

2019 -- H 5266

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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 -- REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS [SEE TITLE 16
CHAPTER 97 -- THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Shanley, McNamara, Vella-Wilkinson, Solomon, and
Kennedy

Date Introduced: February 01, 2019

Referred To: Committee on Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-45-6.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-45 entitled "Regional
2 Vocational Schools [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is
3 hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **16-45-6.1. Career and technical education.**

5 (a) The general assembly finds that career and technical education programs that meet
6 rigorous industry standards and prepare Rhode Island's students to succeed in a wide variety of
7 employment settings are a critical component of the state's public education system and a
8 necessary element of the state's economic development. The regional career and technical centers,
9 which are hosted in the Chariho regional school district, Coventry public schools, Cranston public
10 schools, East Providence school district, Newport public schools, Warwick public schools and
11 Woonsocket education department, serve this vital need. These programs are to be offered in a
12 system focused on program quality and delivery efficiency.

13 ~~(b) The general assembly further finds that the proportion of students now enrolled in~~
14 ~~such programs is inadequate. Therefore, all Rhode Island school districts shall file a plan with the~~
15 ~~Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education no later than January 1, 2006 setting forth~~
16 ~~the means through which no fewer than forty (40) percent of their students enrolled in grades nine~~
17 ~~(9) through twelve (12) shall be provided the opportunity to enroll in career and technical~~
18 ~~programming that is certified by the Rhode Island Department of Education as meeting industry~~

1 ~~standards by September 2007.~~ The general assembly finds that regional career and technical
2 centers are best equipped to provide career and technical education to the students of Rhode
3 Island. Career and technical education programs, which shall:

4 (1) Be four (4) years in length consisting of at least five (5) full-year courses, except for
5 ROTC;

6 (2) Include an industry credential or equivalent and/or an opportunity to earn college
7 credits;

8 (3) Include an internship opportunity; and

9 (4) Be taught by a career and technical certified instructor. Career and technical education
10 programs may be housed in other than a career and technical center, only when documented
11 demand exists within the transportation region or when a substantially similar program is not
12 offered at the regional career and technical center and the center is unable to establish said
13 program. Programs housed in other than career and technical centers must be approved by the
14 regional advisory board.

15 ~~(c) To facilitate the development of additional career and technical program offerings for~~
16 ~~Rhode Island students that meet industry standards the department of elementary and secondary~~
17 ~~education shall, in furtherance of the reports and studies that have been developed since 2000~~
18 ~~setting forth recommendations for an updated system of career and technical education for the~~
19 ~~State of Rhode Island, develop a system design that includes site assessments of all current career~~
20 ~~and technical programs and sets forth standards and procedures for the department of elementary~~
21 ~~and secondary education to approve programs that are developed in cooperation with business,~~
22 ~~industry and postsecondary institutions. The department shall also develop a system design for~~
23 ~~three additional state operated career and technical schools, in addition to the William H. Davies~~
24 ~~School and the Metropolitan Career and Technical Center, including recommendations for a~~
25 ~~model for the siting, building costs, operational costs and program design for each such school.~~
26 ~~The general assembly shall appropriate funds to the department for purposes of their completion~~
27 ~~of the system design for the statewide program approval process to industry standards and the~~
28 ~~development of the models, siting and program design of the three additional state operated~~
29 ~~career and technical schools.~~ Students interested in career and technical education programs will
30 enroll in their regional career and technical center, unless the program is offered in their district
31 of residence within the transportation region. When a program of interest is not offered in the
32 transportation region, students may attend the program closest to the resident district, at the
33 expense of the resident district, except that transportation may not be provided by the resident
34 district.

1 (d) The department of education shall establish a uniform per student tuition formula
2 which will be assessed on districts sending students to career and technical centers or other
3 locations. For each student who completes an approved career and technical education program
4 over a four (4) year period (or less because they are able to demonstrate proficiency sooner) and
5 for whom tuition has been fully paid, the state shall reimburse the sending district for fifty percent
6 (50%) of the total cost of tuition. No district shall discourage the participation of students in
7 career and technical education programs.

8 (e) The department of education shall establish approval and rating systems based upon
9 program quality for career and technical education programs. No district shall be required to pay
10 tuition or provide transportation for a program with a less than satisfactory rating. A moratorium
11 shall be placed on the establishment of new career and technical education programs until:

- 12 (1) A rating is assigned to all existing programs; and
- 13 (2) An assessment of the need for existing duplicate programs is made. Duplicate
14 programs, not housed at a career and technical center, within a transportation region shall be
15 discontinued unless there is documented demand within the transportation region.

16 (f) A career pathway may be established within any high school in Rhode Island. The
17 department of education shall establish a pathway approval system. Career pathways must consist
18 of at least three (3) consecutive related full-year courses and include an internship experience. No
19 district shall be required to fund tuition and transportation expenses for student enrollment in a
20 pathway.

21 (g) Career and technical funds allocated under § 16-7.2-6 shall be used solely for the
22 purpose of funding improvements to approved career and technical programs and facilities or for
23 funding related to the establishment of new career and technical programs in subsection (b) of
24 this section.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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RELATING TO EDUCATION -- REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS [SEE TITLE 16
CHAPTER 97 -- THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT

1 This act would amend the career and technical education program to provide standards in
2 curriculum, additional opportunities for students, and would provide certain tuition formulas and
3 reimbursement rates.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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