

2017 -- S 0445

LC001470

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Jabour, Algieri, Gee, and Kettle

Date Introduced: March 02, 2017

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 16-32-3, 16-32-4, 16-32-5 and 16-32-6 of the General Laws in
2 Chapter 16-32 entitled "University of Rhode Island [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island
3 Board of Education Act]" are hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **16-32-3. Purposes of university.**

5 The board, as now constituted, and their successors, for the terms for which they have
6 been or for which they hereafter may be appointed regents, shall continue to be a body politic and
7 corporate for the purpose of continuing and maintaining the University of Rhode Island as a
8 university where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical
9 studies, and including military tactics, to teach any branches of learning as are related to
10 agriculture and the mechanic arts, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the
11 industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life, as provided in the act of the
12 congress of the United States, approved July 2, 1862, entitled "An Act Donating Public Lands to
13 the Several States and Territories Which May Provide Colleges for the Benefit of Agriculture and
14 the Mechanic Arts," ([hereafter the "Morrill Act of 1862"](#)), and for the purpose of continuing and
15 maintaining an agricultural experiment station ([hereafter the "station"](#)) as a department of the
16 college university under and in accordance with, and to carry out the purposes of, the act of
17 congress approved March 2, 1887, entitled "An Act to Establish Agricultural Experiment Stations
18 in Connection with the Colleges Established in the Several States Under the Provisions of An Act
19 Approved July 2, 1862, and of the Acts Supplementary Thereto-," ([hereafter the "Smith-Lever](#)

1 Act of 1914"), and as provided in all subsequent acts of the Congress of the United States which
2 modify the Morrill Act of 1862, the Hatch Act of 1887, and/or the Smith-Lever Act of 1914. The
3 Station and Cooperative Extension are hereafter collectively referred to as the "land grant
4 programs.)

5 **16-32-4. Location -- Application of federal funds.**

6 The university, ~~and experiment station~~ agricultural experiment station, and administrative
7 headquarters for cooperative extension shall, until ordered, continue to be located in the town of
8 South Kingstown upon the estate now occupied by them, and all money received after this under
9 the act of congress, approved March 2, 1887, and under the ~~act of congress approved August 30,~~
10 ~~1890, entitled "An Act to Apply a Portion of the Proceeds of the Public Lands to the More~~
11 ~~Complete Endowment and Support of the Colleges for the Benefit of Agriculture and the~~
12 ~~Mechanic Arts, Established Under the Provisions of an Act of Congress Approved July Second,~~
13 ~~Eighteen Hundred Sixty two,"~~ "land grant programs" and all other money which shall be received
14 by the state for the promotion of agriculture or the mechanic arts at land grant colleges under or
15 by virtue of an act of congress shall, as and when received, be paid over to the treasurer of the
16 university, to be used and applied and accounted for by the ~~trustees~~ council for higher education
17 and officers of the university, with the approval of the state controller, as required by the
18 respective acts of congress under which the money is received.

19 **16-32-5. ~~Authority over experiment station~~ Authority over agricultural experiment**
20 **station and cooperative extension.**

21 The ~~board of governors~~ council for higher education shall have authority over the
22 agricultural experiment station, chapter 2 of title 2, "agricultural experiment station", and
23 cooperative extension, chapter 3 of title 2, "cooperative extension" of the university located in the
24 town of South Kingstown.

25 **16-32-6. ~~Activities of experiment station~~ Activities of the land grant programs.**

26 The agricultural experiment station, and cooperative extension, at the University of
27 Rhode Island shall continue to expend sums of money received from the United States
28 government for experimental work and ~~agricultural extension service~~ extension outreach, in
29 compliance with the Hatch Act 1887, and the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, as amended, and shall
30 also continue to promote and encourage the work of ~~farm bureaus~~ agriculturalists (including
31 aquaculturalists), their professional organizations, environmental organizations, conservation
32 districts and other agencies of government concerned with agriculture, fisheries and other marine
33 industries, the environment, or the purposes of the station or cooperative extension, other units of
34 the university and the private sector in cooperation, consistent with the requirements of the Hatch

1 [Act of 1887, and the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, as amended](#) and expend sums of money received
2 from federal and state appropriations, subject to budgetary control provided by chapter 3 of title
3 35.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 16-32 of the General Laws entitled "University of Rhode Island
5 [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended by
6 adding thereto the following sections:

7 **16-32-4.1. Appropriation of state funds for the land grant programs.**

8 [Beginning in the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2017, the general assembly shall](#)
9 [annually appropriate a sum to the council on postsecondary education for the exclusive purpose](#)
10 [of defraying the expenses of the land grant programs as defined in §16-32-3, to provide state](#)
11 [funds to meet federal mandates that federal funds be matched by state funds, such funds to be](#)
12 [expended under the direction of the council on postsecondary education and officers of the](#)
13 [university. The required match will be based on the full amount of federal funds awarded to the](#)
14 [station under the Hatch, McIntire-Stennis, and Animal Health formula allocations of the](#)
15 [preceding year and on the full amount of federal funds awarded to cooperative extension under](#)
16 [the Smith-Lever formula allocations of the preceding year.](#)

17 **16-32-4.2. Use of funds to enhance land grant programs.**

18 [The annual appropriation of funds for the land grant and sea grant programs shall be in](#)
19 [addition to, and separately accounted for from any funds regularly appropriated to the university](#)
20 [under §16-32-9, and there shall be no reduction of appropriations to the university pursuant to](#)
21 [§16-32-9. Funds appropriated for land grant programs shall be used exclusively to enhance the](#)
22 [activities and capacities of the station, and cooperative extension programs, and are not to be used](#)
23 [to replace normal salaries for academic faculty or staff, or operating funds for academic](#)
24 [departments, or for normal maintenance operations of the university, or for any other purpose not](#)
25 [in accord with the purpose of enhancement of the land grant programs. The use of funds may be](#)
26 [used for summer salary recontracting of faculty on academic year appointments to participate in](#)
27 [land grant programs, for technical staff conducting land grant program activities, support of](#)
28 [undergraduate or graduate students collaborating in land grant program activities, and for capital](#)
29 [acquisitions and physical plant improvements directly in support of the land grant programs, and](#)
30 [for all other expenditures directly in support of the land grant programs, including use as a state](#)
31 [matching contribution to grants received from federal agencies to support research or outreach](#)
32 [conducted and administered conjointly with activities of the station, or cooperative extension. The](#)
33 [expenditure of funds shall follow rules promulgated in the official federal manuals of the station,](#)
34 [and cooperative extension, including rules governing approval for projects and activities and](#)

1 [expenditure of funds for approved projects and activities.](#)

2 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====
LC001470
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

1 This act would promote the capability of the University of Rhode Island in the areas of
2 environmental and agricultural research and extension education by authorizing the appropriation
3 and separate accounting of additional state funds to provide a dedicated state match required to
4 receive annual federal funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, without a reduction of
5 other appropriations by the general assembly as otherwise provided for in the university's general
6 operating budget.

7 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC001470
=====