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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - OFFENSES PERTAINING TO SCHOOLS [SEE TITLE 16
CHAPTER 97 - THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT]

Introduced By: Senator Leonidas P. Raptakis

Date Introduced: March 21, 2019

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-38 of the General Laws entitled "Offenses Pertaining to Schools
2 [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended by
3 adding thereto the following section:

4 **16-38-14. Prohibited use of school district listservs.**

5 (a) The school district listserv shall be used for the sole purpose of distributing school-
6 related information to the parents or guardians of the students enrolled in the school district. It
7 shall be unlawful for any person, persons, or institution, educational or otherwise, to circulate or
8 permit to be circulated any political advertisement, invitation or propaganda, via a school district
9 listserv. Any person, persons, or institution who is found guilty of a violation of this section shall
10 be punished by a fine not exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each offense.

11 (b) For purposes of this section, "listserv" means a computer software application which
12 allows a sender to send one email to a list, and then transparently send it on to the addresses of all
13 subscribers to the list.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 17-23 of the General Laws entitled "Election Offenses" is hereby
15 amended by adding thereto the following section:

16 **17-23-20. Prohibited use of school district listservs.**

17 (a) No person, persons, or institution, educational or otherwise, shall circulate or permit
18 to be circulated any political advertisement, invitation or propaganda, via a school district listserv.

1 Any person, persons or institution who is found guilty of a violation of this section shall be
2 punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500) each offense in accordance with §
3 17-26-3.

4 (b) For purposes of this section, "listserv" means a computer software application which
5 allows a sender to send one email to a list, and then transparently send it on to the addresses of all
6 subscribers to the list.

7 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 - OFFENSES PERTAINING TO SCHOOLS [SEE TITLE 16
CHAPTER 97 - THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT]

- 1 This act would prohibit the use of a school district's listserv to distribute any political
- 2 advertisement, invitation, and/or propaganda.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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