

2014 -- S 2135

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LC003782
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - PAUL W. CROWLEY STUDENT INVESTMENT
INITIATIVE

Introduced By: Senators Satchell, Cool Rumsey, Conley, Metts, and Goldin

Date Introduced: January 29, 2014

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-7.1 of the General Laws entitled "The Paul W. Crowley Rhode
2 Island Student Investment Initiative [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of
3 Education Act]" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

4 **16-7.1-2.1. Establishment of common core state standards, evaluation commission -**
5 **Duties and responsibility. --** (a) The general assembly hereby establishes the common core state
6 standards evaluation commission. The commission's purpose is to study and evaluate the
7 department of education's standardized testing based on common core curriculum, and shall
8 advise and make recommendations to the governor and the general assembly as to the adequacy
9 and efficiency of such standardized testing. The commission shall consist of twenty-one (21)
10 members as follows:

11 (1) The commissioner of education, or the commissioner's designee, who shall serve ex
12 officio;

13 (2) Eight (8) of whom shall be appointed by the governor: two (2) of whom shall be
14 recommended by the American Federation of Teachers in Rhode Island; two (2) of whom shall be
15 recommended by the Rhode Island Association of School Principals; two (2) of whom shall be
16 recommended by the Rhode Island School Superintendents Association; and two (2) public
17 members who are the parents or guardians of a student enrolled in a Rhode Island public school;

18 (3) Six (6) of whom shall be appointed by the senate president; two (2) of whom shall be

1 from the senate, who are not members of the same political party; one who demonstrates
2 expertise in language arts literacy instruction and curriculum; one who demonstrates expertise in
3 mathematics instruction and curriculum; and two (2) of whom are parents or guardians of a
4 student enrolled in a Rhode Island public school;

5 (4) Six (6) of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house: two (2) of whom
6 shall be from the house, who are not members of the same political party; one who demonstrates
7 expertise in language arts literacy instruction and curriculum; one who demonstrates expertise in
8 mathematics instruction and curriculum; and two (2) of whom are, parents or guardians of a
9 student enrolled in a Rhode Island public school.

10 (b)(1) Vacancies in the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original
11 appointments were made. Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but
12 shall be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the performance of their duties under
13 this section.

14 (2) The commission shall organize, no later than sixty (60) days after the appointment of
15 the members. The members shall elect one member appointed from the senate, and one member
16 appointed from the house to serve as co-chairpersons, and a secretary of the commission. The
17 secretary need not be a member of the commission.

18 (3) The commission may request and shall receive from any instrumentality of the state
19 and from any municipality or any instrumentality of the municipality, any information and
20 assistance it deems necessary for the proper execution of its powers and duties under this section.
21 The department of education shall provide such stenographical, clerical, other administrative and
22 professional assistance as the commission requires.

23 (c)(1) The commission shall evaluate the implementation of the standardized testing
24 based on common core curriculum. The evaluation shall include, but need not be limited to the
25 following:

26 (i) A description of actions taken by the state to implement the common core standards,
27 and a timeline of actions to be taken;

28 (ii) A comparison of the common core state standards for English language arts and
29 mathematics to the core curriculum content standards in language arts literacy and mathematics
30 that existed prior to the adoption of the common core state standards;

31 (iii) An estimate for the full cost for municipalities to implement the common core state
32 standards, including those costs already incurred by municipalities, and those to be incurred in the
33 future; and the feasibility of technical implementation.

34 (2) The commission shall study and evaluate the issue of student and family personal data

1 mining and a student's right to privacy. The commission shall consider, but not be limited to, data
2 relating to learning disabilities, student behavior, political affiliation religious affiliation and
3 medical history.

4 (3) The commission shall investigate:

5 (i) All issues and concerns regarding the pilot testing implemented in the states of New
6 York and Kentucky;

7 (ii) The validity of the common core assessment as a tool to be used to determine
8 graduation requirements and measure teacher effectiveness.

9 (d) The commission shall meet at least quarterly, in addition to holding quarterly public
10 hearings in each of the northern, central and southern regions of the state. The purpose of the
11 public meetings shall be to gather information regarding the implementation of the common core
12 state standards, the mining of student and family data and student privacy rights. No later than
13 twelve (12) months after the commission organizes, it shall submit a final report containing
14 findings and recommendations to the governor and the general assembly.

15 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of the general or public laws to the contrary, or rule or
16 regulation, the department of education shall not administer any assessment developed by the
17 assessment of readiness for college and careers, or any similar assessment, prior to the submission
18 of the final report by the commission to the governor and the general assembly.

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 delay the implementation of the standardized testing based on common
2 core curriculum until a commission, created by this law, has had an opportunity to study and
3 evaluate it, and further, has submitted its findings and recommendations to the governor and the
4 general assembly as to the adequacy and efficiency of such standardized testing.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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