

2022 -- H 7061

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION [SEE
TITLE 16 CHAPTER 97 -- THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT]

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Potter, Casimiro, Baginski, Giraldo, and S
Lima

Date Introduced: January 12, 2022

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-59 of the General Laws entitled "Council on Postsecondary
2 Education" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-59-29. Student access to academic transcripts.**

4 (a) Institutions of higher education shall not withhold a student's academic transcripts
5 solely due to that student's failure to pay any loan payments, fines, fees, tuition, or other expenses
6 owed to the institution, except that a student's academic credits and grades may be withheld for
7 any course for which that student's tuition and mandatory course fees are not paid in full. For
8 students paying on a per semester basis, such an institution may withhold a student's academic
9 credits or grades for any course taken in a semester for which that student's tuition and mandatory
10 course fees have not been paid.

11 (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent an institution of higher education
12 from withholding a student's diploma or degree due to that student's failure to pay any loan
13 payments, fines, fees, tuition, or other expenses owed to the institution.

14 (c) The council shall promulgate rules and regulations consistent with this section.

15 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 -- COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION [SEE
TITLE 16 CHAPTER 97 -- THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT]

- 1 This act would prohibit a college or university from withholding a student's academic
- 2 transcript due to outstanding tuition fees.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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