

2016 -- S 2744

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LC005023
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Introduced By: Senators Pearson, Picard, Nesselbush, Lombardi, and Miller

Date Introduced: March 10, 2016

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-7.2-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7.2 entitled "The
2 Education Equity and Property Tax Relief Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:
3 **16-7.2-5. Charter public schools, the William M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical**
4 **High School, and the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center.** -- (a) Charter
5 public schools as defined in chapter 77 of this title, the William M. Davies, Jr. Career and
6 Technical High School (Davies) and the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center (the
7 Met Center) shall be funded pursuant to § 16-7.2-3. If the October 1 actual enrollment data for
8 any charter public school shows a ten percent (10%) or greater change from the prior year
9 enrollment which is used as the reference year average daily membership, the ~~third and fourth~~
10 ~~quarter~~ last six (6) monthly payments to the charter public school will be adjusted to reflect actual
11 enrollment. The state share of the permanent foundation education aid shall be paid by the state
12 directly to the charter public schools, Davies, and the Met Center pursuant to § 16-7.2-9 and shall
13 be calculated using the state share ratio of the district of residence of the student as set forth in §
14 16-7.2-4. The department of elementary and secondary education shall provide the general
15 assembly with the calculation of the state share of permanent foundation education aid for charter
16 public schools delineated by school district. The department shall also provide the general
17 assembly a performance dashboard indicating the per-pupil expenditures of each school district
18 and charter school broken down by revenue sources and expenditure categories. The department
19 shall provide, within the same dashboard, student performance indicators for each school district

1 or charter school.

2 (b) The local share of education funding, as defined by the department of elementary and
3 secondary education and approved by the General Assembly, shall be paid to the charter public
4 school, Davies, and the Met Center by the district of residence of the student and shall be the
5 local per-pupil cost, which consists of ~~calculated by dividing~~ the local appropriation to education
6 from property taxes, net of debt service, ~~and~~ capital projects, and the local share of education
7 funding paid to the charter public schools, Davies, and the Met Center in reference year 2014, as
8 defined in the uniform chart of accounts, divided by the average daily membership for each city
9 and town, pursuant to § 16-7-22, for the reference year.

10 ~~(b)~~(c) Local district payments to charter public schools, Davies, and the Met Center for
11 each district's students enrolled in these schools shall be made on a quarterly basis in July,
12 October, January and April; however, the first local district payment shall be made by August 15
13 instead of July. Failure of the community to make the local district payment for its student(s)
14 enrolled in a charter public school, Davies, and/or the Met Center may result in the withholding
15 of state education aid pursuant to § 16-7-31.

16 (d) Beginning in FY 2017, in school districts with charter public school, Davies, and the
17 Met Center enrollments that, combined, comprise five percent (5%) or more of the average daily
18 membership as defined in §16-7-22, the state shall pay in full the local share or contribution of
19 charter public school tuition for the number of students attending the charter public schools in
20 excess of five percent (5%) of the average daily membership. These payments shall be credited to
21 each sending district in proportion to the percentage of students from the district who are
22 attending the charter public school. As used in this subsection, the term "charter public school"
23 includes Davies and the Met Center, as well as all district charter schools, independent charter
24 schools, and mayoral academies.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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1 This act would provide that beginning in FY 2017, the state would pay the local share or
2 contribution of charter public school tuition for the number of students attending the charter
3 public schools in excess of five percent (5%) the average daily membership of all pupils attending
4 public schools within those school districts. This act would also incorporate proposals from the
5 governor's proposed FY 2016-2017 budget regarding charter school funding.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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