

2019 -- H 5520

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - MAYORAL ACADEMIES

Introduced By: Representative Jean Phillippe Barros

Date Introduced: February 25, 2019

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-77.4-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-77.4 entitled
2 "Mayoral Academies [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is
3 hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **16-77.4-1. Entities eligible to apply to become, or for the expansion of, a mayoral**
5 **academy.**

6 (a) A "mayoral academy" means a charter school created by a mayor of any city or town
7 within the State of Rhode Island, acting by, or through, a nonprofit organization established for
8 said purpose (regardless of the time said nonprofit organization is in existence), that enrolls
9 students from more than one city or town, including both urban and non-urban communities, and
10 that offers an equal number of enrollments to students on a lottery basis; provided, further, that
11 such mayoral academies shall have a board of trustees or directors that is comprised of
12 representatives from each included city or town and is chaired by a mayor of an included city or
13 town. The mayor from each city or town, or in the absence of a mayor, the city or town council
14 via a resolution or ordinance, shall approve the participation in the mayoral academy's catchment
15 area for a proposed charter or an amendment to a charter for expansion. For purposes of this
16 chapter, the term "mayor" shall include any elected town administrator.

17 (b) No child shall be required to attend a mayoral academy, nor shall any teacher be
18 required to teach in a mayoral academy. The school committee of the district in which a mayoral
19 academy is located shall make accommodations to facilitate the transfer of students who do not

1 wish to participate in a mayoral academy into other public schools. It shall also make
2 accommodations for those students who wish to transfer into the mayoral academy as space
3 permits. If the total number of students who are eligible to attend and apply to a mayoral academy
4 is greater than the number of spaces available, the mayoral academy shall conduct a lottery to
5 determine which students shall be admitted.

6 (c) If any proposed mayoral academy or any proposed expansion of any mayoral
7 academy is part of a network of charter schools or a charter management organization currently
8 operating within or outside of the state, the mayoral academy proposal shall provide evidence of
9 the following:

10 (1) That across all affiliated network schools in Rhode Island, or any other state in which
11 the network is operating, attrition rates are within a plus or minus five percent (+/-5%) range of
12 the sending attrition rates; and

13 (2) That across all affiliated network schools operating in Rhode Island or any other state
14 in which the network is operating, special education enrollment numbers are within a plus or
15 minus five percent (+/- 5%) range of state special education averages; and

16 (3) That across all affiliated network schools in Rhode Island or any other state in which
17 the network is operating, student suspension rates are within a plus or minus five percent (+/- 5%)
18 range of state averages.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would require any mayoral academy which is part of a network of charter
2 schools that seeks to be established or expanded in Rhode Island to provide evidence that its
3 attrition rates, its special education enrollment numbers and its suspension rates are within a plus
4 or minus five percent (+/- 5%) range of the state average.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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