

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- LANGUAGE ACADEMIES ACT

Introduced By: Senators de la Cruz, Rogers, DeLuca, and E Morgan

Date Introduced: March 07, 2023

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 by
2 adding thereto the following chapters:

3 CHAPTER 112

4 LANGUAGE ACADEMIES ACT

5 **16-112-1. Short title.**

6 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Language Academies Act".

7 **16-112-2. Establishment.**

8 The Rhode Island department of education shall establish language academies for non-
9 English proficient students for the purpose of students becoming English proficient. The size and
10 staffing of each academy shall be determined by the department.

11 **16-112-3. Funding.**

12 (a) The Rhode Island department of education is hereby authorized to utilize and designate
13 a portion of or all of any existing school or school building in a city or town where at least ten
14 percent (10%) of the students who will attend school at a language academy reside in said city or
15 town.

16 (b) Language academies shall be eligible for the state aid portion of per-pupil aid from the
17 sending district. The department of education shall draw upon the Rhode Island education
18 revitalization fund (RIERF) as provided in chapter 113 of title 16, for the remaining operational
19 costs of the language academies.

- 1 (c) The amount to be collected to fund this chapter shall be included in the annual budget
- 2 bill approved by the general assembly each fiscal year.
- 3 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 -- LANGUAGE ACADEMIES ACT

1 This act would establish language academies for non-English proficient students and would
2 also establish the Rhode Island education revitalization fund to provide funding to the language
3 academies.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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