

2017 -- S 0142

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LC000974  
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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 -- FUNDING OF CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, DaPonte, Nesselbush, and Doyle

Date Introduced: February 01, 2017

Referred To: Senate 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 [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of  
3 Education Act]" is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **16-77.1-5. Facilities support for charter public schools.**

5 (a) A charter public school ~~district or districts~~ may ~~access~~ apply on the basis of a  
6 demonstrated need for state aid for reimbursement of school housing costs ~~for district sponsored~~  
7 ~~charter public schools~~ pursuant to §§ 16-7-35 through 16-7-47. Effective July 1, 2017, the state  
8 aid for charter public school housing costs shall be calculated annually using a three (3) year  
9 weighted average of the state aid percentages calculated pursuant to §16-7-39 for the  
10 communities sending students to the charter public school on the basis of the reference years as  
11 defined in §16-7-36(4). However, if the three (3) year weighted average described above exceeds  
12 the percentage of school housing costs reimbursed with state aid for the municipality where the  
13 charter public school is located, then the percentage of a charter public school's housing costs  
14 reimbursed with state aid shall be equal to the percentage of school housing costs reimbursed  
15 with state aid for the municipality where the charter public school is located. This provision shall  
16 apply only to school housing projects completed after June 30, 2017. Before a charter public  
17 school becomes eligible to access state aid for reimbursement of school housing costs, it must  
18 first certify to the Rhode Island department of elementary and secondary education that it has  
19 attempted to utilize vacant school property within the municipality where the charter public

1 school is located, and that the use of such property would not be possible or practicable for the  
2 charter public school. ~~Public charter schools not sponsored by a public school district or districts~~  
3 ~~may apply for thirty percent (30%) reimbursement of school housing cost on the basis of~~  
4 ~~demonstrated need. The Rhode Island department of elementary and secondary education shall~~  
5 ~~promulgate regulations to implement this section consistent with the purposes and procedures of~~  
6 ~~the existing school housing aid program pursuant to §§16-7-35 through 16-7-47. For purposes of~~  
7 ~~this section only, "facilities support, the urban collaborative accelerated program" will be defined~~  
8 ~~as a charter school.~~

9 (b) The Rhode Island department of elementary and secondary education shall  
10 promulgate regulations to implement subsection (a) of this section consistent with the purposes  
11 and procedures of the existing school housing aid program pursuant to §§16-7-35 through 16-7-  
12 47.

13 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

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1           This act would amend the provisions by which charter public schools apply for state aid  
2 for reimbursement of school housing costs and would further amend the calculation method of  
3 housing costs under this section.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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