

2017 -- S 0634

LC000295

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND SUPERINTENDENTS--  
BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR

Introduced By: Senators Morgan, Raptakis, and Kettle

Date Introduced: March 29, 2017

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-2-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-2 entitled "School  
2 Committees and Superintendents [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of  
3 Education Act]" is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **16-2-2. City and town schools required -- School year -- Location -- Kindergartens.**

5 (a) (1) Except as specifically provided in this section, every city or town shall establish  
6 and maintain for at least one hundred eighty (180) days annually or the equivalent thereof,  
7 exclusive of holidays a sufficient number of schools in convenient places under the control and  
8 management of the school committee and under the supervision of the board of regents for  
9 elementary and secondary education. In lieu of convenient location the school committee may  
10 provide transportation for pupils to and from school in accordance with the provisions of chapter  
11 21 of this title. Provided, that a school district may establish a school year which is the equivalent  
12 of one hundred eighty (180) days through the use of longer school days in terms of hours, and  
13 which may total less than one hundred eighty (180) separate days, so long as through the use of  
14 the longer school day, the school district annually provides a minimum of one thousand eighty  
15 (1080) school hours in a single school year. This figure is based on a minimum of six (6) hours  
16 per school day. For purposes of clarification, the intent herein is to permit school districts to  
17 amend their school year to provide for longer school days while reducing the actual number of  
18 days in which the school facilities must be fully staffed and maintained, but to insure that in doing

1 so, school districts shall still provide the minimum amount of instruction time contemplated by  
2 this section. Nothing herein shall be deemed to limit a school district from exceeding the  
3 minimum amounts of days and hours set forth herein.

4 (2) School districts intending to make use of the option provided herein to lengthen  
5 school days and shorten the school year shall submit a detailed school day plan and a proposed  
6 school calendar to the commissioner of elementary and secondary education for approval. The  
7 commissioner shall review the submitted school day plan and the submitted calendar to determine  
8 whether the plan and calendar are academically sound and fiscally efficient. The commissioner  
9 may grant or deny approval of the plan and/or the calendar.

10 (3) Each school district, including charter schools, shall adopt a calendar beginning the  
11 school year not earlier than the day after Labor Day effective for the school year 2018-2019 and  
12 thereafter.

13 (b) School facilities shall include a sufficient number of kindergartens.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage and shall apply to the school year  
15 2018-2019.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND SUPERINTENDENTS--  
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- 1           This act would require public schools, including charter schools, begin the school year  
2 after Labor Day commencing in the school year 2018-2019.  
3           This act would take effect upon passage and would apply to the school year 2018-2019.

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