree, it would enable those students who have not completed a four (4) year degree
18 to obtain an associate's degree which will better reflects those students' actual educational
19 attainment.

1 **16-100-2. Policy implemented.** -- (a) The state board of education and/or the board of
2 governors for higher education, whichever is in existence at the time, shall prescribe by regulation
3 a reverse transfer policy that shall allow students to use credits earned at a four (4) year institution
4 for an associate's degree at a two (2) year institution. The regulations shall address the minimum
5 grade of the course to be transferred and any other areas that the board deems appropriate.

6 (b) The board shall allow the transfer of at least eighty percent (80%) of the credits at a
7 four (4) year institution that the two (2) year institution requires for the associate's degree
8 program or certificate with the remaining credits earned through the two (2) year institution, as
9 well as any exit exam required for that program or certificate.

10 **16-100-3. Reporting.** -- The board shall report the number of associate's degrees and
11 certificates awarded where students utilized the reverse transfer option and wherever possible
12 whether the student continued to pursue a bachelors degree. The report shall be provided to the
13 president of the senate, speaker of the house and the governor annually beginning July 1, 2015.

14 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 - REVERSE TRANSFER CREDITS

1 This act would direct the state board of education to set forth regulations that would
2 provide a policy for the reverse transfer of credits from a four (4) year school to a two (2) year
3 school.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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