

2018 -- S 2773

LC005204

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Introduced By: Senators Lombardi, Archambault, and Lynch Prata

Date Introduced: April 05, 2018

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 16-7-40 and 16-7-45 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7 entitled
2 "Foundation Level School Support [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board Of
3 Education Act]" are hereby amended to read as follows:

4 ~~16-7-40. Increased school housing ratio for regional schools -- Energy conservation --~~
5 ~~Access for people with disabilities -- Asbestos removal projects.~~ Increased school housing
6 ratio for regional schools -- Energy conservation -- Access for people with disabilities --
7 Asbestos removal projects -- Safety and security measures.

8 (a) (1) In the case of regional school districts, the school housing aid ratio shall be
9 increased by two percent (2%) for each grade so consolidated.

10 (2) Regional school districts undertaking renovation project(s) shall receive an increased
11 share ratio of four percent (4%) for those specific project(s) only, in addition to the combined
12 share ratio calculated in § 16-7-39 and this subsection.

13 (b) In the case of projects undertaken by regionalized and/or non-regionalized school
14 districts specifically for the purposes of energy conservation, access for people with disabilities,
15 and/or asbestos removal, the school housing aid share ratio shall be increased by four percent
16 (4%) for these specific projects only, in the calculation of school housing aid. The increased share
17 ratio shall continue to be applied for as long as the project(s) receive state housing aid. In order to
18 qualify for the increased share ratio, seventy-five percent (75%) of the project costs must be
19 specifically directed to either energy conservation, access for people with disabilities, and/or

1 asbestos removal or any combination of these projects. The board of regents for elementary and
2 secondary education shall promulgate rules and regulations for the administration and operation
3 of this section.

4 (c) In the case of projects undertaken by regionalized and/or non-regionalized school
5 districts specifically for the purposes of school safety and security, the school housing aid share
6 ratio shall be increased by five percent (5%) for these specific projects only, in the calculation of
7 school housing aid. The increased share ratio shall continue to be applied for as long as the
8 project(s) receives state housing aid. In order to qualify for the increased share ratio, seventy-five
9 percent (75%) of the project costs must be specifically directed to school safety and security
10 measures. The council on elementary and secondary education shall promulgate rules and
11 regulations for the administration and operation of this section.

12 ~~(c)~~(d) Upon the transfer of ownership from the state to the respective cities and towns of
13 the regional career and technical center buildings located in Cranston, East Providence, Newport,
14 Providence, Warwick, Woonsocket and the Chariho regional school district, the school housing
15 aid share ratio shall be increased by four percent (4%) for the renovation and/or repair of these
16 buildings. To qualify for the increased share ratio, as defined in § 16-7-39, renovation and repair
17 projects must be submitted for approval through the necessity of school construction process prior
18 to the end of the second full fiscal year following the transfer of ownership and assumption of
19 local care and control of the building. Only projects at regional career and technical centers that
20 have full program approval from the department of elementary and secondary education shall be
21 eligible for the increased share ratio. The increased share ratio shall continue to be applied for as
22 long as the renovation and/or repair project receives school housing aid.

23 **16-7-45. Annual appropriations.**

24 (a) The general assembly shall annually appropriate those sums that it may deem
25 necessary to carry out the purposes of §§ 16-7-35 to 16-7-47, and the state controller is authorized
26 and directed to draw his or her orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of the sum, or so
27 much of it as may be required from time to time, upon the receipt by the controller of properly
28 authenticated vouchers. In the event that the full amount of housing aid has not been appropriated
29 in a particular fiscal year, school housing aid will not be ratably reduced. In such cases, aid
30 computed for school housing costs for debt service which has been paid by the local community
31 prior to project completion will be deferred. Such aid will be paid within three (3) equal
32 installments beginning the fiscal year after project completion. This deferral provision shall only
33 be applicable if the computed aid for debt service paid by the local community prior to project
34 completion exceeds five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).

1 (b) Any remaining monies not appropriated in a particular fiscal year shall be remitted for
2 the purpose of supporting law enforcement and safety related activities on school grounds, as
3 determined by the board of education.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION

1 This act would increase the school housing aid share ratio by five percent (5%) for school
2 safety and security projects. For annual appropriations by the general assembly for school
3 housing aid, remaining monies not appropriated in a particular fiscal year shall be remitted for
4 school safety and security as determined by the board of education.

5 This act would take effect July 1, 2019.

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