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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- FOUNDATION LEVEL SCHOOL SUPPORT

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, Pinga, Blais, Doyle, and Sheehan

Date Introduced: January 13, 2010

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-7-20 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7 entitled "Foundation
2 Level School Support" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-7-20. Determination of state's share.** -- (a) For each community the state's share
4 shall be computed as follows: Let

5 R = state share ratio for the community.

6 v = adjusted equalized weighted assessed valuation for the community, as defined in subsection
7 16-7-21(3).

8 V = sum of the values of v for all communities.

9 m = average daily membership of pupils in the community as defined in subsection 16-7-22(3).

10 M = total average daily membership of pupils in the state.

11 E = approved reimbursable expenditures for the community for the reference year minus the
12 excess costs of special education, tuitions, federal and state receipts, and other income.

13 Then the state share entitlement for the community shall be RE where

14 $R = 1 - \del{4.5} 0.5vM/(Vm)$, Except that in no case shall R be less than zero percent (0%). Excepting
15 further, that in any fiscal year, the aid provided pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall in
16 no event be less than the amount provided to the community in the previous fiscal year. This

17 percentage shall be applied to one hundred percent (100%) of all expenditures approved by the
18 board of regents for elementary and secondary education in accordance with currently existing
19 rules and regulations for administering state aid, including but not limited to the setting of

1 appropriate limits for expenditures eligible for reimbursement; provided, however, that the costs
2 of special education required under chapter 24 of this title shall be excluded; and the costs for
3 regional vocational school operation and tuition which are funded in chapter 45 of this title for the
4 reference year 1987-1988 and thereafter, shall be excluded. "Special education costs" mean the
5 costs that are in excess of the average per pupil expenditure in average daily membership for the
6 second school year preceding. The average per pupil expenditure in average daily membership of
7 those students receiving special education shall be included in the cost of the basic program for
8 the reference year, as "reference year" is defined in section 16-7-16. Expenditures from federal
9 money in lieu of taxes shall not be counted and, provided further that the individual communities
10 in the Chariho regional districts shall each receive the seven and five hundredths percent (7.05%)
11 for those grades serviced by the regional school district. (b) The department of elementary and
12 secondary education shall base reimbursement on one hundred percent (100%) of the
13 expenditures for its state operated schools in accordance with the reference year provision as
14 defined in section 16-7-16(11). Any funds to supplement the reimbursement shall be appropriated
15 and included in the department budget. (c) This section shall apply to the School for the Deaf and
16 the Davies Vocational School notwithstanding any provisions of this section to the contrary. (d)
17 Whenever any funds are appropriated for educational purposes, the funds shall be used for
18 educational purposes only and all state funds appropriated for educational purposes must be used
19 to supplement any and all money allocated by a city or town for educational purposes and in no
20 event shall state funds be used to supplant, directly or indirectly, any money allocated by a city or
21 town for educational purposes. The courts of this state shall enforce this section by writ of
22 mandamus. (e) Notwithstanding the calculations in subsection (a), the hospital school at the
23 Hasbro Children's Hospital shall be reimbursed one hundred percent (100%) of all expenditures
24 approved by the board of regents for elementary and secondary education in accordance with
25 currently existing rules and regulations for administering state aid, and subject to annual
26 appropriations by the general assembly including, but not limited to, expenditures for educational
27 personnel, supplies, and materials in the prior fiscal year.

28 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO EDUCATION -- FOUNDATION LEVEL SCHOOL SUPPORT

1 This act would provide that in determining local school aid, the state would annually
2 provide each community no less than an amount equal to the aid given in the preceding fiscal
3 year.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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