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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- MAYORAL ACADEMIES

Introduced By: Senators Pearson, Murray, Gallo, and Thompson

Date Introduced: March 27, 2025

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-77.4-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-77.4 entitled "Mayoral
2 Academies [See Title 16 Chapter 97 — The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby
3 amended to read as follows:

4 **16-77.4-1. Entities eligible to apply to become, or for the expansion of, a mayoral**
5 **academy.**

6 (a) A “mayoral academy” means a charter school created by a mayor of any city or town
7 within the State of Rhode Island, acting by, or through, a nonprofit organization established for
8 said purpose (regardless of the time said nonprofit organization is in existence), that enrolls students
9 from more than one city or town, including both urban and non-urban communities, and that offers
10 an equal number of enrollments to students on a lottery basis; provided, further, that such mayoral
11 academies shall have a board of trustees or directors that is comprised of representatives from each
12 included city or town and is chaired by a mayor of an included city or town. [Provided further, that](#)
13 [the only voting members of the board of trustees or directors of a mayoral academy shall be the](#)
14 [mayor or, if there is no mayor, the town administrator, from each included city or town. The boards](#)
15 [of trustees or directors may have other nonvoting members, from each included city or town, who](#)
16 [shall serve in an advisory capacity.](#) The mayor from each city or town, or in the absence of a mayor,
17 the city or town council via a resolution or ordinance, shall approve the participation in the mayoral
18 academy’s catchment area for a proposed charter or an amendment to a charter for expansion. For
19 purposes of this chapter, the term “mayor” shall include any elected town administrator.

1 (b) No child shall be required to attend a mayoral academy, nor shall any teacher be
2 required to teach in a mayoral academy. The school committee of the district in which a mayoral
3 academy is located shall make accommodations to facilitate the transfer of students who do not
4 wish to participate in a mayoral academy into other public schools. It shall also make
5 accommodations for those students who wish to transfer into the mayoral academy as space
6 permits. If the total number of students who are eligible to attend and apply to a mayoral academy
7 is greater than the number of spaces available, the mayoral academy shall conduct a lottery to
8 determine which students shall be admitted.

9 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 only a mayor or town administrator could be a voting member
2 of the board of directors or trustees for a mayoral academy. The act would also authorize other
3 nonvoting members on the board of directors and trustees, from each included city or town that the
4 mayoral academy serves.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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