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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CELL PHONES IN SCHOOL

Introduced By: Senator John J. Tassoni

Date Introduced: March 24, 2011

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-21 of the General Laws entitled "Health and Safety of Pupils" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-21-33. Use of cell phones in school prohibited.** – (a) The use of a cell phone within a
4 school during regular school hours shall be prohibited, except in the case of an emergency of a
5 health and/or safety matter. For purposes of this section, the term “regular school day” shall mean
6 those hours which encompass the period when classes are normally in session at the school and
7 for which students are to be in attendance, as well as such ancillary times that are part of the
8 traditional school day, including, but not limited to, homeroom, study hall periods, lunch and
9 recess.

10 (b) Penalty for violations of subsection (a):

11 (1) Any student who violates any of the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall
12 receive a written warning, a copy of which shall be provided to the student’s parent(s) or legal
13 guardian.

14 (2) For a second (2nd) violation under this section, a student shall relinquish his or her cell
15 phone to the school administration or appropriate person for three (3) days and lose all cell phone
16 privileges for said three (3) days. The administration shall provide the student’s parent(s) or legal
17 guardian with notification of this violation and its consequences including the date when cell
18 phone privileges will be restored.

19 (3) For a third (3rd) violation under this section, a student shall relinquish his or her cell

1 phone to the school administration or appropriate person for five (5) days and lose all cell phone
2 privileges for said five (5) days. The administration shall provide the student's parent(s) or legal
3 guardian with notification of this violation and its consequences including the date when cell
4 phone privileges will be restored.

5 (4) For a fourth(4th) or subsequent violation under this section, a student shall relinquish
6 his or her cell phone to the school administration or appropriate person for the remainder of the
7 school year and lose all cell phone privileges for the remainder of the school year. The
8 administration shall provide the student's parent(s) or legal guardian with notification of this
9 violation and its consequences including the date when cell phone privileges will be restored.

10 (c) The school administration shall have the authority to confiscate any other cell phone
11 the student may possess during the period when cell phone privileges have been revoked. The
12 administration shall return the cell phone(s) to the student when cell phone privileges are
13 restored.

14 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 -- CELL PHONES IN SCHOOL

1 This act would prohibit the use of a cell phone by a student within a school during regular
2 school hours.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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