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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Lynch Prata, DaPonte, Goodwin, and Satchell

Date Introduced: January 18, 2017

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 16-21-23 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-21 entitled "Health  
2 and Safety of Pupils" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **16-21-23. School safety teams, school crisis response teams, and school safety**  
4 **assessments.**

5           (a) Each school district of each town, city, and regional school department shall conduct a  
6 school safety assessment in conjunction with local police, fire, school safety team pursuant to the  
7 provisions of this § 16-21-23 and any other expert said school department deems necessary. The  
8 assessment shall examine the current status of each school building's safety and shall be  
9 performed within thirty (30) days of passage of this act, and every three (3) years thereafter. The  
10 assessment shall be completed by November 1 of the year mandated, and by December 31 of that  
11 year, the commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall report to the speaker of the  
12 house, the senate president and the governor that such assessments have been completed.  
13 Assessments performed within a year of the date of passage of this act shall satisfy this  
14 requirement. All meetings regarding the school safety assessment are not subject to the open  
15 meetings law pursuant to chapter 46 of title 42, and documents produced including, but not  
16 limited to, meeting minutes and the school safety assessment are not subject to the access to  
17 public records law pursuant to chapter 2 of title 38.

18           (b) The school committee of each town, city, and regional school department shall review  
19 and adopt in executive session a comprehensive school safety plan regarding crisis intervention,

1 emergency response, and management. The plan shall be developed by a school safety team  
2 comprised of representatives of the school committee, representatives of student, teacher, and  
3 parent organizations, school safety personnel, school administration, and members of local law  
4 enforcement, fire, and emergency personnel. Members of the school safety team shall be  
5 appointed by the school committee and/or school superintendent of the town, city, or regional  
6 school district. In creating the school safety plan, the school safety team(s) shall consult the  
7 model school safety plan developed by the department of elementary and secondary education  
8 pursuant to § 16-21-23.1.

9 (c) The school crisis response team shall be comprised of those selected school personnel  
10 willing to serve as members of a psychological response team to address the psychological and  
11 emotional needs of the school community, and may seek mental health resources from the  
12 department of elementary and secondary education. Members of the school crisis response team  
13 may coordinate mental health services for those students and school employees affected by acts  
14 of violence in the schools, using resources available through the department of elementary and  
15 secondary education.

16 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 -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

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1           This act would require the assessment to examine the status of each school building's  
2 safety be completed by November 1 of the year mandated. By December 31 of that year, a report  
3 shall be made that such assessments have been completed.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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