

2016 -- H 7221

LC003301

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - THE COMPLETE COLLEGE RHODE ISLAND ACT

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Amore, Craven, O'Brien, and Azzinaro

Date Introduced: January 15, 2016

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 106

4 THE COMPLETE COLLEGE RHODE ISLAND ACT

5 **16-106-1. 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 **16-106-2. Council on post-secondary education to set goals. --** The Rhode Island
10 council on post-secondary education shall establish state-wide goals that are school specific for
11 increasing the number of graduates who earn certificates and degrees at both two (2) and four (4)
12 year post-secondary public institutions of higher education through the year 2021. The council on
13 post-secondary education shall also develop recommendations for financial incentives tied to
14 meeting these goals, which recommendations shall be presented for consideration to the general
15 assembly on before January 1, 2017.

16 **16-106-3. State-wide college access and completion data system. --** (a) The council on
17 post-secondary education shall develop and make available to the governor and the general
18 assembly state-wide college access and completion data and related analyses that includes data on
19 students' educational experiences and outcomes from early childhood through higher education in

1 Rhode Island public institutions of higher education and into the workforce. Data collected shall
2 include:

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

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

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

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

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

16 (c) To the extent such information is available, the data and analyses required by this
17 section shall show specific results based upon race, and the results for English language learners.

18 (d) Such data and analyses shall be utilized to develop and implement strategies for
19 improving preparation for college as well as enrollment and completion rates, especially for
20 nontraditional students.

21 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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