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LC00596/SUB A
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY

Introduced By: Representatives Gallison, Azzinaro, Messier, Serpa, and Marshall

Date Introduced: January 24, 2013

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-21-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-21 entitled "Health and
2 Safety of Pupils" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-21-4. Fire, evacuation and lockdown drills required -- Failure to comply.** -- (a) It
4 shall be the duty of the principal or other person in charge of every public school or private
5 school, college, university, or postsecondary institutions or educational institution within the
6 state, having more than twenty-five (25) pupils, to instruct and train the pupils by means of drills,
7 so that they may in a sudden emergency be able to leave school buildings and ~~dormitories~~
8 residence facilities in the shortest possible time and without confusion or panic.

9 Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, in ~~In~~ all ~~schools but colleges,~~
10 ~~universities, or postsecondary institutions~~ buildings used for educational/or boarding purposes
11 through the twelfth grade, there shall be fifteen (15) emergency evacuation drills ~~or rapid~~
12 ~~dismissals~~ during the school year, at least eight (8) of which shall be held from August through
13 December ~~during the months of September, October, and November~~. The remaining seven (7)
14 emergency egress drills ~~or rapid dismissals~~ shall be held from January through June. At least one
15 emergency egress drill shall be conducted every month the facility is in session. Within the first
16 thirty (30) days of operation each building the school administration plans will be utilized by
17 students during the school year shall conduct an additional emergency evacuation drill in addition
18 to the monthly emergency evacuation drill. All building occupants shall participate in each
19 required drill. At least one out of every four (4) emergency evacuation drills shall be obstructed

1 by means of which at least one or more exits and stairways in the school building are blocked off
2 or not used. ~~at the discretion of the principal or person in charge of the school. At least one out of~~
3 ~~every four (4) emergency egress drills or rapid dismissals shall be obstructed by means of which~~
4 ~~at least one or more exits and stairways in the school building are blocked off or not used and at~~
5 ~~least two (2) of the obstructed drills shall be held during the months of September and October.~~

6 There shall be two (2) evacuation drills and two (2) lockdown drills included among the fifteen
7 (15) mandatory drills in each school year. Evacuation drills shall be designed and conducted for
8 use when conditions outside the school building are safer than conditions inside the building.
9 Lockdown drills shall be designed and conducted for use to protect school building occupants
10 from potential dangers in the building.

11 (b)(1) In colleges, universities, postsecondary institutions, and residence facilities in
12 public schools or private schools there shall be at least four (4) drills or rapid dismissals during
13 the academic year for each school building or residence facility, at least two (2) of which shall be
14 held between the months of September through December. The remaining two (2) drills shall be
15 held between the months of January through June. Any college, university, or postsecondary
16 institution that holds a summer session shall hold a drill or rapid dismissal during the first full
17 week of the summer session.

18 (2) At least one drill or rapid dismissal shall be obstructed so that at least one or more
19 exits or stairways in the school building or dormitory are blocked off or not used.

20 (c) For purposes of this section "residence facility" means dormitory, fraternity, sorority,
21 or any other type of residence hall, whether on campus or off campus, owned or leased by a
22 college, university, postsecondary institutions, public schools, or private school with
23 accommodations for twenty (20) or more students.

24 (d) Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, fire drills shall be required in
25 colleges or universities only for buildings which are used for a residence facility.

26 (e) Neglect by any principal or any person in charge of any public or private school or
27 educational institution to comply with the provisions of this section shall be a misdemeanor
28 punishable by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500).

29 (f) Written reports, on forms supplied by the department of elementary and secondary
30 education, of each fire drill shall be completed immediately upon termination of every drill. The
31 reports shall be available for review by the fire marshal, assistant deputy fire marshal, or local fire
32 authority. The fire marshal, assistant deputy fire marshal, or local fire authority may require that a
33 fire drill be conducted in his or her presence.

34 SECTION 2. Sections 23-28.12-15 and 23-28.12-36 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-

1 28.12 entitled "Schools" are hereby amended to read as follows:

2 **23-28.12-15. Fire alarm systems.** -- (a) It shall be the duty of the principal or other
3 person in charge of every public school or private school or educational institution within the
4 state, having more than twenty-five (25) pupils, to instruct and train the pupils by means of drills,
5 so that they may in a sudden emergency be able to leave the school ~~building~~ buildings and
6 residence facilities in the shortest possible time and without confusion or panic. ~~There shall be~~
7 ~~fifteen (15) such drills or rapid dismissals during the school year, at least eight (8) of which shall~~
8 ~~be held during the months of September, October, and November. The remaining seven (7) drills~~
9 ~~or rapid dismissals shall be held at the discretion of the principal or person in charge of the~~
10 ~~school. At least four (4) drills or rapid dismissals shall be obstructed, which means that one or~~
11 ~~more exits and stairways in the school building are blocked off or not used, and at least two (2) of~~
12 ~~these obstructed drills shall be held during the months of September and October.~~
13 Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, in all buildings used for educational or
14 boarding purposes through the twelfth grade there shall be fifteen (15) emergency evacuation
15 drills during the school year, at least eight (8) of which shall be held from August through
16 December. The remaining seven (7) emergency evacuation drills shall be held from January
17 through June. At least one emergency evacuation drill shall be conducted every month the facility
18 is in session. Within the first thirty (30) days of operation each building the school administration
19 plans will be utilized by students during the school year shall conduct an additional emergency
20 evacuation drill in addition to the monthly emergency evacuation drill. All building occupants
21 shall participate in each required drill. At least one out of every four (4) emergency evacuation
22 drills shall be obstructed by means of which at least one or more exits and stairways in the school
23 building are blocked off or not used. There shall be two (2) evacuation drills and two (2)
24 lockdown drills included among the fifteen (15) mandatory drills in each school year. Evacuation
25 drills shall be designed and conducted for use when conditions outside the school building are
26 safer than conditions inside the building. Lockdown drills shall be designed and conducted for
27 use to protect school building occupants from potential dangers in the building.

