

2021 -- S 0582

=====  
LC002357  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

—————  
A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION – FOUNDATION LEVEL SCHOOL SUPPORT [SEE TITLE 16  
CHAPTER 97- THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT]

Introduced By: Senators Euer, Murray, and DiPalma

Date Introduced: March 11, 2021

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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

4           **16-7-40. Increased school housing ratio.**

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

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

10          (3) Districts with free and reduced lunch student populations above twenty percent (20%)  
11   will have their minimum housing aid share increased to forty percent (40%), in addition to the  
12   combined share ratio calculated in § 16-7-39 and this subsection. This provision only applies to  
13   projects that are completed after July 1, 2020.

14          (b) In the case of projects undertaken by districts specifically for the purposes of school  
15   safety and security, the school housing aid share ratio shall be increased by five percent (5%) for  
16   these specific projects only, in the calculation of school housing aid. The increased share ratio shall  
17   continue to be applied for as long as the project(s) receives state housing aid. In order to qualify for  
18   the increased share ratio, seventy-five percent (75%) of the project costs must be specifically

1 directed to school safety and security measures. The council on elementary and secondary  
2 education shall promulgate rules and regulations for the administration and operation of this  
3 section.

4 (c) For purposes of addressing health and safety deficiencies as defined by the school  
5 building authority, including the remediation of hazardous materials, the school housing aid ratio  
6 shall be increased by five percent (5%) so long as the construction of the project ~~commences by~~  
7 ~~December 30, 2022~~, is completed by December 30, 2027, and a two hundred fifty million dollar  
8 (\$250,000,000) general obligation bond is approved on the November 2018 ballot. In order to  
9 qualify for the increased share ratio, twenty-five percent (25%) of the project costs or a minimum  
10 of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) must be specifically directed to this purpose.

11 (d) For purposes of educational enhancement, including projects devoted to the  
12 enhancement of early childhood education and career and technical education, the school housing  
13 aid ratio shall be increased by five percent (5%) so long as construction of the project commences  
14 by December 30, 2022, is completed by December 30, 2027, and a two hundred fifty million dollar  
15 (\$250,000,000) general obligation bond is approved on the November 2018 ballot. In order to  
16 qualify for the increased share ratio, twenty-five percent (25%) of the project costs or a minimum  
17 of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) must be specifically directed to these purposes.

18 (e) For replacement of a facility that has a facilities condition index of sixty-five percent  
19 (65%) or higher, the school housing ratio shall be increased by five percent (5%) so long as  
20 construction of the project commences by December 30, 2023, is completed by December 30, 2028,  
21 does not receive a bonus pursuant to subsection (f) or subsection (g), and a two hundred fifty million  
22 dollar (\$250,000,000) general obligation bond is approved on the November 2018 ballot. In order  
23 to qualify for the increased share ratio, twenty-five percent (25%) of the project costs or a minimum  
24 of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) must be specifically directed to this purpose.

25 (f) For any new construction or renovation that increases the functional utilization of any  
26 facility from less than sixty percent (60%) to more than eighty percent (80%), including the  
27 consolidation of school buildings within or across districts, the school housing aid ratio shall be  
28 increased by five percent (5%) so long as construction of the project commences by December 30,  
29 2023, is completed by December 30, 2028, and a two hundred fifty million dollar (\$250,000,000)  
30 general obligation bond is approved on the November 2018 ballot. In order to qualify for the  
31 increased share ratio, twenty-five percent (25%) of the project costs or a minimum of five hundred  
32 thousand dollars (\$500,000) must be specifically directed to this purpose.

33 (g) For any new construction or renovation that decreases the functional utilization of any  
34 facility from more than one hundred twenty percent (120%) to between eighty-five percent (85%)

1 to one hundred five percent (105%), the school housing ratio shall be increased by five percent  
2 (5%) so long as construction of the project commences by December 30, 2023, is completed by  
3 December 30, 2028, and a two hundred fifty million dollar (\$250,000,000) general obligation bond  
4 is approved on the November 2018 ballot. In order to qualify for the increased share ratio, twenty-  
5 five percent (25%) of the project costs or a minimum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000)  
6 must be specifically directed to this purpose.

7 (h) For consolidation of two (2) or more school buildings, within or across districts into  
8 one school building, the school housing aid ratio shall be increased by five percent (5%) so long as  
9 construction of the project commences by December 30, 2023, is completed by December 30, 2028,  
10 a two hundred fifty million dollar (\$250,000,000) general obligation bond is approved on the  
11 November 2018 ballot, and does not receive a bonus pursuant to subsection (f) or subsection (g).  
12 In order to qualify for the increased share ratio, twenty-five percent (25%) of the project costs or a  
13 minimum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) must be specifically directed to this purpose.

14 (i) Any regionalized and/or non-regionalized school district receiving an increased share  
15 ratio for a project approved prior to July 1, 2018, shall continue to receive the increased share ratio  
16 for as long as the project receives state housing aid.

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

=====  
LC002357  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION – FOUNDATION LEVEL SCHOOL SUPPORT [SEE TITLE 16  
CHAPTER 97- THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT]

\*\*\*

1           This act would provide that districts with free and reduced lunch populations above twenty  
2 percent (20%) would have their minimum housing aid share increased to forty percent (40%) for  
3 projects completed after July 1, 2020. It would also provide that the school housing aid ratio be  
4 increased to five percent (5%) so long as the construction project is completed by December 30,  
5 2027, whereas the prior provision would mandate that it commence by December 30, 2022.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC002357  
=====