

2019 -- S 0938

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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 -- CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT -- ANNUAL POLICY  
REVIEW

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Pearson, Euer, Paolino, and Satchell

Date Introduced: May 30, 2019

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 16 of the General Laws entitled "EDUCATION" is hereby amended  
2 by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 110

4 RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE RHODE ISLAND'S OVERALL EDUCATION

5 STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE

6 **16-110-1. Education reform.**

7 (a) The Rhode Island department of education shall conduct a comprehensive review of  
8 the Massachusetts Education Reform Act (MERA) of 1993, including subsequent acts and reform  
9 measures, to determine and recommend ways in which Rhode Island's resources can be utilized  
10 most effectively to improve the state's overall education standards and governance;

11 (b) The comprehensive review shall include, but is not limited to, an evaluation of how  
12 Rhode Island's education system can promote success for all students using the following core  
13 strategies:

14 (1) Strengthening standards, curriculum, instruction, and assessments;

15 (2) Promoting educator development;

16 (3) Supporting social-emotional learning, health, and safety;

17 (4) Assisting the lowest performing districts and schools; and

18 (5) Using technology and data to support student learning.

1           (c) The review shall also include:

2           (1) An assessment of the strategic role of charter schools within the education system to  
3 improve statewide achievement;

4           (2) An assessment of the effectiveness of the education funding formula in relation to the  
5 legislative goals set forth in chapter 7.2 of title 16; and

6           (3) Assessment of whether and to what extent the department would benefit from  
7 partnering with external resources such as businesses, nonprofit organizations, and community  
8 groups.

9           (d) By no later than December 1, 2019, the department shall report on this comprehensive  
10 review and evaluation to the governor, the senate, and the house of representatives.

11           (e) By no later than December 1 of each subsequent year, the department shall report to  
12 the governor, the house of representatives, and the senate the ways in which Rhode Island's  
13 resources are being utilized more effectively to improve the state's overall education standards  
14 and governance.

15           SECTION 2. 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 -- CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT -- ANNUAL POLICY  
REVIEW

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1           This act would require the board of education to conduct a comprehensive study of the  
2   Massachusetts Education Reform Act and report yearly to the governor, the senate and the house  
3   of representatives.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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