

2014 -- H 7578

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Representatives Williams, Edwards, O'Brien, Messier, and Slater

Date Introduced: February 26, 2014

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-21-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-21 entitled "Health and
2 Safety of Pupils" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-21-1. Transportation of public and private school pupils.** -- (a) The school
4 committee of any town or city shall provide suitable transportation to and from school for pupils
5 attending public and private schools of elementary and high school grades, except private schools
6 that are operated for profit, who reside so far from the public or private school which the pupil
7 attends as to make the pupil's regular attendance at school impractical and for any pupil whose
8 regular attendance would otherwise be impracticable on account of physical disability or
9 infirmity.

10 (b) For transportation provided to children enrolled in grades kindergarten through five
11 (5), school bus monitors, other than the school bus driver, shall be required on all school bound
12 and home bound routes. Variances to the requirement for a school bus monitor may be granted by
13 the commissioner of elementary and secondary education if he or she finds that an alternative
14 plan provides substantially equivalent safety for children. For the purposes of this section a
15 "school bus monitor" means any person sixteen (16) years of age or older.

16 (1) For transportation provided to children enrolled in grades kindergarten through six
17 (6), it shall be required that a parent, guardian or authorized person be present at the child's
18 designated school bound and home bound bus stops.

19 (2) Any child not met at his or her designated home bound bus stop by a parent, guardian

1 or authorized person, shall remain on the bus and be returned to the school or bus terminal as
2 determined by school policy.

3 (3) Parents or guardians must notify the school in writing with the name, age and
4 relationship of the person authorized to accept the child at the designated home bound bus stop;
5 provided, no authorization shall be allowed for persons under the age of sixteen (16) years old.

6 (c) No school committee shall negotiate, extend, or renew any transportation contract
7 unless such contract enables the district to participate in the statewide transportation system,
8 without penalty to the district, upon implementation of the statewide transportation system
9 described in RIGL sections 16-21.1-7 and 16-21.1-8. Notice of the implementation of the
10 statewide transportation system for in-district transportation shall be provided in writing by the
11 department of elementary and secondary education to the superintendent of each district upon
12 implementation. Upon implementation of the statewide system of transportation for all students,
13 each school committee shall purchase transportation services for their own resident students by
14 accessing the statewide system on a fee-for-service basis for each student; provided, however,
15 that any school committee that fulfills its transportation obligations primarily through the use of
16 district-owned buses or district employees may continue to do so. Variances to the requirement
17 for the purchase of transportation services through the statewide transportation system for non-
18 public and non-shared routes may be granted by the commissioner of elementary and secondary
19 education if the commissioner finds that an alternative system is more cost effective. All fees paid
20 for transportation services provided to students under the statewide system shall be paid into a
21 statewide student transportation services restricted receipt account within the department of
22 elementary and secondary education. Payments from the account shall be limited to payments to
23 the transportation service provider and transportation system consultants. This restricted receipt
24 account shall not be subject to the indirect cost recoveries provisions set forth in section 35-4-27.

25 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 - HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

1 This act would require that for school bus transportation provided to children enrolled in
2 grades kindergarten through six (6), a parent, guardian or authorized person be present at the
3 child's designated bus stops.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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