2015 -- S 0102

S T A T E   O F   R H O D E   I S L A N D

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N   A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT

Introduced By: Senator Roger Picard

Date Introduced: January 22, 2015

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1   SECTION 1. Sections 16-7.2-3 and 16-7.2-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7.2

2   entitled "The Education Equity and Property Tax Relief Act" are hereby amended to read as

3   follows:

4   **16-7.2-3. Permanent foundation education aid established. --** (a) Beginning in the

5   2012 fiscal year, the following foundation education aid formula shall take effect. The foundation

6   education aid for each district shall be the sum of the core instruction amount in (a)(1), ~~and~~ the

7   amount to support high need students in (a)(2)~~,~~ and the amount to support school districts in

8   (a)(3) which shall be multiplied by the district state share ratio calculated pursuant to § 16-7.2-4

9   to determine the foundation aid.

10   (1) The core instruction amount shall be an amount equal to a statewide per pupil core

11   instruction amount as established by the department of elementary and secondary education,

12   derived from the average of northeast regional expenditure data for the states of Rhode Island,

13   Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire from the National Center for Education

14   Statistics (NCES) that will adequately fund the student instructional needs as described in the

15   basic education program and multiplied by the district average daily membership as defined in §

16   16-7-22. Expenditure data in the following categories: instruction and support services for

17   students, instruction, general administration, school administration and other support services

18   from the National Public Education Financial Survey as published by NCES and enrollment data

1 from the Common Core of Data also published by NCES will be used when determining the core

2 instruction amount. The core instruction amount will be updated annually. For the purpose of

3 calculating this formula, school districts' resident average daily membership shall exclude charter

4 school and state-operated school students.

5   (2) The amount to support high need students beyond the core instruction amount shall

6 be determined by multiplying a student success factor of forty percent (40%) by the core

7 instruction per pupil amount described in § 16-7.2-3(1) and applying that amount to all resident

8 children eligible for USDA reimbursable school meals.

9   (3) The amount to support school districts with students residing in housing taxed in

10 accordance with § 44-5-13.11 shall be determined by multiplying a housing factor of forty

11 percent (40%) by the core instruction per pupil amount described in § 16-7.2-3(1) and applying

12 that amount to all resident children residing in housing taxed in accordance with § 44-5-13.11.

13   (b) LEAs may set aside a portion of funds received under subsection (a) to expand

14 learning opportunities such as after school and summer programs, full day kindergarten and/or

15 multiple pathway programs provided that the basic education program and all other approved

16 programs required in law are funded.

17   **16-7.2-4. Determination of state's share. --** (a) For each district, the state's share of the

18 foundation education aid calculated pursuant to § 16-7.2-3(a) shall use a calculation that

19 considers a district's revenue generating capacity and concentration of high-need students. The

20 calculation is the square root of the sum of the state share ratio for the community calculation

21 (SSRC), pursuant to § 16-7-20, squared plus the district's percentage of students eligible for

22 USDA reimbursable school meals in grades PK-6 (PK6FRPL) squared, plus the percentage of

23 students residing in housing taxed in accordance with § 44-5-13.11 squared, divided by two.

24   (b) For purposes of determining the state's share, school district student data used in this

25 calculation shall include charter school and state school students. These ratios are used in the

26 permanent foundation education aid formula calculation described in § 16-7.2-5.

27   SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage and shall apply to all school years

28 commencing on or after July 1, 2015.

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EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

A N   A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX
RELIEF ACT

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1   This act would amend the calculation of the permanent foundation education aid to

2   school districts. The act would make an adjustment based upon students residing in qualified low-

3   income housing.

4   This act would take effect upon passage and would apply to all school years commencing

5   on or after July 1, 2015.

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