

2011 -- S 0610

LC01827

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - FOUNDATION EDUCATION AID FORMULA

Introduced By: Senators Goodwin, and Ruggerio

Date Introduced: March 10, 2011

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-7.2-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7.2 entitled "The
2 Education Equity and Property Tax Relief Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-7.2-4. Determination of state's share.** – (a) For each district, the state's share of the
4 foundation education aid calculated pursuant to section 16-7.2-3(a) shall use a calculation that
5 considers a district's revenue generating capacity and concentration of high-need students. The
6 calculation is the square root of the sum of the state share ratio for the community calculation
7 (SSRC), pursuant to section 16-7-20, squared plus the district's percentage of students eligible for
8 USDA reimbursable school meals in grades PK-6 (PK6FRPL) squared, divided by two.

9 For purposes of determining the state's share, school district student data used in this
10 calculation shall include charter school and state school students. These ratios are used in the
11 permanent foundation education aid formula calculation described in section 16-7.2-5. Provided,
12 that regardless of the amount determined by strict application of the calculations provided for
13 herein, the amount of the state's share shall be subject to the provisions of subsection (b) herein.

14 (b) Notwithstanding the amount calculated pursuant to subsection (a), for the fiscal year
15 commencing July 1, 2011, and going forward thereafter, in no case shall the percentage of the
16 state's share of foundation education aid to a district be less than the greater of:

17 (1) Twenty-five percent (25%) of the district's foundation education aid calculated
18 pursuant to section 16-7.2-3; or

19 (2) The amount of foundation level school support provided to the district in the fiscal

1 year beginning July 1, 2011, whichever is greater. The percentage of the state's share of aid shall
2 not be reduced in the event of declines in student enrollment in a school district.

3 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 provide a "hold harmless" clause in the new foundation education aid
2 formula. This provision would establish a minimum share for the state's share of foundation
3 education aid at twenty-five percent (25%) or the amount of foundation level school support
4 provided to the district in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011, whichever is greater. This act
5 would also provide that state aid would not be reduced in the event of declines in enrollment in a
6 school district.

7 This act would take effect upon passage.

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