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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOLS

Introduced By: Senators Tassoni, Picard, and Cote

Date Introduced: March 10, 2011

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 16 of the General Laws entitled "EDUCATION" is hereby amended
2 by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 93

4 THE RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOLS ACT

5 **16-93-1. Short title.** -- This chapter shall be known and may be cited as "The Recovery
6 High Schools Act."

7 **16-93-2. Definitions.** -- As used in this chapter, the following words shall have the
8 following meaning unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

9 (1) "Recovery High School" means a public school or collaborative program for students
10 diagnosed with substance use disorder or dependency, as defined by the diagnostic and statistical
11 manual of mental disorders IV-TR, that provides: (1) A comprehensive four (4) year high school
12 education; and (2) A structured plan of recovery.

13 (2) "Board of regents" means the Rhode Island board of regents for elementary and
14 secondary education.

15 (3) "Commissioner" means the Rhode Island commissioner of elementary and secondary
16 education.

17 (4) "Sending school district" means the district where the student attending or planning to
18 attend a recovery high school resides.

19 **16-93-3. Recovery high schools established.** -- (a) Any persons or entities eligible to

1 establish a public charter school may submit a proposal to establish a recovery high school. Said
2 proposal shall be submitted to the commissioner and to the school committee of the district where
3 the recovery high school is to be located no later than December 1st of the school year before the
4 school year in which the recovery high school is to begin operation. The approval of the board of
5 regents and the school committee shall be required in order for the recovery high school to begin
6 operation.

7 (b) By approval of the proposal upon the recommendation of the commissioner, the board
8 of regents will be deemed to have authorized all necessary variances from law and regulation
9 enumerated in the proposal.

10 **16-93-4. Transfer of aid.** -- (a) Any school district in Rhode Island that may have a
11 student or students who are currently or were last enrolled in said district and who are considered
12 both clinically and academically appropriate for placement at a Rhode Island recovery high
13 school referred to such school. If said student is admitted to said school, the sending school
14 district shall ensure that tuition for students who attend the recovery high school is paid, and
15 further, that upon completion of all other graduation requirements, said student or students shall
16 receive a diploma.

17 (b) A sending school district shall transfer the per pupil allotment it receives pursuant to
18 chapter 16-7.2 ("The Education Equity and Property Tax Relief Act") to a recovery high school
19 for any student attending the recovery high school and meeting the following criteria: (1) The
20 student is currently enrolled in the district or currently resides in the municipality in which the
21 district is located; (2) The student is considered by a clinician, to be clinically appropriate, using
22 the criteria for substance use disorders as defined in the diagnostic and statistical manual of
23 mental disorders IV-TR; and (3) The student meets all matriculation criteria as outlined by the
24 sending district and the department of elementary and secondary education, with determination of
25 academic eligibility based on existing documentation provided by the district. The district and the
26 recovery high school shall arrange to confer a diploma when a student completes state and
27 district-mandated graduation requirements.

28 (c) A recovery high school shall submit to the board of regents data considered necessary
29 by the board to provide information regarding each student's academic performance. A recovery
30 high school shall also submit to the department of health data regarding each student's recovery.

31 (d) The board of regents, in consultation with the department of health, shall promulgate
32 rules and regulations as necessary to implement and carry out the intent of this chapter.

33 **16-93-5. Start-up of initial recovery high school.** -- The general assembly shall, by
34 appropriation, provide funding for one-time start-up costs for recovery high schools as the general

1 assembly determines to be in the best interests of and in furtherance of its duties to promote
2 schools and education pursuant to article XII of the constitution of Rhode Island.

3 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 - RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOLS

- 1 This act would allow for the establishment of recovery high schools for students
- 2 diagnosed with substance use disorder or dependency.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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