

2016 -- S 2194

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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 -- UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Crowley, Jabour, Gallo, and Sheehan

Date Introduced: January 27, 2016

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 16-32-3, 16-32-4, 16-32-5 and 16-32-6 of the General Laws in
2 Chapter 16-32 entitled "University of Rhode Island [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island
3 Board of Education Act]" are hereby amended to read as follows:
4 **16-32-3. Purposes of university.** -- The board, as now constituted, and their successors,
5 for the terms for which they have been or for which they hereafter may be appointed regents,
6 shall continue to be a body politic and corporate for the purpose of continuing and maintaining
7 the University of Rhode Island as a university where the leading object shall be, without
8 excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach any
9 branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in order to promote the
10 liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of
11 life, as provided in the act of the congress of the United States, approved July 2, 1862, entitled
12 "An Act Donating Public Lands to the Several States and Territories Which May Provide
13 Colleges for the Benefit of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts," ([hereafter the "Morrill Act of](#)
14 [1862"](#)), and for the purpose of continuing and maintaining an agricultural experiment station
15 ([hereafter the "station"](#)) as a department of the ~~college~~ [university](#) under and in accordance with,
16 and to carry out the purposes of, the act of congress approved March 2, 1887, entitled "An Act to
17 Establish Agricultural Experiment Stations in Connection with the Colleges Established in the
18 Several States Under the Provisions of An Act Approved July 2, 1862, and of the Acts
19 Supplementary Thereto ([hereafter the "Smith-Lever Act of 1914"](#)), and as provided in all

1 [subsequent acts of the congress of the United States which modify the Morrill Act of 1862, the](#)
2 [Hatch Act of 1887, and/or the Smith-Lever Act of 1914. The Station and Cooperative Extension](#)
3 [are hereafter collectively referred to as the "land grant programs."](#)

4 **16-32-4. Location -- Application of federal funds. --** The ~~university and experiment~~
5 ~~station~~ [university, agricultural experiment station, and administrative headquarters for](#)
6 [cooperative extension](#) shall, until ordered, continue to be located in the town of South Kingstown
7 upon the estate now occupied by them, and all money received after this under the act of
8 congress, approved March 2, 1887, and under the ~~act of congress approved August 30, 1890,~~
9 ~~entitled "An Act to Apply a Portion of the Proceeds of the Public Lands to the More Complete~~
10 ~~Endowment and Support of the Colleges for the Benefit of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts,~~
11 ~~Established Under the Provisions of an Act of Congress Approved July Second, Eighteen~~
12 ~~Hundred Sixty two,"~~ [land grant programs](#) and all other money which shall be received by the
13 state for the promotion of agriculture or the mechanic arts at land grant colleges under or by
14 virtue of an act of congress shall, as and when received, be paid over to the treasurer of the
15 university, to be used and applied and accounted for by the ~~trustees~~ [board of governors for higher](#)
16 [education](#) and officers of the university, with the approval of the state controller, as required by
17 the respective acts of congress under which the money is received.

18 **16-32-5. ~~Authority over experiment station~~ Authority over agricultural experiment**
19 **station and cooperative extension. --** The board of governors for higher education shall have
20 authority over the [agricultural](#) experiment station, [cooperative extension and Rhode Island sea](#)
21 [grant](#) of the university located in the town of South Kingstown.

22 **16-32-6. ~~Activities of experiment station~~ Activities of the land grant and sea grant**
23 **programs. --** The [agricultural](#) experiment station, [cooperative extension and Rhode Island sea](#)
24 [grant](#) at the University of Rhode Island shall continue to expend sums of money received from the
25 United States government for experimental work and ~~agricultural extension service,~~ [extension](#)
26 [outreach, in compliance with the Hatch Act of 1887, the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, and the Sea](#)
27 [Grant Act of 1966](#) and shall also continue to promote and encourage the work of ~~farm bureaus~~
28 [agriculturalists \(including aquaculturalists\), their professional organizations, environmental](#)
29 [organizations, conservation districts and other agencies of government concerned with](#)
30 [agriculture, the environment, or the purposes of the station or cooperative extension, and the](#)
31 [private sector collaborating with the station or cooperative extension, consistent with the](#)
32 [requirements of the Hatch Act of 1887 and the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, and the Sea Grant Act](#)
33 [of 1966](#) and expend sums of money received from federal and state appropriations, subject to
34 budgetary control provided by chapter 3 of title 35.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 16-32 of the General Laws entitled "University of Rhode Island
2 [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended by
3 adding thereto the following sections:

4 **16-32-4.1. Appropriation of state funds for the land grant programs. --** Beginning in
5 the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2016, the general assembly shall annually appropriate a sum
6 to the board of governors for higher education for the exclusive purpose of defraying the
7 expenses of the land grant programs as defined in §16-32-3, to provide state funds to meet federal
8 mandates that federal funds be matched by state funds, such funds to be expended under the
9 direction of the board of governors for higher education and officers of the university. The
10 required match will be based on the full amount of federal funds awarded to the station under the
11 Hatch, McIntire-Stennis, and Animal Health formula allocations of the preceding year and on the
12 full amount of federal funds awarded to cooperative extension under the Smith-Lever formula
13 allocations of the preceding year.

14 **16-32-4.2. Appropriations of state funds for the Rhode Island sea grant program. --** Beginning in fiscal year 2016, the general assembly shall annually appropriate a sum to the board
15 of governors for higher education for the exclusive purpose of defraying the expenses of the
16 Rhode Island sea grant program to provide state funds to meet federal mandates that federal funds
17 be matched by state funds, such funds to be expended under the direction of the board of
18 governors for higher education and officers of the university. The required match will be based on
19 the full amount of federal funds awarded to the sea grant program under United States
20 Department of Commerce allocations of the preceding year.

22 **16-32-4.3. Use of funds to enhance land grant and sea grant programs. --** The annual
23 appropriation of funds for the land grant and sea grant programs shall be in addition to, and
24 separate from any funds regularly appropriated to the university under §16-32-9, and there shall
25 be no reduction of appropriations to the university pursuant to §16-32-9. Funds appropriated for
26 land grant programs shall be used exclusively to enhance the activities and capacities of the
27 station, cooperative extension, and sea grant programs, and are not to be used to replace normal
28 salaries for academic faculty or staff, or operating funds for academic departments, or for normal
29 maintenance operations of the university, or for any other purpose not in accord with the purpose
30 of enhancement of the land grant and sea grant programs. The use of funds may be used for
31 summer salary recontracting of faculty on academic year appointments to participate in land grant
32 or sea grant programs, for technical staff conducting land grant or sea grant program activities,
33 for support of undergraduate or graduate students collaborating in land grant or sea grant program
34 activities, and for capital acquisitions and physical plant improvements directly in support of the

1 land grant or sea grant programs, and for all other expenditures directly in support of the land
2 grant or sea grant programs, including use as a state matching contribution to grants received
3 from federal agencies to support research or outreach conducted and administered conjointly with
4 activities of the station, cooperative extension, or Rhode Island sea grant. The expenditure of
5 funds shall follow rules promulgated in the official federal manuals of the station, cooperative
6 extension, and sea grant, including rules governing approval for projects and activities and
7 expenditure of funds for approved projects and activities.

8 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 -- UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

1 This act would promote the capability of the University of Rhode Island in the areas of
2 environmental and agricultural research and extension education by authorizing the appropriation
3 of additional state funds to match annual federal funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture,
4 without a reduction of other appropriations by the general assembly as otherwise provided for in
5 the university's general operating budget.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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