

2017 -- S 0244

LC001253

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION-COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

Introduced By: Senator Roger Picard

Date Introduced: February 15, 2017

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-19-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-19 entitled  
2 "Compulsory Attendance [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]"  
3 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **16-19-2. Approval of private schools -- Requirements -- Review.**

5 For the purposes of this chapter a private school or at-home instruction shall be approved  
6 only when it complies with the following requirements: (1) that the period of attendance of the  
7 pupils in the school or in the home instruction is substantially equal to that required by law in  
8 public schools; (2) that registers are kept and returned to the school committee, the superintendent  
9 of schools, truant officers, and the department of elementary and secondary education in relation  
10 to the attendance of pupils, and are made the same as registers kept by the public schools; (3) that  
11 reading, writing, geography, arithmetic, the history of the United States, the history of Rhode  
12 Island, and the principles of American government shall be taught in the English language  
13 substantially to the same extent as these subjects are required to be taught in the public schools,  
14 and that the teaching of the English language and of other subjects indicated in this section shall  
15 be thorough and efficient; and (4) that students receiving at-home instruction shall be annually  
16 evaluated via grade level standardized assessment as approved by the school district in which the  
17 child resides to measure satisfactory progress or growth from the previous year, or that an annual  
18 written narrative evaluation shall be conducted by a certified teacher or other professional as  
19 recommended by the superintendent and approved by the school committee for the purpose of

1 [measuring satisfactory progress or growth from the previous year](#); provided, however, that  
2 nothing contained in this section shall be construed or operate to deny the right to teach in private  
3 schools or in at-home instruction any of the subjects or any other subject in any other language in  
4 addition to the teaching in English as prescribed in this section; provided, further, that any  
5 interested person resident in any city or town aggrieved by the action of the school committee of  
6 the city or town either in approving or refusing to approve at-home instruction may appeal the  
7 action to the department of elementary and secondary education. The department of elementary  
8 and secondary education, after notice to the parties interested of the time and place of a hearing,  
9 shall examine and decide the appeal without cost to the parties. The commissioner of elementary  
10 and secondary education shall also grant a hearing to any party aggrieved by a refusal to approve  
11 a private school pursuant to § 16-60-6(10). The decision of the board of regents for elementary  
12 and secondary education shall, if an appeal is made to the board, be final.

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 require that students who are home schooled be evaluated via grade level  
2 standardized assessment to measure satisfactory progress or growth from the previous year, or  
3 that an annual written narrative evaluation be conducted by a certified teacher or other  
4 professional for the purpose of measuring satisfactory progress or growth from the previous year.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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