2017 -- S 0436

S T A T E   O F   R H O D E   I S L A N D

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N   A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- DUAL ENROLLMENT EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACT

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1   SECTION 1. Sections 16-100-2, 16-100-3, and 16-100-4 of the General Laws in Chapter

2   16-100 entitled "Dual Enrollment Equal Opportunity Act" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3   **16-100-2. Definition.**

4   "Dual Enrollment" means that a student is enrolled in a secondary school or is home

5   schooled at the secondary level, while simultaneously enrolled part-time or full-time at a local

6   institution of higher learning, such as a community college or university.

7   **16-100-3. Policy implemented.**

8   (a) The Board of Education shall prescribe by regulation a statewide dual enrollment

9   policy that shall allow students to enroll in courses at postsecondary institutions to satisfy

10   academic credit requirements in both high school, including home schooling at the secondary

11   level, and the aforementioned postsecondary institutions. The regulations shall address the

12   postsecondary institution's graduation requirements, if any; the institution's ability to award

13   degrees/certificates in Rhode Island; the minimum course grade to receive credit at the student's

14   secondary school or home schooling; and any other criteria that the Board deems appropriate. A

15   student whose course of at-home instruction at the secondary level has been approved by the

16   school committee of the municipality or district where the student resides (a "home-schooled

17   student"), pursuant to §§16-19-1 and 16-19-2, shall be eligible to participate in the dual

18   enrollment policy to the same extent as other public school students within the municipality or

19   district; provided, however, the board may limit the courses offered to home-schooled students to

1   those courses being offered by the school district in which the home-schooled student resides.

2   (b) The board shall convene a workgroup, including, but not limited to, representatives

3   from the department of elementary and secondary education, the office of higher education,

4   superintendents, school committees, public higher education institutions, guidance counselors,

5   and teachers. The purpose of the workgroup is to consider and advise the board as to a dual

6   enrollment policy and its possible effect on school funding pursuant to section 16-7.2, academic

7   supports, transportation, possible shared costs of the education, possible fee schedules, manners

8   in which low-income students could access the program and, possible contracted tuition costs

9   with our public higher education institutions.

10   (c) The board, in collaboration with the state institutions of post-secondary education,

11   shall ensure that the same policies regarding the cost for and payment of dual enrollment courses

12   pursuant to the provisions of this chapter are consistently applied to public school students and

13   home-schooled students alike.

14   **16-100-4. Dual enrollment adoption.**

15   School districts and schools must adopt the statewide dual enrollment policy promulgated

16   pursuant to this section by June 30, 2015. All school districts, charter schools, career and

17   technical schools, approved private day or residential schools, home schoolers, and collaborative

18   schools shall be subject to the requirements of this section.

19   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 -- DUAL ENROLLMENT EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACT

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1   This act would extend the benefits of the dual enrollment equal opportunity act to cover

2   home-schooled students.

3   The act would also direct the board of education to ensure that the same policies

4   regarding the cost for and payment of dual enrollment courses are consistently applied to public

5   school students and home-schooled students alike.

6   This act would take effect upon passage.

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