

2015 -- H 5077

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - THE COMPLETE COLLEGE RHODE ISLAND ACT

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Azzinaro, Diaz, Bennett, and Malik

Date Introduced: January 14, 2015

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

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 105

4 THE COMPLETE COLLEGE RHODE ISLAND ACT

5 **16-105-1. Purpose.** -- The purpose of this chapter is to increase the number of students
6 who complete college or other forms of higher education to achieve degrees and credentials that
7 have value in the labor market, and to close the achievement gaps for groups who are traditionally
8 under-represented in higher education.

9 **16-105-2. Board of education to set goals.** -- The Rhode Island board of education shall
10 establish state-wide goals that are school specific for increasing the number of graduates who
11 earn certificates and degrees at both two (2) and four (4) year post-secondary public institutions
12 of higher education through the year 2020. The board of education shall also develop
13 recommendations for financial incentives tied to meeting these goals, which recommendations
14 shall be presented for consideration to the general assembly on before January 1, 2016.

15 **16-105-3. State-wide college access and completion data system.** -- (a) The board of
16 education shall develop and make available to the governor and the general assembly state-wide
17 college access and completion data and related analyses that includes data on students'
18 educational experiences and outcomes from early childhood through higher education in Rhode
19 Island public institutions of higher education and into the workforce. Data collected shall include:

1 (1) The number of students taking developmental remediation courses and the
2 pass/failure rate for such courses;

3 (2) Graduation rates for students who have been enrolled in developmental education
4 courses at each institution;

5 (3) The number of post-secondary school students at each institution who are enrolled in
6 twelve (12) to fourteen (14) credit hours per semester; and

7 (4) The number of post-secondary school students at each institution who are enrolled in
8 fifteen (15) or more credit hours per semester.

9 (b) Graduation data shall include the average excess credits that students have
10 accumulated and the approximate cost of these credits to both the students and the state. As used
11 herein, the term "excess credits" refers to credits which the student earned and which were not
12 required for the degree or certificate. Each institution shall also list the average time needed to
13 earn a degree or certificate.

14 (c) Such data and analyses shall be utilized to develop and implement strategies for
15 improving preparation for college as well as enrollment and completion rates, especially for
16 nontraditional students.

17 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 COMPLETE COLLEGE RHODE ISLAND ACT

1 This act would establish the Complete College Rhode Island Act, for purposes of creating
2 a comprehensive compilation of data showing academic progress among students and to develop
3 strategies to increase the number of students graduating from state institutions of higher
4 education.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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