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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: Senators Gallo, Metts, Crowley, Miller, and Sheehan

Date Introduced: March 27, 2013

Referred To: Senate Education

(Governor)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-21-25 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-21 entitled "Health
2 and Safety of Pupils" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-21-25. Review of school safety plans - Waiver. --**

4 (a) Each city, town, or regional department school safety plan and school emergency
5 response plans shall be reviewed on an annual basis by the school committee and updated as
6 appropriate. [These reviews and updates shall be completed by July 1 of any given year, and by](#)
7 [August 1 of that year the commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall certify to](#)
8 [the speaker of the house, the president of the senate, and the governor that such reviews or](#)
9 [updates have been completed.](#)

10 (b) The commissioner of elementary and secondary education and school committee
11 shall make each city, town, or regional department school safety plan and school emergency
12 response plan [not deemed confidential under section 38-2-2](#) available for public comment at least
13 thirty (30) days prior to its adoption. All meetings of school safety teams shall comply with the
14 open meetings law pursuant to chapter 46 of title 42, [but such meetings may be held in closed](#)
15 [session to the extent permitted by section 42-46-5 of the open meetings law.](#)

16 (c) The commissioner of elementary and secondary education may grant a waiver of the
17 requirements of §§ 16-21-23 and 16-21-24 to any city, town, or regional school department for
18 period of up to two (2) years upon a finding by the commissioner that the town, city, or regional
19 district had adopted a comprehensive school safety plan or school emergency response plans

1 which are in substantial compliance with the requirements of §§ 16-21-23 and 16-21-24.

2 Provided, however, no waiver shall extend beyond June 30, 2003.

3 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 - HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

1 This act would require school committees to annually review and update school safety
2 and school emergency plans by July 1 of each year. The act would further require that by August
3 1 of each year, the commissioner of elementary and secondary education would certify to the
4 general assembly and to the governor that such reviews and/or updates have been completed.
5 Such plans that are not deemed confidential pursuant to section 38-2-2 would be available for
6 public comment.

7 This act would take effect upon passage.

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