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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - THE RHODE ISLAND CHILDREN'S CRUSADE FOR
HIGHER EDUCATION

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Metts, Satchell, and Pearson

Date Introduced: May 11, 2017

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The title of Chapter 16-70 of the General Laws entitled "The Rhode Island
2 Children's Crusade for Higher Education [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of
3 Education Act]" is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 ~~CHAPTER 16-70~~

5 ~~The Rhode Island Children's Crusade for Higher Education [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode~~
6 ~~Island Board of Education Act]~~

7 CHAPTER 16-70

8 THE COLLEGE CRUSADE SCHOLARSHIP [SEE TITLE 16 CHAPTER 97 - THE RHODE
9 ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT]

10 SECTION 2. Sections 16-70-1, 16-70-2, 16-70-3, 16-70-4, 16-70-5 and 16-70-6 of the
11 General Laws in Chapter 16-70 entitled "The Rhode Island Children's Crusade for Higher
12 Education [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" are hereby
13 amended to read as follows:

14 **16-70-1. Short title.**

15 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "~~Rhode Island Children's Crusade~~
16 ~~for Higher Education Act~~" "College Crusade Scholarship Act".

17 **16-70-2. Legislative findings.**

18 It is found and declared as follows:

1 (1) Rhode Island must continue to develop the educational and ~~vocational~~ career and
2 technical skills of its ~~citizens~~ students for its continued economic development, prosperity, and
3 for maintaining and improving its quality of life.

4 (2) The present and future workforce ~~will be requiring~~ requires ever higher levels of
5 educational and ~~vocational~~ career and technical training in order to ~~maintain~~ improve the
6 economic prosperity of our state and nation.

7 ~~(3) The state's school drop-out rate continues to remain at unacceptable levels, precluding~~
8 ~~substantial numbers of students from pursuing the higher levels of education and vocational~~
9 ~~training required to achieve desirable employment opportunities.~~ With regard to high school
10 graduation and college going rates, the state's low-income students continue to lag behind their
11 peers.

12 (4) A comprehensive, long range strategy is essential if this critical problem is to be
13 addressed. This plan will need to incorporate the elements of programs which have demonstrated
14 success in ~~dealing with at-risk youth~~ supporting underrepresented, first generation and low-
15 income students, including appropriate incentives to encourage and support ~~at-risk youth~~ these
16 students toward the goal of graduating from school and pursuing and completing higher levels of
17 education and training.

18 (5) This plan will require the involvement and support of ~~parents, guardians~~ families,
19 educators, and the community at large, working closely with ~~at-risk~~ underserved students, and
20 must provide students with a well-organized and directed ~~mentoring~~ advisory program to include
21 intensive orientation and training of these ~~mentors~~ advisors.

22 ~~**16-70-3. Program for the support of the Rhode Island children's crusade for higher**~~
23 ~~**education established. Program for the support of the college crusade established.**~~

24 The ~~board of governors for higher education~~ council on postsecondary education is
25 empowered to establish and provide as part of the operation of the office of ~~higher education~~ the
26 postsecondary commissioner methods and procedures for the state's support of the ~~Rhode Island~~
27 ~~children's college~~ crusade scholarship and provide for higher education. ~~As needed, the board of~~
28 ~~governors shall seek~~ financial and technical assistance as needed ~~from Rhode Island higher~~
29 ~~education assistance authority.~~

30 ~~**16-70-4. Board of governors support program -- Powers and duties. Council on**~~
31 ~~**postsecondary education support program -- Powers and duties.**~~

32 (a) The ~~board of governors for higher education~~ council on postsecondary education shall
33 have the following powers and duties:

34 (1) To prepare with the assistance of the commissioner of higher education and to present

1 annually to the state budget officer in accordance with § 35-3-4, as part of the state higher
2 education budget, a line item budget request specifically designated as the state's share of support
3 for the ~~Rhode Island children's crusade~~ college crusade of Rhode Island ~~for higher education~~. The
4 budget shall be designated as a specific line item budget request and shall be presented as part of
5 the budget of ~~the office of higher education~~ the postsecondary commissioner.

6 (2) To provide, through its office of ~~higher education and the commissioner of higher~~
7 ~~education~~ the postsecondary commissioner the authority to designate the college crusade of
8 Rhode Island, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization registered with the Rhode Island secretary of
9 state, as the entity that will administer and operate all program services and manage scholarship
10 resources ~~administrative and organizational support services, including equipment, space, and~~
11 ~~personnel to and on behalf of the Rhode Island children's crusade for higher education~~
12 ~~foundation, its officers, and board of directors to the extent that these services are agreed to by the~~
13 ~~board of governors for higher education and the board of directors of the Rhode Island children's~~
14 ~~crusade foundation~~.

15 **16-70-5. Budget and appropriations.**

16 The general assembly shall annually appropriate any sums as it deems necessary as the
17 state's share for the support and maintenance of the ~~Rhode Island children's crusade for higher~~
18 ~~education~~ the college crusade, including operational and scholarship support, and the state
19 controller is authorized and directed to draw his or her orders upon the general treasurer for the
20 payment of the appropriations upon receipt by him or her of the proper voucher ~~as the board of~~
21 ~~governors for higher education~~ the office of the postsecondary commissioner may provide. The
22 ~~board of governors for higher education~~ office of the postsecondary commissioner shall present
23 the voucher to the state controller no later than the last day of the first month of the fiscal year for
24 which the appropriation is made and this appropriation shall be remitted to the accounts of the
25 ~~Rhode Island children's crusade for higher education foundation~~ college crusade of Rhode Island
26 by the state treasurer no later than the last day of the second month of the fiscal year.

27 **16-70-6. Audit requirements.**

28 The ~~Rhode Island children's crusade for higher education~~ college crusade of Rhode Island
29 ~~is required to obtain the approval of director of administration and the auditor general~~ shall
30 complete an annual audit completed by prior to the employment of private auditors. Audit work
31 papers of the private auditors shall be made available upon request to the auditor general and/or
32 the director of administration for their review, at the completion of the audit. The audit report
33 shall be furnished to the auditor general and the director of administration.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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RELATING TO EDUCATION - THE RHODE ISLAND CHILDREN'S CRUSADE FOR
HIGHER EDUCATION

1 This act would establish the college crusade of Rhode Island, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
2 organization registered with the Rhode Island secretary of state, as the entity that will administer
3 and operate all program services and manage scholarship resources.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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