

2021 -- H 6424

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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 (SEE TITLE
16 CHAPTER 97 -- THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT)

Introduced By: Representative Lauren H. Carson

Date Introduced: June 11, 2021

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-7-40 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 **16-7-40. Increased school housing ratio.**

5 (a)(1) In the case of regional school districts, the school housing aid ratio shall be increased
6 by two percent (2%) for each grade so consolidated.

7 (2) Regional school districts undertaking renovation project(s) shall receive an increased
8 share ratio of four percent (4%) for those specific project(s) only, in addition to the combined share
9 ratio calculated in § 16-7-39 and this subsection.

10 (3) Districts with free and reduced lunch student populations above twenty percent (20%)
11 will have their minimum housing aid share increased to forty percent (40%), in addition to the
12 combined share ratio calculated in § 16-7-39 and this subsection. This provision only applies to
13 projects that are completed after July 1, 2020.

14 (b) In the case of projects undertaken by districts specifically for the purposes of school
15 safety and security, the school housing aid share ratio shall be increased by five percent (5%) for
16 these specific projects only, in the calculation of school housing aid. The increased share ratio shall
17 continue to be applied for as long as the project(s) receives state housing aid. In order to qualify for
18 the increased share ratio, seventy-five percent (75%) of the project costs must be specifically

1 directed to school safety and security measures. The council on elementary and secondary
2 education shall promulgate rules and regulations for the administration and operation of this
3 section.

4 (c) For purposes of addressing health and safety deficiencies as defined by the school
5 building authority, including the remediation of hazardous materials, the school housing aid ratio
6 shall be increased by five percent (5%) so long as the construction of the project ~~commences by~~
7 ~~December 30, 2022~~, is completed by December 30, 2027, and a two hundred fifty million dollar
8 (\$250,000,000) general obligation bond is approved on the November 2018 ballot. In order to
9 qualify for the increased share ratio, twenty-five percent (25%) of the project costs or a minimum
10 of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) must be specifically directed to this purpose.

11 (d) For purposes of educational enhancement, including projects devoted to the
12 enhancement of early childhood education and career and technical education, the school housing
13 aid ratio shall be increased by five percent (5%) so long as construction of the project commences
14 by December 30, 2022, is completed by December 30, 2027, and a two hundred fifty million dollar
15 (\$250,000,000) general obligation bond is approved on the November 2018 ballot. In order to
16 qualify for the increased share ratio, twenty-five percent (25%) of the project costs or a minimum
17 of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) must be specifically directed to these purposes.

18 (e) For replacement of a facility that has a facilities condition index of sixty-five percent
19 (65%) or higher, the school housing ratio shall be increased by five percent (5%) so long as
20 construction of the project commences by December 30, 2023, is completed by December 30, 2028,
21 does not receive a bonus pursuant to subsection (f) or subsection (g), and a two hundred fifty million
22 dollar (\$250,000,000) general obligation bond is approved on the November 2018 ballot. In order
23 to qualify for the increased share ratio, twenty-five percent (25%) of the project costs or a minimum
24 of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) must be specifically directed to this purpose.

25 (f) For any new construction or renovation that increases the functional utilization of any
26 facility from less than sixty percent (60%) to more than eighty percent (80%), including the
27 consolidation of school buildings within or across districts, the school housing aid ratio shall be
28 increased by five percent (5%) so long as construction of the project commences by December 30,
29 2023, is completed by December 30, 2028, and a two hundred fifty million dollar (\$250,000,000)
30 general obligation bond is approved on the November 2018 ballot. In order to qualify for the
31 increased share ratio, twenty-five percent (25%) of the project costs or a minimum of five hundred
32 thousand dollars (\$500,000) must be specifically directed to this purpose.

33 (g) For any new construction or renovation that decreases the functional utilization of any
34 facility from more than one hundred twenty percent (120%) to between eighty-five percent (85%)

1 to one hundred five percent (105%), the school housing ratio shall be increased by five percent
2 (5%) so long as construction of the project commences by December 30, 2023, is completed by
3 December 30, 2028, and a two hundred fifty million dollar (\$250,000,000) general obligation bond
4 is approved on the November 2018 ballot. In order to qualify for the increased share ratio, twenty-
5 five percent (25%) of the project costs or a minimum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000)
6 must be specifically directed to this purpose.

7 (h) For consolidation of two (2) or more school buildings, within or across districts into
8 one school building, the school housing aid ratio shall be increased by five percent (5%) so long as
9 construction of the project commences by December 30, 2023, is completed by December 30, 2028,
10 a two hundred fifty million dollar (\$250,000,000) general obligation bond is approved on the
11 November 2018 ballot, and does not receive a bonus pursuant to subsection (f) or subsection (g).
12 In order to qualify for the increased share ratio, twenty-five percent (25%) of the project costs or a
13 minimum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) must be specifically directed to this purpose.

14 (i) Any regionalized and/or non-regionalized school district receiving an increased share
15 ratio for a project approved prior to July 1, 2018, shall continue to receive the increased share ratio
16 for as long as the project receives state housing aid.

17 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 -- FOUNDATION LEVEL SCHOOL SUPPORT (SEE TITLE
16 CHAPTER 97 -- THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT)

1 This act would provide that districts with free and reduced lunch populations above twenty
2 percent (20%) would have their minimum housing aid share increased to forty percent (40%) for
3 projects completed after July 1, 2020. It would also provide that the school housing aid ratio be
4 increased to five percent (5%) so long as the construction project is completed by December 30,
5 2027, whereas the prior provision would mandate that it commence by December 30, 2022.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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