

2010 -- S 2776

LC02249

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COOPERATIVE SERVICE AMONG SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, P Fogarty, and DeVall

Date Introduced: April 13, 2010

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-3.1 of the General Laws entitled "Cooperative Service Among
2 School Districts" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-3.1-14. Textbooks.** – The regional collaboratives established in sections 16-3.1-8, 16-
4 3.1-9, 16-3.1-9.1, and 16-3.1-10 shall be responsible for the loaning of textbooks in accordance
5 with the provisions of sections 16-23-1, 16-23-2, and 16-23-3.

6 SECTION 2. Sections 16-23-2 and 16-23-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-23
7 entitled "Textbooks" are hereby amended to read as follows:

8 **16-23-2. Loan of textbooks.** -- (a) The ~~school committee of every community as it is~~
9 ~~defined in section 16-7-16~~ regional collaboratives established in sections 16-3.1-9, 16-3.1-9.1,
10 and 16-3.1-10 shall furnish upon request, at the expense of ~~the community~~ their respective
11 constituent school committees, textbooks to all students in grades K-12 in the fields of
12 mathematics, science, modern foreign languages, English/language arts and history/social studies,
13 appearing on the list of textbooks published by the commissioner of elementary and secondary
14 education as provided in section 16-23-3, to all pupils of elementary and secondary school grades
15 resident in the community, the textbooks to be loaned to the pupils free of charge, subject to any
16 rules and regulations as to care and custody that the ~~school committee~~ regional collaborative may
17 prescribe; provided, however, that the regional collaborative will arrange for the delivery of
18 requested textbooks to the administrative office of the school district wherein the student resides.

19 For loan purposes, non-public schools may not change a textbook assignment in a field more

1 often than once in a three (3) year period as required of public schools in accordance with the
2 provisions of section 16-23-1. Nothing in this section shall be construed as forbidding non-public
3 schools from requiring the use of any textbook, consistent with the provisions of this chapter, that
4 does not adhere to said limitation, provided that the textbook is furnished to the student through a
5 means other than the ~~school-committee~~ regional collaborative of which the student's city or town
6 of residence is a constituent member.

7 (b) Every ~~school-committee~~ regional collaborative shall also furnish at the expense of ~~the~~
8 ~~community~~ its respective constituent school committees, all other textbooks and school supplies
9 used in the public schools of the community, the other textbooks and supplies to be loaned to the
10 pupils of the public schools free of charge, subject to any rules and regulations as to care and
11 custody that the ~~school-committee~~ regional collaborative may prescribe. School books removed
12 from school use may be distributed to pupils, and any textbook may become the property of a
13 pupil who has completed the use of it in school, subject to rules and regulations prescribed by the
14 ~~school-committee~~ regional collaborative.

15 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to forbid requiring or accepting from a
16 pupil a deposit of a reasonable amount of money as a guaranty for the return of school property
17 other than the books and supplies required in this section to be loaned free of charge, provided
18 that the ~~school-committee~~ regional collaborative shall make suitable rules and regulations for the
19 safekeeping and return of deposits; and, provided, further, that in establishing schedules for
20 deposits, the ~~school-committee~~ regional collaborative should include provision for waiver of
21 deposit due to financial hardship.

22 **16-23-3. Published textbook list.** – (a) The commissioner shall publish annually, not
23 later than March 1st of each calendar year, a list of textbooks in use in the public schools in the
24 fields of mathematics, science, modern foreign languages, English/language arts and
25 history/social studies to all students in grades K-12. The list shall be published for the purpose of
26 the loan of the textbooks to all resident pupils as provided for in section 16-23-2 and shall not
27 include any textbooks of a sectarian nature or containing sectarian material.

28 (b) All schools in this state must submit their textbook orders no later than July 1st of
29 each calendar year.

30 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2011.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COOPERATIVE SERVICE AMONG SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- 1 This act would require regional collaboratives to distribute textbooks in accordance with
- 2 Rhode Island law.
- 3 This act would take effect on January 1, 2011.

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