

2016 -- H 7772

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOLS ACT

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Azzinaro, Slater, Hull, and Naughton

Date Introduced: February 26, 2016

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-95-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-95 entitled "The
2 Recovery High Schools Act [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education
3 Act]" is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **16-95-4. Transfer of aid. --** (a) Any school district in Rhode Island that may have a
5 student or students who are currently or were last enrolled in said district and who are ~~considered~~
6 ~~by the sending district to be both clinically and academically appropriate for referral~~ diagnosed
7 with substance use disorder or dependency, as defined by the diagnostic and statistical manual of
8 mental disorders IV-TR may be referred to a Rhode Island recovery high school ~~may be referred~~
9 by a clinician licensed pursuant to chapter 35 of title 42 for voluntary enrollment in such school.
10 If said student is admitted to said school, the sending school district shall ensure that payment
11 pursuant to subsection (b) herein for students who attend the recovery high school is paid, and
12 further, that upon completion of all other graduation requirements, said student or students shall
13 receive a diploma.

14 (b) A sending school district shall transfer the per pupil ~~allotment it receives~~ core
15 instructional amount pursuant to chapter 16-7.2 ("The Education Equity and Property Tax Relief
16 Act") to a recovery high school for any student attending the recovery high school and meeting
17 the following criteria: (1) The student is currently enrolled in the district or currently resides in
18 the municipality in which the district is located; (2) The student is considered by a clinician
19 licensed pursuant to 42-35, to be clinically appropriate, using the criteria for substance use

1 disorders as defined in the diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders IV-TR; and (3)
2 The student meets all matriculation criteria as outlined by the sending district and the department
3 of elementary and secondary education, with determination of academic eligibility based on
4 existing documentation provided by the district. The district and the recovery high school shall
5 arrange to confer a diploma when a student completes state and district-mandated graduation
6 requirements. ~~The local share of education funding shall be paid to the recovery high school in~~
7 ~~the same manner as the local share of education funding is paid to charter public schools, the~~
8 ~~William M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical High School, and the Metropolitan Regional Career~~
9 ~~and Technical Center, as outlined in § 16-7.2-5.~~

10 (c) The state shall appropriate no less than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000)
11 annually for the administration and programmatic costs of each recovery high school.

12 ~~(e)~~(d) A recovery high school shall submit to the ~~board of regents~~ council on elementary
13 and secondary education academic data considered necessary by the board to provide information
14 regarding each student's academic performance, subject to applicable health confidentiality laws
15 and regulations.

16 ~~(d)~~(e) The ~~board of regents~~ council on elementary and secondary education, in
17 consultation with the department of behavioral health, developmental disabilities and hospitals
18 shall promulgate rules and regulations as necessary to implement and carry out the intent of this
19 chapter.

20 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO EDUCATION - RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOLS ACT

1 This act would remove school district approval from the enrollment process for recovery
2 high school students and would require the transfer of the per pupil core instructional amount.
3 The act would also require the state to annually provide no less than five hundred thousand
4 dollars (\$500,000) to each recovery high school.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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