

LC02434

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

18 **16-85-4. Development of Rhode Island community supports academy. -- (a) The**
19 commissioner of higher education, and the office of health and human services, executive

1 secretary and director of Rhode Island labor and training shall jointly develop a proposal to
2 establish a certification program for entry level workers interested in working with children and
3 adults with special needs and present it to the board of governors for higher education for their
4 approval. The board shall, in developing the academy, consider the following:

5 (1) The establishment of a certification program that includes coursework and a
6 supervised field placement component; and

7 (2) Content shall encompass the employment needs of hospital and community settings;
8 home based services; children and adult day care settings; school settings; and other settings that
9 work with special needs children and adults.

10 (b) Input of interested parties. In developing the proposal for the Rhode Island
11 community supports academy, the commissioner of higher education and the office of health and
12 human services and the director of Rhode Island department of labor and training shall solicit
13 input from interested parties, including, but not limited to:

14 (1) providers of special needs services;

15 (2) administrators and faculty leaders from institutions of higher education that currently
16 offer coursework and degrees related to special needs for children and adults, including
17 representatives from Brown Medical School, University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College,
18 Community College of Rhode Island; and

19 (3) Individuals with special needs, their families, and community organizations that
20 support the advancement of special needs individuals.

21 **16-85-5. Advisory board. --** (a) The powers delegated and authorized in this chapter for
22 the board of governors for higher education and the department of elementary and secondary
23 education, office of health and human services, Rhode Island department of labor and training
24 shall be in addition to those previously authorized by any other general or public law.

25 (b) The governance, funding, and programming of the Rhode Island Community
26 Supports Academy shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations formulated by the board
27 of governors for higher education pursuant to chapter 35 of title 42.

28 (c) The purpose of this chapter is to structure the governance of the Rhode Island
29 Community Supports Academy.

30 (d) The board of governors for higher education shall appoint the members of the
31 advisory board from nominations made by the commissioner higher education. The chairperson
32 shall also be selected in this manner. The board of governors for higher education shall determine
33 the qualifications and terms of office of members of the board of trustees. The advisory board
34 shall be comprised of eleven (11) individuals, not less than four (4) of whom shall be persons or

1 parents of persons who have special needs. The commissioner may seek input on nominations of
2 persons or parents, guardians of persons who are special needs from organizations whose
3 membership is primarily made up of parents of special needs individuals, individuals who have
4 special needs, as well as from degree and certificate granting institutions and other sources. For
5 purposes of obtaining input from diverse sources regarding suggestions for nominations for the
6 first advisory board to be nominated by the commissioner, the commissioner shall convene a
7 public forum to obtain broad input prior to making the initial nominations for the founding
8 membership on the advisory board. No person in any way employed by or doing business for
9 monetary gain with the Rhode Island community supports academy may be member of the
10 advisory board. Rhode Island community supports academy, office of health and human services,
11 and the department of labor and training shall serve ex-officio and be non-voting members.

12 (e) The board of governors shall establish strategic directions for the education and
13 training of individuals to work with special needs individuals from birth to death in the state of
14 Rhode Island in consultation with the office of health and human services and the Rhode Island
15 department of labor and training.

16 (f) The board of governors shall provide parameters for budget requests, recommend a
17 budget, and participate in budget development.

18 (1) The commissioner of higher education shall recommend parameters for the overall
19 budget requests, recommend a budget, and participate in budget development.

20 (g) The advisory board shall meet not less than quarterly and serve without
21 compensation. Five (5) members of the advisory board shall be required for quorums. They shall
22 keep records of their meetings and report annually on the progress of the Rhode Island
23 community supports academy to the commissioner, board of governors and the general assembly,
24 and state library.

25 (h) The advisory board shall recommend to the board of governors of higher education
26 consistent with this subsection:

27 (1) To recommend what the needs of the special needs children and adults are in the state
28 of Rhode Island.

29 (2) To recommend educational and training service policies to meet the needs of special
30 needs children and adults served by the graduates of the Rhode Island community supports
31 academy.

32 (3) To recommend policy guidance and suggestions for budget development.

33 (4) To recommend methods which ensure that all students are taught by educators of the
34 highest possible quality.

1 (5) To establish appropriate committees and/or workgroups as needed, to provide
2 guidance and feedback on the goals and outcomes of the Rhode Island Community Supports
3 Academy.

4 (6) To make themselves available to the board of governors of higher education, board of
5 regents, office of health and human services, departments of education, human services, health,
6 elderly affairs, youth and families and local education authorities in order to provide a link
7 between these agencies.

8 (7) The advisory board shall utilize as a guiding document to advise policy, and annually
9 update, the "Issue Brief", 2007.

10 (i) To recommend to the board of governors policies to meet the needs of children and
11 adults with special needs to advise on implementation of policies established by the board of
12 governors and the Rhode Island community supports academy.

13 **16-85-6. Reporting deadline.** -- The board of governors and the office of health and
14 human services and Rhode Island department of labor and training shall submit a report by
15 January 3, 2008 that includes its findings and recommendations, including an assessment of the
16 size of the market for the certification program, a course of study with particular regard to the
17 credit transferability, a range of financial incentive programs to attract students, and proposed
18 actions and recommendations to the general assembly. Following the receipt and review of the
19 report, the general assembly may report out a bill to the regular session of the 122nd legislature.

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

- 1 This act would create the Rhode Island community support academy.
- 2 This act would take effect upon passage.

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