

2008 -- H 7079

LC00083

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2008

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Representatives Malik, Gablinske, Gallison, Rose, and Winfield

Date Introduced: January 09, 2008

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 16-21-21.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-21 entitled "Health  
2 and Safety of Pupils" is hereby amended to read as follows:  
3           **16-21-21.1. Penalties for drug, alcohol or weapons offenses.** -- (a) The discipline of  
4 any public school student for violating a school policy relating to the possession or use of alcohol,  
5 ~~or drugs or weapons not described in section 16-21-18 of this chapter,~~ shall include the  
6 suspension of that student for one full calendar year from all sports teams governed by the school  
7 or the Rhode Island Interscholastic League, as well as from any extracurricular activity controlled  
8 by the school, including, but not limited to clubs, dances, proms, academic teams, or any other  
9 activity the student attends or participates in on a voluntary basis. The suspension shall not  
10 include participation in any activity that is required of all students, such as community service  
11 programs required for graduation. Any student suspended from sports or other activities under  
12 this section who is in their senior year shall not be permitted to participate in graduation  
13 ceremonies even if the student is academically eligible to graduate. Nothing in this section shall  
14 prevent an academically eligible student to graduate from receiving their diploma. Any discipline  
15 in addition to the mandatory suspension from school activities and sports teams shall be imposed  
16 on a case-by-case basis pursuant to guidelines developed and promulgated by the school  
17 committee for that district. The guidelines and any discipline imposed shall take into account the  
18 nature and circumstances of the violation and the applicability of any federal laws governing  
19 students with disabilities.

1           (b) The discipline of any public school student for violating a school policy relating to the  
2 possession or use of weapons not described in section 16-21-18 of this chapter shall be imposed  
3 on a case-by-case basis pursuant to guidelines developed and promulgated by the school  
4 committee for that district. The guidelines and any discipline imposed shall take into account the  
5 nature and circumstances of the violation and the applicability of any federal laws governing  
6 students with disabilities.

7           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 PUPILS

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1           This act would require every student violating a school policy regarding the possession of  
2 alcohol or drugs, whether or not the violation occurred on a school premises or not, to suspend  
3 that student from all sports programs, teams, or other extracurricular activities, including clubs,  
4 dances, proms or other programs for a period of one year.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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