

2021 -- S 0585

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- FOUNDATION LEVEL SCHOOL SUPPORT

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, Rogers, Archambault, Paolino, and Morgan

Date Introduced: March 11, 2021

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-7-20 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7 entitled "Foundation
2 Level School Support [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is
3 hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **16-7-20. Determination of state's share.**

5 (a) For each community the state's share shall be computed as follows: Let

6 R = state share ratio for the community.

7 v = adjusted equalized weighted assessed valuation for the community, as defined in
8 § 16-7-21(3).

9 V = sum of the values of v for all communities.

10 m = average daily membership of pupils in the community as defined in § 16-7-22(3).

11 M = total average daily membership of pupils in the state.

12 E = approved reimbursable expenditures for the community for the reference year minus
13 the excess costs of special education, tuitions, federal and state receipts, and other income.

14 Then the state share entitlement for the community shall be RE where

15 $R = 1 - 0.5vM/(Vm)$ through June 30, 2011, and $R = 1 - 0.475 vM/(Vm)$ beginning on July
16 1, 2011 and thereafter.

17 Except that in no case shall R be less than zero percent (0%). Excepting further, that in any
18 fiscal year, the aid provided pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall in no event be less than
19 the amount provided in the community in the previous fiscal year.

1 (b) Whenever any funds are appropriated for educational purposes, the funds shall be used
2 for educational purposes only and all state funds appropriated for educational purposes must be
3 used to supplement any and all money allocated by a city or town for educational purposes and in
4 no event shall state funds be used to supplant, directly or indirectly, any money allocated by a city
5 or town for educational purposes. The courts of this state shall enforce this section by writ of
6 mandamus.

7 (c) Notwithstanding the calculations in subsection (a), the hospital school at the Hasbro
8 Children's Hospital shall be reimbursed one hundred percent (100%) of all expenditures approved
9 by the council on elementary and secondary education in accordance with currently existing rules
10 and regulations for administering state aid, and subject to annual appropriations by the general
11 assembly including, but not limited to, expenditures for educational personnel, supplies, and
12 materials in the prior fiscal year.

13 (d) In the event the computation of the state's share for any local education agency as
14 outlined in subsection (a) is determined to have been calculated incorrectly after the state budget
15 for that fiscal year has been enacted, the commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall
16 notify affected local education agencies, the senate president, and the speaker of the house within
17 fifteen (15) days of the determination.

18 (e) Realignment of aid payments to the affected local education agencies pursuant to
19 subsection (d) shall occur in the following fiscal year:

20 (1) If the determination shows aid is underpaid to the local education agency, any amounts
21 owed shall be paid in equal monthly installments.

22 (2) If the determination shows aid was overpaid, the department of elementary and
23 secondary education shall recapture some amount of the aid from the overpaid local education
24 agency. The amount to be withheld shall be equal to the amount of the overpayment prorated to the
25 number of full months remaining in the fiscal year when the notification required in subsection (d)
26 was made.

27 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 provide that in determining local school aid, the state would annually
2 provide each community no less than an amount equal to the aid given in the preceding fiscal year.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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