

2010 -- S 2725

=====
LC02129
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COMMISSIONER OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION TO CONDUCT COMMUNITY FORUMS ON THE EDUCATION FUNDING
FORMULA

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, DeVall, Gallo, and P Fogarty

Date Introduced: March 25, 2010

Referred To: Senate Constitutional & Regulatory Issues

1 WHEREAS, Public school students, schools, and school districts in Rhode Island deserve
2 an education funding formula that is fair, equitable, and predictable; and

3 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes the need for improving how public
4 education is funded in the state, and, in collaboration with stakeholder groups, has invested time
5 and energy over the past five years to develop a different approach to funding education; and

6 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
7 (RIDE) has also committed itself to creating a different system of funding public education; and

8 WHEREAS, The Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education has made it a
9 priority to create a new education funding formula; and

10 WHEREAS, RIDE's work on the education funding formula should be transparent, with a
11 depth of analysis; and

12 WHEREAS, The impact of a changed education funding system will be felt in every
13 community in the state. The complexity of the information involved in constructing an education
14 formula and the implications of a changed funding system require local communities to engage in
15 discussions that will help them anticipate and prepare for a new system; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this Senate urges the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary
17 Education to hold community forums throughout the state with the goal of describing RIDE's
18 education funding formula, explaining its components, and providing details about its methods
19 and results; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby requests that the Commissioner prioritize reaching
2 out to those communities that request more information; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby requests that the Commissioner and RIDE
4 undertake these community forums as soon as possible; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
6 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Commissioner of Elementary and
7 Secondary Education.

8

=====
LC02129
=====