

2016 -- H 7981

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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 - THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF
ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Marshall, Malik, Gallison, and Kennedy

Date Introduced: March 23, 2016

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-7.2-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7.2 entitled "The
2 Education Equity and Property Tax Relief Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-7.2-4. Determination of state's share.** -- (a) For each district, the state's share of the
4 foundation education aid calculated pursuant to § 16-7.2-3(a) shall use a calculation that
5 considers a district's revenue generating capacity and concentration of high-need students. The
6 calculation is the square root of the sum of the state share ratio for the community calculation
7 (SSRC), pursuant to § 16-7-20, squared plus the district's percentage of students eligible for
8 USDA reimbursable school meals in grades PK-6 (PK6FRPL) squared, divided by two.

9 (b) For purposes of determining the state's share, school district student data used in this
10 calculation shall include charter school and state school students. These ratios are used in the
11 permanent foundation education aid formula calculation described in § 16-7.2-5. [Provided, the](#)
12 [state's share for regional school districts shall be amended for the fiscal years commencing July 1,](#)
13 [2016, and July 1, 2017, as set forth in §16-7.2-4.1.](#)

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

16 **16-7.2-4.1. Temporary increase in state's share for regional school districts.** -- (a)
17 [The state's share of foundation education aid for regional school districts shall be stabilized and](#)
18 [remain at the amounts calculated and provided for the 2015-2016 school year pursuant to §16-](#)

1 7.2-4. These amounts shall be stabilized and remain in place for two (2) years, commencing on
2 July 1, 2016. In addition to these stabilized amounts, the state's share of foundation education aid
3 for regional school districts shall be increased for the fiscal years commencing July 1, 2016, and
4 July 1, 2017, as follows:

5 (1) For the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2016 only, the state's share to each regional
6 school district shall be increased by one percent (1%) of the amount calculated and provided to
7 the regional school districts for the 2015-2016 school year;

8 (2) For the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2017 only, the state's share to each regional
9 school district shall be increased by two percent (2%) of the amount calculated and provided to
10 the regional school districts for the 2015-2016 school year; and

11 (3) The temporary stabilization and increase in the state's share for regional school
12 districts provided by this section shall terminate on July 1, 2018. Provided, the provisions of this
13 section shall be reviewed and assessed for possible continuation by the general assembly during
14 the 2018 legislative session. Such review and assessment shall include considerations of the needs
15 of the regional school districts and the state of Rhode Island's economy at that time.

16 (b) As used herein, a regional school district shall have the same meaning as referred to
17 in chapter 3 of this title.

18 SECTION 3. 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 provide for a stabilization of the state's share of foundation education aid
2 to regional school districts at the 2015-2016 levels for two (2) years. The act would also increase
3 the state's share of foundation education aid to regional school districts for FY 2017 and FY 2018.
4 There would be a one percent (1%) increase for FY 2017, and a two percent (2%) increase for FY
5 2018. In 2018, both the stabilization of and the increases in aid would cease, but the general
6 assembly would review and assess the increases for possible continuation.

7 This act would take effect upon passage.

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