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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOLS

Introduced By: Representatives Ferri, Slater, Messier, McNamara, and Malik

Date Introduced: April 13, 2011

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 16 of the General Laws entitled "EDUCATION" is hereby amended
2 by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 93

4 THE RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOLS ACT

5 **16-93-1. Short title.** -- This chapter shall be known and may be cited as "The Recovery
6 High Schools Act."

7 **16-93-2. Definitions.** -- As used in this chapter, the following words shall have the
8 following meaning unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

9 (1) "Recovery High School" means a public school or a special education program
10 licensed by RIDE that: (i) Serves students diagnosed with substance use disorder or dependency,
11 as defined by the diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders IV-TR; and (ii) Provides
12 both comprehensive four (4) year high school education and a structured plan of recovery.

13 (2) "Board of regents" means the Rhode Island board of regents for elementary and
14 secondary education.

15 (3) "Commissioner" means the Rhode Island commissioner of elementary and secondary
16 education.

17 (4) "RIDE" means the Rhode Island department of elementary and secondary education.

18 (5) "Sending school district" means the district where the student attending or planning to
19 attend a recovery high school resides, and that, upon recommendation of a clinician licensed

1 pursuant to chapter 42-35, refers the student for enrollment.

2 **16-93-3. Recovery high schools established.** -- (a) The commissioner is hereby
3 authorized to create a pilot recovery high school for the purposes of demonstrating the
4 effectiveness of this model in Rhode Island. Any currently licensed entities eligible to establish a
5 recovery high school, as defined in subdivision 16-93-2(1), may submit a proposal to operate a
6 pilot recovery high school to the commissioner no later than December 1st of the school year
7 before the school year in which the recovery high school is to begin operation. The approval of
8 the board of regents shall be required in order for the recovery high school to begin operation.

9 (b) By approval of the proposal upon the recommendation of the commissioner, the board
10 of regents will be deemed to have authorized all necessary variances from regulations enumerated
11 in the proposal.

12 (c) After two (2) years of operation, the pilot recovery high school will be required to
13 submit an analysis demonstrating the educational outcomes, including, but not limited to,
14 graduation rates, retention rates, course performance, and performance on the state assessment
15 attained through the pilot to the commissioner.

16 **16-93-4. Transfer of aid.** -- (a) Any school district in Rhode Island that may have a
17 student or students who are currently or were last enrolled in said district and who are considered
18 by the sending district to be both clinically and academically appropriate for referral to a Rhode
19 Island recovery high school may be referred for voluntary enrollment in such school. If said
20 student is admitted to said school, the sending school district shall ensure that payment pursuant
21 to subsection (b) herein for students who attend the recovery high school is paid, and further, that
22 upon completion of all other graduation requirements, said student or students shall receive a
23 diploma.

24 (b) A sending school district shall transfer the per pupil allotment it receives pursuant to
25 chapter 16-7.2 ("The Education Equity and Property Tax Relief Act") to a recovery high school
26 for any student attending the recovery high school and meeting the following criteria: (1) The
27 student is currently enrolled in the district or currently resides in the municipality in which the
28 district is located; (2) The student is considered by a clinician licensed pursuant to 42-35, to be
29 clinically appropriate, using the criteria for substance use disorders as defined in the diagnostic
30 and statistical manual of mental disorders IV-TR; and (3) The student meets all matriculation
31 criteria as outlined by the sending district and the department of elementary and secondary
32 education, with determination of academic eligibility based on existing documentation provided
33 by the district. The district and the recovery high school shall arrange to confer a diploma when a
34 student completes state and district-mandated graduation requirements. The local share of

1 education funding shall be paid to the recovery high school in the same manner as the local share
2 of education funding is paid to charter public schools, the William M. Davies, Jr. Career and
3 Technical High School, and the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center, as outlined
4 in section 16-7.2-5.

5 (c) A recovery high school shall submit to the board of regents academic data considered
6 necessary by the board to provide information regarding each student's academic performance,
7 subject to applicable health confidentiality laws and regulations.

8 (d) The board of regents, in consultation with the department of behavioral health,
9 developmental disabilities and hospitals shall promulgate rules and regulations as necessary to
10 implement and carry out the intent of this chapter.

11 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 - RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOLS

- 1 This act would allow for the establishment of recovery high schools for students
- 2 diagnosed with substance use disorder or dependency.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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