

2007 -- S 1053

LC03137

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2007

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Senators Paiva-Weed, and Algieri

Date Introduced: May 23, 2007

Referred To: Senate Housing & Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-21-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-21 entitled "Health and  
2 Safety of Pupils" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 ~~16-21-4. Fire drills required -- Failure to comply. -- Fire, evacuation and lockdown~~  
4 ~~drills required -- Failure to comply.~~ (a) It shall be the duty of the principal or other person in  
5 charge of every public school or private school, college, university, or postsecondary institutions  
6 or educational institution within the state, having more than twenty-five (25) pupils, to instruct  
7 and train the pupils by means of drills, so that they may in a sudden emergency be able to leave  
8 school buildings and dormitories in the shortest possible time and without confusion or panic. In  
9 all schools but colleges, universities, or postsecondary institutions, there shall be fifteen (15)  
10 drills or rapid dismissals during the school year, at least eight (8) of which shall be held during  
11 the months of September, October, and November. The remaining seven (7) drills or rapid  
12 dismissals shall be held at the discretion of the principal or person in charge of the school. At  
13 least four (4) drills or rapid dismissals shall be obstructed by means of which at least one or more  
14 exits and stairways in the school building are blocked off or not used and at least two (2) of the  
15 obstructed drills shall be held during the months of September and October. There shall be two  
16 (2) evacuation drills and two (2) lockdown drills included among the fifteen (15) mandatory drills  
17 in each school year. Evacuation drills shall be designed and conducted for use when conditions  
18 outside the school building are safer than conditions inside the building. Lockdown drills shall be  
19 designed and conducted for use to protect school building occupants from potential dangers in the

1 [building.](#)

2 (b) (1) In colleges, universities, postsecondary institutions, and residence facilities in  
3 public schools or private schools there shall be at least four (4) drills or rapid dismissals during  
4 the academic year for each school building or residence facility, at least two (2) of which shall be  
5 held between the months of September through December. The remaining two (2) drills shall be  
6 held between the months of January through June. Any college, university, or postsecondary  
7 institution that holds a summer session shall hold a drill or rapid dismissal during the first full  
8 week of the summer session.

9 (2) At least one drill or rapid dismissal shall be obstructed so that at least one or more  
10 exits or stairways in the school building or dormitory are blocked off or not used.

11 (c) For purposes of this section "residence facility" means dormitory, fraternity, sorority,  
12 or any other type of residence hall, whether on campus or off campus, owned or leased by a  
13 college, university, postsecondary institutions, public schools, or private school with  
14 accommodations for twenty (20) or more students.

15 (d) Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, fire drills shall be required in  
16 colleges or universities only for buildings which are used for a residence facility.

17 (e) Neglect by any principal or any person in charge of any public or private school or  
18 educational institution to comply with the provisions of this section shall be a misdemeanor  
19 punishable by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500).

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

=====  
LC03137  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

\*\*\*

- 1           This act would require 2 evacuation drills and 2 lockdown drills to be included among the
- 2 15 mandatory drills which schools must conduct each year.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC03137  
=====