

2020 -- S 2379

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LC004303  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- ESTABLISHMENT OF CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Introduced By: Senators Sheehan, Pearson, Picard, Lawson, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: February 13, 2020

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 16-77 of the General Laws entitled "Establishment of Charter  
2 Public Schools [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby  
3 amended by adding thereto the following section:

4           **16-77-13. Host district to have membership on board of directors.**

5           Effective September 1, 2020, charter public schools as defined in § 16-77-2.1 shall  
6 include on their board of governors or trustees one member appointed by the school committee of  
7 the host school district with the consent of the charter public school; provided, however, that the  
8 charter public school cannot unreasonably withhold its approval. The appointee shall be a resident  
9 of either the host district or any district sending students to the charter public school. In the event  
10 a charter public school, as defined in § 16-77-2.1, does not have a board of governors, trustees, or  
11 a governing body, such a body shall be established by the school to ensure public representation  
12 in the governance of the charter public school. The charter public school governing board shall be  
13 responsible for, but not be limited to, the expenditures of public funds, the running of fair and  
14 equitable lotteries for attendance at the school and to ensure that students attending the school  
15 reflect the diversity of the sending districts, with regard to ethnicity, special education and income  
16 levels. Members of the board appointed by the host school committee will serve at the pleasure of  
17 said committee.

1 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 -- ESTABLISHMENT OF CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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1           This act would require that charter public schools include on their board of governors or  
2 trustees, one member from the host community to be appointed by the school committee of said  
3 community. If no board exists, one shall be established by the school to ensure public  
4 representation of the charter school.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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