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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Senators Picard, and Pearson

Date Introduced: January 09, 2014

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-21-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-21 entitled "Health and  
2 Safety of Pupils" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-21-1. Transportation of public and private school pupils.** -- (a) The school  
4 committee of any town or city shall provide suitable transportation to and from school for pupils  
5 attending public and private schools of elementary and high school grades, except private schools  
6 that are operated for profit, who reside so far from the public or private school which the pupil  
7 attends as to make the pupil's regular attendance at school impractical and for any pupil whose  
8 regular attendance would otherwise be impracticable on account of physical disability or  
9 infirmity.

10 (b) The school committee of any town or city shall have discretion to utilize, authorize,  
11 or employ school bus monitors. ~~For transportation provided to children enrolled in grades~~  
12 ~~kindergarten through five (5), school bus monitors, other than the school bus driver, shall be~~  
13 ~~required on all school bound and home bound routes. Variances to the requirement for a school~~  
14 ~~bus monitor may be granted by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education if he or~~  
15 ~~she finds that an alternative plan provides substantially equivalent safety for children.~~ For the  
16 purposes of this section a "school bus monitor" means any person sixteen (16) years of age or  
17 older who is not also the driver of the school bus.

18 (c) No school committee shall negotiate, extend, or renew any transportation contract  
19 unless such contract enables the district to participate in the statewide transportation system,

1 without penalty to the district, upon implementation of the statewide transportation system  
2 described in RIGL sections 16-21.1-7 and 16-21.1-8. Notice of the implementation of the  
3 statewide transportation system for in-district transportation shall be provided in writing by the  
4 department of elementary and secondary education to the superintendent of each district upon  
5 implementation. Upon implementation of the statewide system of transportation for all students,  
6 each school committee shall purchase transportation services for their own resident students by  
7 accessing the statewide system on a fee-for-service basis for each student; provided, however,  
8 that any school committee that fulfills its transportation obligations primarily through the use of  
9 district-owned buses or district employees may continue to do so. Variances to the requirement  
10 for the purchase of transportation services through the statewide transportation system for non-  
11 public and non-shared routes may be granted by the commissioner of elementary and secondary  
12 education if the commissioner finds that an alternative system is more cost effective. All fees paid  
13 for transportation services provided to students under the statewide system shall be paid into a  
14 statewide student transportation services restricted receipt account within the department of  
15 elementary and secondary education. Payments from the account shall be limited to payments to  
16 the transportation service provider and transportation system consultants. This restricted receipt  
17 account shall not be subject to the indirect cost recoveries provisions set forth in section 35-4-27.

18 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 - HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

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1           This act would authorize school committees to use school bus monitors at the discretion  
2 of the committee, and would remove the requirement that bus monitors in addition to the bus  
3 driver be on certain school buses.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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