28 (b)(1) In colleges, universities, postsecondary institutions, and residence facilities in
29 public schools or private schools there shall be at least four (4) drills or rapid dismissals during
30 the academic year for each school building or residence facility, at least two (2) of which shall be
31 held between the months of September through December. The remaining two (2) drills shall be
32 held between the months of January through June. Any college, university, or postsecondary
33 institution that holds a summer session shall hold a drill or rapid dismissal during the first (1st)
34 full week of the summer session.

1 (2) At least one drill or rapid dismissal shall be obstructed so that at least one or more
2 exits or stairways in the school building or dormitory are blocked off or not used.

3 (c) For purposes of this section, "residence facility" means a dormitory, fraternity,
4 sorority, or any other type of residence hall, whether on campus or off campus, owned or leased
5 by a college, university, postsecondary institution, public school, or private school with
6 accommodations for twenty (20) or more students.

7 (d) Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, fire drills shall be required in
8 colleges or universities only for buildings which are used as a residence facility.

9 ~~(b)~~(e) Neglect by any principal or any person in charge of any public or private school or
10 educational institution to comply with the provisions of this section shall be a misdemeanor
11 punishable by a fine not exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00).

12 (f) Written reports, on forms supplied by the department of elementary and secondary
13 education, of each fire drill shall be completed immediately upon termination of every drill and
14 shall be available for review by the fire marshal, assistant deputy fire marshal, or local fire
15 authority. The fire marshal, assistant deputy fire marshal, or local fire authority may require that a
16 fire drill be conducted in his or her presence.

17 **23-28.12-36. Fire alarm systems -- Fire drills -- Penalties. --** (a) It shall be the duty of
18 the principal or other person in charge of every public school or private school or educational
19 institution within the state, having more than twenty-five (25) pupils, to instruct and train the
20 pupils by means of drills, so that they may in a sudden emergency be able to leave the school
21 ~~building~~ buildings and residence facilities in the shortest possible time and without confusion or
22 panic. ~~There shall be fifteen (15) such drills or rapid dismissals during the school year, at least~~
23 ~~eight (8) of which shall be held during the months of September, October, and November. The~~
24 ~~remaining seven (7) such drills or rapid dismissals shall be held at the discretion of the principal~~
25 ~~or person in charge of the school. At least four (4) drills or rapid dismissals shall be obstructed,~~
26 ~~which means that one or more exits and stairways in the school building are blocked off or not~~
27 ~~used and at least two (2) of these obstructed drills shall be held during the months of September~~
28 ~~and October.~~ Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, in all buildings used for
29 educational or boarding purposes through the twelfth grade there shall be fifteen (15) emergency
30 evacuation drills during the school year, at least eight (8) of which shall be held from August
31 through December. The remaining seven (7) emergency evacuation drills shall be held from
32 January through June. At least one emergency evacuation drill shall be conducted every month
33 the facility is in session. Within the first thirty (30) days of operation each building the school
34 administration plans will be utilized by students during the school year shall conduct an

1 additional emergency evacuation drill in addition to the monthly emergency evacuation drill. All
2 building occupants shall participate in each required drill. At least one out of every four (4)
3 emergency evacuation drills shall be obstructed by means of which at least one or more exits and
4 stairways in the school building are blocked off or not used. There shall be two (2) evacuation
5 drills and two (2) lockdown drills included among the fifteen (15) mandatory drills in each school
6 year. Evacuation drills shall be designed and conducted for use when conditions outside the
7 school building are safer than conditions inside the building. Lockdown drills shall be designed
8 and conducted for use to protect school building occupants from potential dangers in the building.

9 (b)(1) In colleges, universities, postsecondary institutions, and residence facilities in
10 public schools or private schools there shall be at least four (4) drills or rapid dismissals during
11 the academic year for each school building or residence facility, at least two (2) of which shall be
12 held between the months of September through December. The remaining two (2) drills shall be
13 held between the months of January through June. Any college, university, or postsecondary
14 institution that holds a summer session shall hold a drill or rapid dismissal during the first (1st)
15 full week of the summer session.

16 (2) At least one drill or rapid dismissal shall be obstructed so that at least one or more
17 exits or stairways in the school building or dormitory are blocked off or not used.

18 (c) For purposes of this section, "residence facility" means a dormitory, fraternity,
19 sorority, or any other type of residence hall, whether on campus or off campus, owned or leased
20 by a college, university, postsecondary institution, public school, or private school with
21 accommodations for twenty (20) or more students.

22 (d) Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, fire drills shall be required in
23 colleges or universities only for buildings which are used as a residence facility.

24 ~~(e)~~(e) Neglect by any principal or any person in charge of any public or private school or
25 education institution to comply with the provisions of this section shall be a misdemeanor
26 punishable by a fine of not exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00).

27 ~~(f)~~(f) Written reports, on forms supplied by the department of elementary and secondary
28 education, of each fire drill shall be completed immediately upon termination of every drill and
29 shall be available for review by the fire marshal, assistant deputy fire marshal, or local fire
30 authority. The fire marshal, assistant deputy fire marshal, or local fire authority may require that a
31 fire drill be conducted in his or her presence.

1 SECTION 3. 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 -- HEALTH AND SAFETY

1 This act would amend the fire safety statutes to establish greater detail and specifications
2 regarding the type, manner, and frequency of safety drills in educational facilities which would be
3 dependent upon certain factors such as the grade level of the educational facility and the hours
4 spent in the facility.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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