

2010 -- H 7732

LC01331

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Introduced By: Representative Edwin R. Pacheco

Date Introduced: February 25, 2010

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-3 of the General Laws entitled "Establishment of Regional  
2 School Districts" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-3-27. State planning grants to study regionalization.** – For FY 2011, any city or  
4 town that desires to study the feasibility of establishing a regional school district shall be eligible  
5 to receive a state planning grant in the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be applied  
6 towards the cost of the study. The commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall  
7 establish regulations necessary to implement this section.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 16-7 of the General Laws entitled "Foundation Level School  
9 Support" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

10 **16-7-20.8. Short-term regionalization bonus.** – Notwithstanding the provisions  
11 contained in section 16-7-20.5, or any other provision of the general or public laws to the  
12 contrary, in the event that a regional school district is established pursuant to chapter 16-3, and as  
13 a result of a study conducted pursuant to section 16-3-26.1, the established regional school district  
14 shall be awarded an annual state appropriation in the sum of seven million dollars (\$7,000,000),  
15 commencing in its first year of regionalization, such appropriation to be reduced on an equal  
16 annual percentage basis thereafter, until the appropriation is completely phased-out five (5) years  
17 after the establishment of the regional school district. The general assembly shall annually  
18 appropriate those sums necessary to carry out the purpose of this section, and the state controller  
19 is authorized and directed to draw his or her orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of

1 [the sums hereunder, upon the receipt by the controller of properly authenticated vouchers.](#)

2 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
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1           This act would provide for planning grants to municipalities that study the feasibility of  
2   establishing regional school districts, and would further provide that any regional school district  
3   established as a result of such study would receive additional regionalization bonuses over a  
4   period of five (5) year.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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