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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 -- TEACHER TENURE

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Lombardi, and Archambault

Date Introduced: February 25, 2016

Referred To: Senate Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-13-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-13 entitled "Teachers'  
2 Tenure" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-13-2. Annual contract basis -- Automatic continuation.** -- (a) Teaching service  
4 shall be on the basis of an annual contract, except as hereinafter provided, and the contract shall  
5 be deemed to be continuous unless the governing body of the schools shall notify the teacher, in  
6 writing, on or before March 1, that the contract for the ensuing year will not be renewed, unless  
7 the dismissal of the teacher is for just cause, in which case the governing body need only provide  
8 reasonable notice and a hearing, consistent with §16-12-6. If the dismissal or nonrenewal is based  
9 on fiscal exigency or program reorganization, the governing body shall notify the teacher on or  
10 before June 1 s t of the school year immediately preceding the school year in which the dismissal  
11 or nonrenewal is to become effective. Provided, however, that a teacher, upon request, shall be  
12 furnished a statement of cause for dismissal or nonrenewal of his or her contract by the school  
13 committee; provided further, that whenever any contract is not renewed, or the teacher is  
14 dismissed, the teacher shall be entitled to a hearing and appeal pursuant to the procedure set forth  
15 in § 16-13-4.

16 (b) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prohibit, or at any time to have  
17 prohibited, a school committee from agreeing, in a collective bargaining agreement, to the  
18 arbitration of disputes arising out of a dismissal or nonrenewal of a nontenured teacher pursuant  
19 to subsection (a) of this section.

1 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 -- TEACHER TENURE

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1           This act would provide that only reasonable notice and a hearing needs to be provided to  
2 a teacher dismissed for just cause. Teacher termination for just cause would not be subject to the  
3 March 1 deadline for notifying a teacher that their contract will not be renewed for the next  
4 school year.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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