

2017 -- H 5352

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- DUAL ENROLLMENT EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Casey, Price, Phillips, Morin, and Keable

Date Introduced: February 02, 2017

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Sections 16-100-2, 16-100-3, and 16-100-4 of the General Laws in Chapter  
2 16-100 entitled "Dual Enrollment Equal Opportunity Act" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **16-100-2. Definition.**

4           "Dual Enrollment" means that a student is enrolled in a secondary school or is home  
5 schooled at the secondary level, while simultaneously enrolled part-time or full-time at a local  
6 institution of higher learning, such as a community college or university.

7           **16-100-3. Policy implemented.**

8           (a) The Board of Education shall prescribe by regulation a statewide dual enrollment  
9 policy that shall allow students to enroll in courses at postsecondary institutions to satisfy  
10 academic credit requirements in both high school, including home schooling at the secondary  
11 level, and the aforementioned postsecondary institutions. The regulations shall address the  
12 postsecondary institution's graduation requirements, if any; the institution's ability to award  
13 degrees/certificates in Rhode Island; the minimum course grade to receive credit at the student's  
14 secondary school or home schooling; and any other criteria that the Board deems appropriate. A  
15 student whose course of at-home instruction at the secondary level has been approved by the  
16 school committee of the municipality or district where the student resides (a "home-schooled  
17 student"), pursuant to §§16-19-1 and 16-19-2, shall be eligible to participate in the dual  
18 enrollment policy to the same extent as other public school students within the municipality or  
19 district; provided, however, the board may limit the courses offered to home-schooled students to

1 [those courses being offered by the school district in which the home-schooled student resides.](#)

2 (b) The board shall convene a workgroup, including, but not limited to, representatives  
3 from the department of elementary and secondary education, the office of higher education,  
4 superintendents, school committees, public higher education institutions, guidance counselors,  
5 and teachers. The purpose of the workgroup is to consider and advise the board as to a dual  
6 enrollment policy and its possible effect on school funding pursuant to section 16-7.2, academic  
7 supports, transportation, possible shared costs of the education, possible fee schedules, manners  
8 in which low-income students could access the program and, possible contracted tuition costs  
9 with our public higher education institutions.

10 [\(c\) The board, in collaboration with the state institutions of post-secondary education,](#)  
11 [shall ensure that the same policies regarding the cost for and payment of dual enrollment courses](#)  
12 [pursuant to the provisions of this chapter are consistently applied to public school students and](#)  
13 [home-schooled students alike.](#)

14 **16-100-4. Dual enrollment adoption.**

15 School districts and schools must adopt the statewide dual enrollment policy promulgated  
16 pursuant to this section by June 30, 2015. All school districts, charter schools, career and  
17 technical schools, approved private day or residential schools, [home schoolers](#), and collaborative  
18 schools shall be subject to the requirements of this section.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This act would extend the benefits of the dual enrollment equal opportunity act to cover  
2 home-schooled students.

3           The act would also direct the board of education to ensure that the same policies  
4 regarding the cost for and payment of dual enrollment courses are consistently applied to public  
5 school students and home-schooled students alike.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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