

2014 -- H 7433

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - FUNDING OF CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Introduced By: Representatives Silva, Ackerman, Malik, and Slater

Date Introduced: February 12, 2014

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-77.1-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-77.1 entitled
2 "Funding of Charter Public Schools" is hereby amended to read as follows:
3 **16-77.1-5. Facilities support for charter public schools.** -- A charter public school
4 ~~district or districts~~ may access state aid for reimbursement of school housing ~~costs for district~~
5 ~~sponsored charter public schools~~ pursuant to sections 16-7-35 through 16-7-47. ~~Public charter~~
6 ~~schools not sponsored by a public school district or districts may apply for thirty percent (30%)~~
7 ~~reimbursement of school housing cost on the basis of demonstrated need.~~ Effective July 1, 2014,
8 the percentage of a charter public school's housing costs reimbursed with state aid shall be equal
9 to the percentage of school housing costs reimbursed with state aid for the municipality where a
10 charter public school is located. This provision shall apply only to school housing projects
11 completed after June 30, 2014. Before a charter public school becomes eligible to access state aid
12 for reimbursement of school housing costs, it must first certify to the Rhode Island department of
13 elementary and secondary education that it has attempted to utilize vacant school property within
14 the municipality where the charter public school is located, and that the use of such property
15 would not be possible or practicable for the charter public school. The Rhode Island department
16 of elementary and secondary education shall promulgate regulations to implement this section
17 consistent with the purposes and procedures of the existing school housing aid program pursuant
18 to sections 16-7-35 through 16-7-47. For purposes of this section only, "facilities support, the
19 urban collaborative accelerated program" will be defined as a charter school.

1 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 - FUNDING OF CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1 This act would provide that the percentage of a charter public school's housing costs
2 reimbursed with state aid would be equal to the percentage of school housing costs reimbursed
3 with state aid for the municipality where a charter public school is located. This would apply only
4 to school housing projects completed after June 30, 2014. The charter public school would first
5 need to certify that to the department of elementary and secondary education that it has attempted
6 to use vacant school property within the municipality where the charter public school is located.

7 This act would take effect upon passage.

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