

2016 -- S 2867 SUBSTITUTE A

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LC005197/SUB A
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- PUBLIC PREPARATORY ACADEMIES

Introduced By: Senators Pichardo, Crowley, Metts, Gallo, and Goodwin

Date Introduced: March 31, 2016

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 [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby
3 amended by adding thereto the following section:

4 **16-3.1-21. YouthBuild Preparatory Academy.** – (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of
5 any general or special law to the contrary, the school committees of the cities of Providence and
6 Central Falls are authorized and empowered to initiate and implement cooperative efforts,
7 including, but not limited to, collaborative use of technology, to provide an alternative, diploma-
8 granting secondary education program to be known as the YouthBuild Preparatory Academy
9 (hereinafter "academy") for their respective resident students ages fourteen (14) to twenty-one
10 (21) who are achieving limited success in traditional settings.

11 (1) The purpose of this section is to further enable the school committees of the cities of
12 Providence and Central Falls:

13 (i) To support students at risk of school failure, with a special focus on the diverse needs
14 of urban students, to create an environment for individual growth, and to cultivate social and
15 emotional development;

16 (ii) To offer a rigorous and relevant standards-driven experiential learning community,
17 and to provide college and career preparatory education based on guided, project-based core
18 curriculum with an emphasis on education, human services, and community development; and

19 (iii) To provide an alternative learning environment for disconnected and at-risk students

1 desiring to complete their academic careers in a setting that offers comprehensive support
2 services, accelerated academic curriculum, leadership development, and life skills that will enable
3 them to become resilient, self-sufficient adults.

4 (2) The YouthBuild Preparatory Academy shall be operated under the provisions of this
5 chapter. Students attending the YouthBuild Preparatory Academy will do so on a full-time basis
6 with the costs for their education at the academy being shared by the state and the district of
7 residence as described in §16-7.2-5.

8 (3) The YouthBuild Preparatory Academy shall be governed by a board of trustees, with
9 the exception of those powers and duties reserved by the commissioner of elementary and
10 secondary education, the board of education, and the school committees of the cities of
11 Providence and Central Falls, the board of trustees shall have the powers and duties of school
12 committees.

13 (4) Composition of the board of trustees - The board of trustees of the YouthBuild
14 Preparatory Academy shall consist of:

15 (i) One appointee of the board of trustees of the Central Falls school district;

16 (ii) One appointee of the school board of the city of Providence; and

17 (iii) The council on elementary and secondary education shall appoint the remaining
18 members of the board of trustees of the YouthBuild Preparatory Academy with input from the
19 commissioner of elementary and secondary education. Prior to enrolling students, the board of
20 trustees shall present a plan for the governance, administration, and operation of the YouthBuild
21 Preparatory Academy, including the nature and extent of parental, professional educator, and
22 community involvement in the governance and operation of the YouthBuild Preparatory
23 Academy, and the means of ensuring accountability, to the commissioner, the Providence and
24 Central Falls school districts, and the council on elementary and secondary education.

25 (5) The academy authorized under this section shall be subject to educational and
26 financial standards and reporting as deemed necessary by the department of elementary and
27 secondary education.

28 (b) The YouthBuild Preparatory Academy shall be eligible to receive other aid, grants,
29 Medicaid revenue, and any other revenue according to Rhode Island law, as though it is a school
30 district. Federal aid received by the state shall be used to benefit students in the YouthBuild
31 Preparatory Academy, if the school qualifies for the aid, as though it is a school district.

32 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 -- PUBLIC PREPARATORY ACADEMIES

- 1 This act would authorize the cities of Providence and Central Falls to create an alternative
- 2 academy for students having difficulty in traditional public school settings.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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