

2014 -- S 2208 SUBSTITUTE A

LC003883/SUB A/5

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - FUNDING OF CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Introduced By: Senators Doyle, Nesselbush, and DiPalma

Date Introduced: January 30, 2014

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-77.1-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-77.1 entitled  
2 "Funding of Charter Public Schools" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-77.1-5. Facilities support for charter public schools.** – ~~(a) A public school district~~  
4 ~~or districts~~ District charter schools, as defined in § 16-77-2.1(1) and independent charter schools  
5 as defined in § 16-77-2.1(2) may access apply on the basis of a demonstrated need for state aid  
6 for reimbursement of school housing costs ~~for district-sponsored charter public schools~~ pursuant  
7 to sections 16-7-35 through 16-7-47. Effective July 1, 2014, the state aid for district charter or  
8 independent charter school housing costs shall be calculated annually using a three (3) year  
9 weighted average of the state aid percentages calculated pursuant to § 16-7-39 for the  
10 communities sending students to the district charter or independent charter school on the basis of  
11 the reference year as defined in § 16-7-36(4). However, if the three (3) year weighted average  
12 described above exceeds the percentage of school housing costs reimbursed with state aid for the  
13 municipality where the district charter or independent charter public school is located, then the  
14 percentage of a district charter or independent charter school's housing costs reimbursed with  
15 state aid shall be equal to the percentage of school housing costs reimbursed with state aid for the  
16 municipality where the district charter or independent charter school is located. This provision  
17 shall apply only to school housing projects completed after May 1, 2015. Before a district charter  
18 or independent charter school becomes eligible to access state aid for reimbursement of school  
19 housing costs, it must first certify to the Rhode Island department of elementary and secondary

1 education that it has attempted to utilize vacant school property within the municipality where the  
2 district charter or independent charter school is located, or within a reasonable distance  
3 therefrom, and that the use of such property would not be possible or practicable for the district  
4 charter or independent charter school.

5 ~~(b) Public charter schools not sponsored by a public school district or districts~~ Mayoral  
6 academies, as defined in § 16-77-2.1(3), may apply for thirty percent (30%) reimbursement of  
7 school housing cost on the basis of demonstrated need.

8 (c) The Rhode Island department of elementary and secondary education shall  
9 promulgate regulations to implement ~~this section~~ subsections (a) and (b) of this section consistent  
10 with the purposes and procedures of the existing school housing aid program pursuant to sections  
11 16-7-35 through 16-7-47. ~~For purposes of this section only, "facilities support, the urban~~  
12 ~~collaborative accelerated program" will be defined as a charter school.~~

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would provide that the percentage of school housing costs for district and  
2 independent charter schools reimbursed with state aid would be based on the average of the state  
3 aid provided to the communities sending students to the district or independent charter school,  
4 and such aid is not greater than the percentage of school housing costs reimbursed with state aid  
5 for the municipality where the district or independent charter school is located. The act would  
6 also provide that before a district or independent charter school would be eligible to access such  
7 state aid for reimbursement, the school would need to certify that it had first attempted to utilize  
8 vacant school property within the municipality where or within a reasonable distance from the  
9 district or independent charter school is located.

10           This act would take effect upon passage.

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