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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 - TEXTBOOKS

Introduced By: Representatives Tanzi, Finn, Walsh, and Ajello

Date Introduced: March 04, 2014

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 16-23-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-23 entitled "Textbooks"  
2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **16-23-2. Loan of textbooks.** -- (a) The school committee of every community as it is  
4 defined in section 16-7-16 shall furnish upon request, at the expense of the community, textbooks  
5 to all [public school](#) students in grades K-12 in the fields of mathematics, science, modern foreign  
6 languages, English/language arts and history/social studies, appearing on the list of textbooks  
7 published by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education as provided in section 16-  
8 23-3, to all [public school](#) pupils of elementary and secondary school grades resident in the  
9 community, the textbooks to be loaned to the pupils free of charge, subject to any rules and  
10 regulations as to care and custody that the school committee may prescribe. For loan purposes,  
11 non-public schools may not change a textbook assignment in a field more often than once in a  
12 three (3) year period as required of public schools in accordance with the provisions of section  
13 16-23-1. Nothing in this section shall be construed as forbidding non-public schools from  
14 requiring the use of any textbook, consistent with the provisions of this chapter, that does not  
15 adhere to said limitation, provided that the textbook is furnished to the student through a means  
16 other than the school committee of the student's city or town of residence.

17           **(b) The school committee of every community, as defined in § 16-7-16 shall furnish upon**  
18 **request, at the expense of the community, textbooks to all private school students in grades K-12**  
19 **in the fields of mathematics, science, world languages, English/language arts, and history/social**

1 studies, in accordance with § 16-23-3 to all elementary and secondary pupil residents of the  
2 community.

3 (1) Private schools shall pay for and receive all books directly and may seek  
4 reimbursement from the public school district with accompanying proof of enrollment.

5 (2) As of September 15 of each school year, each private school shall present the public  
6 school district of each student of residence a bill for payment for reimbursement for textbooks  
7 purchased and shall be reimbursed at a rate no more than a per pupil expenditure rate of fifty  
8 dollars (\$50.00).

9 ~~(b)~~(c) Every school committee shall also furnish at the expense of the community all  
10 other textbooks and school supplies used in the public schools of the community, the other  
11 textbooks and supplies to be loaned to the pupils of the public schools free of charge, subject to  
12 any rules and regulations as to care and custody that the school committee may prescribe. School  
13 books removed from school use may be distributed to pupils, and any textbook may become the  
14 property of a pupil who has completed the use of it in school, subject to rules and regulations  
15 prescribed by the school committee.

16 ~~(e)~~(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to forbid requiring or accepting from a  
17 pupil a deposit of a reasonable amount of money as a guaranty for the return of school property  
18 other than the books and supplies required in this section to be loaned free of charge, provided  
19 that the school committee shall make suitable rules and regulations for the safekeeping and return  
20 of deposits; and, provided, further, that in establishing schedules for deposits, the school  
21 committee should include provision for waiver of deposit due to financial hardship.

22 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 - TEXTBOOKS

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- 1           This act would require private schools to purchase and pay for books directly, and to seek
- 2 reimbursement from the school committee in an amount up to fifty dollars (\$50.00) per pupil.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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