

2015 -- S 0201

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' TENURE -- HEARINGS

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Lombardi, E O'Neill, Morgan, and Pearson

Date Introduced: February 11, 2015

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-13-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-13 entitled "Teachers'  
2 Tenure" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-13-4. Statement of cause for dismissal -- Hearing -- Appeals -- Arbitration. --** (a)

4 The statement of cause for dismissal shall be given to the teacher, in writing, by the governing  
5 body of the schools. The teacher may, within fifteen (15) days of the notification, request, in  
6 writing, a hearing before the ~~full~~ board. The hearing shall be public or private, in the discretion of  
7 the teacher. Both teacher and school board shall be entitled to be represented by counsel and to  
8 present witnesses. The board shall keep a complete record of the hearing and shall furnish the  
9 teacher with a copy. Any teacher aggrieved by the decision of the school board shall have the  
10 right of appeal to the department of elementary and secondary education and shall have the right  
11 of further appeal to the superior court.

12 (b) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prohibit, or at any time to have  
13 prohibited, a school committee in a municipality or regional school district with an elected school  
14 committee, or the chief executive officer in a municipality with an appointed school committee  
15 from agreeing, in a collective bargaining agreement, to the arbitration of disputes arising out of  
16 the nonrenewal, dismissal, and/or suspension of a teacher pursuant to §§ 16-13-2, 16-13-3, and/or  
17 16-13-5.

1 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 -- TEACHERS' TENURE -- HEARINGS

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1           This act would provide that teacher dismissal cases may be heard by less than an entire  
2 school board.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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