

2015 -- S 1010

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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 -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX
RELIEF ACT

Introduced By: Senators Pearson, Gallo, Satchell, DiPalma, and Picard

Date Introduced: June 23, 2015

Referred To: Placed on Senate Calendar

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-7.2 of the General Laws entitled "The Education Equity and
2 Property Tax Relief Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 ~~16-7.2-5.1. Local share calculation commission.~~ Charter school strategy and
4 funding. -- (a) There is hereby created a commission consisting of nine (9) members as follows:
5 the governor shall appoint the chair of the board of education who shall serve as the chairperson;
6 the governor shall also appoint a representative from the department of elementary and secondary
7 education who has expertise relating to the funding formula and calculation of the local share, and
8 one member who is a representative from a Rhode Island mayoral academy. The president of the
9 senate shall appoint one member who currently serves on a school committee, one member who
10 is a current school superintendent and one member of the general public. The speaker of the
11 house shall appoint one member who is a current school business official, one member who is a
12 representative from an independent charter public school, and one member of the general public.

13 (b) The purpose of the commission shall be to make a comprehensive study and issue
14 recommendations regarding the overall strategy of charter schools in Rhode Island as a method to
15 improve student achievement and the funding thereof, including, but not limited to, the local
16 share calculation prescribed by § 16-7.2-5 that accounts for the fixed and variable costs that are
17 incurred by the school districts but not by independent charter schools created pursuant to chapter
18 77.3 of title 16 and mayoral academies created pursuant to chapter 77.4 of title 16. The

1 commission shall consider methodologies that more accurately reflect and account for the
2 expenditures borne exclusively by the sending school districts. The commission shall also
3 consider whether the differentiation between the costs of educating students in elementary and
4 secondary school should be considered in calculating the local share to be appropriated to charter
5 schools and mayoral academies.

6 (c) The department of elementary and secondary education shall provide to the president
7 of the senate, speaker of the house and the governor a report detailing the calculation and
8 expenses included in the current method of funding charter public schools, other methods used in
9 other states for funding charter schools, and any other information as requested by the chair, no
10 later than September 1, 2015, and shall further be prepared to present and provide the report to
11 the commission when requested by the chair.

12 (d) The members of the commission shall meet at the call of the chair. The membership
13 of said commission shall receive no compensation for their services. The department of
14 elementary and secondary education shall furnish all of the necessary data relevant to the
15 commission's charge. All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and
16 information, documentary and otherwise, to said commission. The commission shall report its
17 findings and recommendations to the general assembly on or before January 6, 2016, and said
18 commission shall expire on April 30, 2016.

19 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 EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX
RELIEF ACT

1 This act would create a nine (9) member commission to study and issue
2 recommendations regarding charter school strategy and funding, including, but not limited to, the
3 local share calculation related to the fixed and variable costs incurred by school districts, but not
4 by independent charter schools and mayoral academies, with a written report to the general
5 assembly on or before January 6, 2016.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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