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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~~ [school committee or school](#) board. The hearing shall be public or
7 private, in the discretion of the teacher. Both teacher and school board shall be entitled to be
8 represented by counsel and to present witnesses. The board shall keep a complete record of the
9 hearing and shall furnish the teacher with a copy. Any teacher aggrieved by the decision of the
10 school board shall have the right of appeal to the department of elementary and secondary
11 education and shall have the right of further appeal to the superior court. [Any decisions rendered](#)
12 [must be approved by a majority of the full board. Members voting on a decision must have been](#)
13 [in attendance at the hearing.](#)

14 (b) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prohibit, or at any time to have
15 prohibited, a school committee in a municipality or regional school district with an elected school
16 committee, or the chief executive officer in a municipality with an appointed school committee
17 from agreeing, in a collective bargaining agreement, to the arbitration of disputes arising out of
18 the nonrenewal, dismissal, and/or suspension of a teacher pursuant to §§ 16-13-2, 16-13-3, and/or
19 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

1 This act would provide any teacher who has received a statement of cause for dismissal
2 could request a hearing before the school committee or school board. This hearing would not
3 have to be before the full committee or board, but any decisions rendered would have to be
4 approved by a majority of the full board. Members voting on such a decision would need to have
5 been present at the original hearing.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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