

2015 -- S 0479

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - HEALTH AND SAFETY OF STUDENTS

Introduced By: Senators Nesselbush, Pichardo, Ottiano, Sosnowski, and Satchell

Date Introduced: February 26, 2015

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-21-9 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-21 entitled "Health and
2 Safety of Pupils" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-21-9. Health examinations and dental screenings -- Reports -- Records. --** (a) Each
4 community as defined in § 16-7-16 shall provide for the appointment of a physician to make
5 examinations of the health of the school children, who shall report any deviation from the normal,
6 and for the preservation of records of the examinations of the children. Each community shall
7 further provide for dental screenings by a licensed dentist or ~~licensed dental hygienist~~ a licensed
8 public health dental hygienist with at least three (3) years of clinical experience, who shall report
9 any suspected deviation from the normal and for the preservation of records of the screenings of
10 the children. Each community shall notify the parents or custodians of children of conditions
11 requiring professional or skilled treatment. The state commissioner of elementary and secondary
12 education shall provide blank forms and record books that he or she may deem necessary for the
13 purposes of this section.

14 (b) Each community as defined in § 16-7-16 shall ~~only~~ contract with a licensed dentist
15 and/or a licensed public health dental hygienist for the provision of the dental screenings services
16 required by this section. Dental hygienists performing the dental screenings pursuant to the
17 provisions of this section shall do so under the general supervision of the dentist liable and
18 responsible under the contract with the community or within the collaborative agreement
19 guidelines between a licensed public health dental hygienist and a licensed dentist.

1 (c) Except in emergency circumstances, referral by a licensed dentist or ~~dental hygienist~~
2 a licensed public health dental hygienist of children screened pursuant to the provisions of this
3 section to a dental practice by which the dentist or dental hygienist is employed and/or which the
4 dentist owns shall be strictly prohibited. In the event that a referral has been made in violation of
5 this provision, the community shall terminate its contract with the dentist. In the case of an
6 egregious violation of the referral prohibition contained in this section, that conduct shall be
7 reported to the board of dental examiners.

8 (d) Each community shall provide to parents or custodians of children who require
9 professional or skilled treatment a list of both dental practices in the community which accept
10 patients insured by Medical Assistance and/or RIte Care and dental practices which provide
11 services on a sliding scale basis to uninsured individuals. The department of human services shall
12 provide each community with a list containing the addresses and telephone numbers of both
13 dental practices which accept patients insured by Medical Assistance and/or RIte Care and dental
14 practices which provide services on a sliding scale basis to uninsured individuals.

15 (e) Dental screenings for children in kindergarten, third, and ninth grade shall only be
16 performed by a licensed dentist and/or a licensed public health dental hygienist.

17 (f) All dentists ~~or dental hygienists~~ and/or licensed public health dental hygienists
18 performing dental screenings pursuant to the provisions of this section shall meet with the oral
19 health director of the department of health on a regular basis, as determined by the chief.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION - HEALTH AND SAFETY OF STUDENTS

- 1 This act would require health examinations and dental screenings for school children be
- 2 performed by a licensed dentist or a licensed public health dental hygienist.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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