

2021 -- H 5516

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND SUPERINTENDENTS

Introduced By: Representatives Perez, Vella-Wilkinson, Williams, and Cardillo

Date Introduced: February 12, 2021

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-2-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-2 entitled "School
2 Committees and Superintendents [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education
3 Act]" is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **16-2-5. Composition of city or town school committees -- Election and terms of**
5 **members -- Vacancies.**

6 The school committee of each city or town shall consist of three (3) residents of the city or
7 town, or of any number as at the present time constitute the committee. In cities or towns having
8 annual elections of city or town officers the committee shall be divided as equally as may be into
9 three (3) classes whose several terms of office shall expire at the end of three (3) years from the
10 dates of their respective elections. In cities or towns having biennial elections the committee shall
11 be divided as equally as may be into two (2) classes whose several terms of office shall expire at
12 the end of four (4) years from the dates of their respective elections. As the office of each class
13 shall become vacant, the vacancy or vacancies shall be filled by the city or town at its regular city
14 or town meeting for the election of state or city or town officers, or by the city or town council at
15 its next meeting after this. In case of a vacancy by death, resignation, or otherwise than as is
16 provided in this section, the vacancy shall be filled by the city or town council until the next regular
17 city or town meeting for the election of state or city or town officers, when it shall be filled for the
18 unexpired term as is provided in this section. This section shall not apply to the cities of Providence,
19 Central Falls, Woonsocket, or the Town of North Smithfield; [provided, however, effective July 1,](#)

1 [2025, and thereafter, this section shall apply to the city of Providence, and the city of Providence](#)
2 [shall have an elected school committee.](#)

3 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect only upon approval of this act by a majority of the
4 qualified electors of the said city of Providence voting at a general or special election, which
5 election, if held, shall be held prior to July 1, 2025.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND SUPERINTENDENTS

1 This act would authorize the city of Providence to have an elected school committee, as
2 opposed to an appointed school committee, effective July 1, 2025.

3 This act would take effect only upon approval of this act by a majority of the qualified
4 electors of the said city of Providence voting at a general or special election, which election, if held,
5 would be held prior to July 1, 2025.

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