

2010 -- S 2405

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEXTBOOKS

Introduced By: Senators E O'Neill, Pinga, Cote, Raptakis, and Maher

Date Introduced: February 11, 2010

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-23-2 and 16-23-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-23 entitled
2 "Textbooks" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-23-2. Loan of textbooks.** -- (a) The school committee of every community as it is
4 defined in section 16-7-16 shall furnish upon request, at the expense of the community, textbooks
5 ~~to all students in grades K-12 in the fields of mathematics, science, modern foreign languages,~~
6 ~~English/language arts and history/social studies,~~ appearing on the list of textbooks published by
7 the commissioner of elementary and secondary education as provided in section 16-23-3, to all
8 pupils of elementary and secondary school grades K-12 resident in the community, the textbooks
9 to be loaned to the pupils free of charge, subject to any rules and regulations as to care and
10 custody that the school committee may prescribe. For loan purposes, non-public schools may not
11 change a textbook assignment in a field more often than once in a three (3) year period as
12 required of public schools in accordance with the provisions of section 16-23-1. Nothing in this
13 section shall be construed as forbidding non-public schools from requiring the use of any
14 textbook, consistent with the provisions of this chapter, that does not adhere to said limitation,
15 provided that the textbook is furnished to the student through a means other than the school
16 committee of the student's city or town of residence.

17 (b) Every school committee shall also furnish at the expense of the community all other
18 textbooks and school supplies used in the public schools of the community, the other textbooks
19 and supplies to be loaned to the pupils of the public schools free of charge, subject to any rules

1 and regulations as to care and custody that the school committee may prescribe. School books
2 removed from school use may be distributed to pupils, and any textbook may become the
3 property of a pupil who has completed the use of it in school, subject to rules and regulations
4 prescribed by the school committee.

5 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to forbid requiring or accepting from a
6 pupil a deposit of a reasonable amount of money as a guaranty for the return of school property
7 other than the books and supplies required in this section to be loaned free of charge, provided
8 that the school committee shall make suitable rules and regulations for the safekeeping and return
9 of deposits; and, provided, further, that in establishing schedules for deposits, the school
10 committee should include provision for waiver of deposit due to financial hardship.

11 **16-23-3. Published textbook list.** -- The commissioner shall publish annually a list of
12 textbooks in use in the public schools ~~in the fields of mathematics, science, modern foreign~~
13 ~~languages, English/language arts and history/social studies to~~ by all students in grades K-12. Said
14 list shall specify and identify two (2) textbooks for use in each subject in each grade. The list
15 shall be published for the purpose of the loan of the textbooks to all resident pupils as provided
16 for in section 16-23-2 and shall not include any textbooks of a sectarian nature or containing
17 sectarian material.

18 SECTION 2. Chapter 16-23 of the General Laws entitled "Textbooks" is hereby amended
19 by adding thereto the following section:

20 **16-23-3.2. The procurement and distribution of textbooks.** -- The procurement and
21 distribution of textbooks shall be a centralized function under the department of education.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEXTBOOKS

- 1 This act would require the commissioner of education to establish a textbook list
- 2 specifying two (2) textbooks for each grade in each subject and require that the procurement of all
- 3 textbooks be done by the department of education.
- 4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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