

2018 -- H 7547

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LC004279
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF
ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Marshall, and Donovan

Date Introduced: February 09, 2018

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-7.2-7 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 **16-7.2-7. Transition plan.**

4 (a)(1) The general assembly shall annually determine the appropriation of education aid
5 pursuant to this chapter using a transition plan to begin in fiscal year 2012, not to exceed seven
6 (7) years for LEA's for whom the calculated education aid pursuant to § 16-7.2-3 is more than the
7 education aid the LEA is receiving as of the effective date of the formula, and ten (10) years for
8 LEA's for whom the calculated education aid pursuant to § 16-7.2-3 is less than the education aid
9 the LEA is receiving as of the effective date of the formula. Provided, the provisions of this
10 subsection (a)(1) of this section shall be subject to the provisions contained in subsection (a)(2) of
11 this section.

12 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a)(1) of this section, effective June 1,
13 2018, the transition plan for education aid begun in fiscal year 2012 shall be frozen in place and
14 halted at the rates and calculations in effect for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2017, and for
15 all fiscal years occurring thereafter. There shall be no increases or reductions to LEA's in the
16 calculated education aid pursuant to § 16-7.2-3 beyond the amounts calculated for the fiscal year
17 commencing July 1, 2017.

18 (b) The local share of funding pursuant to § 16-7.2-5 shall be transitioned proportionately

1 over a period not to exceed five (5) years. The transition shall provide a combination of direct aid
2 to districts, funds for the categorical programs, and district savings through state-assumed costs,
3 as determined by the general assembly on an annual basis. Updates to any components of the
4 permanent foundation education aid formula, such as student data, property values, and/or median
5 family income, that result in an increase or decrease in state education aid that impacts the total
6 state and local contribution by more than three percent (3%) shall be transitioned over a period of
7 time not to exceed three (3) years.

8 (c) For districts that are converting from a half-day to a full-day kindergarten program for
9 the 2014-2015 school year and after, as defined by § 16-99-4, the increase in aid provided
10 pursuant to the formula for the increased reference average daily membership due to the
11 conversion of the kindergarten students from 0.5 full-time equivalent to 1.0 full-time equivalent is
12 not subject to the transition plan in subsection (a); instead, the increased kindergarten full-time
13 equivalents will be funded at the fully transitioned value of the formula beginning in FY 2017.

14 SECTION 2. 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 that the transition plan for education aid begun in fiscal year 2012
2 would be frozen in place and halted at the rates and calculations in effect for the fiscal year
3 commencing July 1, 2017, and for all fiscal years thereafter.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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