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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 - THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Miller, Sheehan, and Satchell

Date Introduced: March 13, 2013

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-97 of the General Laws entitled "The Rhode Island Board of  
2 Education Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-97-7. Student Advisory Councils - Legislative Purpose.** – (a) It is the purpose of the  
4 councils to provide streamlined communication mechanisms between students, both secondary  
5 and post-secondary, and the board of education, by:

6 (1) Providing students with the ability to inform policymakers about implementation,  
7 concerns, and/or practical issues regarding regulations and/or policies, whether proposed or  
8 promulgated;

9 (2) Bringing voices of students into the conversation about policies and regulations which  
10 impact their education; and

11 (3) Improving the communication from the board back to students to provide a better  
12 understanding of the developments and rationale of the policy setting body.

13 (b) There is hereby established a permanent council to be called the "Student Advisory  
14 Council for Higher Education" that shall advise the state board of education. The council shall be  
15 comprised of two (2) student representatives from each of our public higher education institutions  
16 to be chosen by the applicable form of student government, who shall serve a term of two (2)  
17 years. Upon organizing, the majority of the representatives shall elect a chairperson who shall be  
18 responsible for advising the board of election on all matters that the council deems appropriate.  
19 The student advisory council for higher education shall meet no less than four (4) times per year

1 and provide the board of education with a minimum of quarterly reports at a regularly scheduled  
2 board meeting. The members of the student advisory council for higher education shall be  
3 responsible to coordinate suitable quarters for meetings, meeting notices and any other issues  
4 regarding meeting coordination. It is strongly encouraged that a member of the student advisory  
5 council for higher education attend the official meetings of the board of education to report back  
6 to the members of the council and their student body as to pertinent issues before the board.

7 (c) There is hereby established a permanent council to be called the "Student Advisory  
8 Council for Secondary Education" that shall advise the board of education. The council shall be  
9 comprised of one student representative from each school district chosen by the student body.  
10 Each representative shall be chosen annually no later than October 1. The student advisory  
11 council for secondary education shall meet and organize initially upon the call of the chairperson  
12 of the board of education and thereafter at the call of the chairperson of the aforementioned  
13 council. Upon organization, the members of the council shall elect a chairperson, vice-chair and  
14 secretary. The chairperson shall be responsible for setting agendas and the overall condition of  
15 meetings. The vice-chair shall assist the chairperson and be available to represent the chair when  
16 necessary. The secretary shall be responsible for providing prompt notice of meetings to all  
17 members and preparing meeting minutes. The student advisory council for secondary education  
18 may meet up to four (4) times per year and provide the board of education with a minimum of  
19 semi-annual reports at a regularly scheduled board meeting. Attendance at the meetings of the  
20 student advisory council may be accomplished in person or via teleconferencing, webcasting or  
21 other electronic means. It is strongly encouraged that the elected representatives from the school  
22 district seek a teacher-advisor who could assist in coordinating meetings, notices, and other areas.

23 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 - THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT

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1           This act would create two (2) advisory councils, one for secondary education and one for  
2 higher education, and provide for their organization, powers and duties.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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