

LEGISLATION IMPACTING ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ENACTED DURING THE  
2007 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION  
**Excluding Budget Articles**

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Explanation	RIDE Responsibilities
S - 4 Sub A H - 5020 Sub A	Senator Tassoni Representative Gemma	An Act Relating to Motor Vehicles - School Bus Safety	This act would require that school bus emergency brakes, commencing with model year 2010, be equipped with an interlock brake system that, once applied, may only be released when the brake pedal is depressed and the key is in the ignition. This act would take effect upon passage.	<u>Progressive Support and Intervention</u>
S - 81 Sub A H - 5050 Sub A	Senator Sosnowski Representative McNamara	An Act Relating to Education - Health and Safety of Pupils	This act would require all Rhode Island senior high schools that sell or distribute beverages and snacks on their premises, including those sold through vending machines, to offer only healthier beverages and snacks effective 1/1/2008. This act would take effect upon passage.	<u>Progressive Support and Intervention</u>
S - 142	Senator Ciccone	An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government - Open Meetings	This act would authorize the use of electronic communication or telephone communications as a reasonable accommodation for a member of a public body who has a disability and would not otherwise be able to participate. This act would take effect upon passage.	
S - 157 Sub A H - 5860 Sub A	Senator Raptakis Representative Sullivan	An Act Relating to Education - Coventry	This act would allow Coventry school department or school committee to accept donations, gifts or grants for specific purposes. This act would take effect upon passage.	<u>Office of Finance</u>
S - 173 Sub A H - 5674 as amended	Senator Gallo Representative Winfield	An Act Relating to Business and Professions - Speech Pathology and Audiology	This act would make various changes regarding licensing requirements for speech language pathologists and audiologists. This act would take effect upon passage.	<u>Educator Quality &amp; Certification</u> Changes in certification for Speech Language Pathologists
S - 295	Senator Connors	An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government - Administrative Procedures	This act would require agencies to prepare and make available summaries of proposed rule amendments in accordance with notice requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act. This act would take effect upon passage.	<u>Board of Regents</u> <u>Office of Finance</u>
S - 393 H - 6128	Senator Gallo Representative Palumbo	An Act Relating Education - Establishment of Charter Public Schools	This act would permit any career/technical charter public schools which enroll special education students from outside the school district with verifiable IEP's to receive from the sending district the average per pupil special education cost of the sending district. This act would take effect upon passage.	<u>Office of Special Populations</u> <u>Commissioner's Office - Keith</u>
S - 394 H - 5352	Senator Issa Representative Williams	An Act Relating to Education - Health and Safety of Pupils	This act would provide that the discipline for any public school student who is in possession or use of alcohol, drugs or weapons, would be imposed on a case-by-case basis pursuant to guidelines promulgated by the school committee for that district. This act would take effect upon passage.	<u>Progressive Support &amp; Intervention</u> <u>Legal Office</u>
S - 451 Sub A H - 5862 Sub A	Senator Paiva-Weed Representative Slater	An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government - The Department of Human Services	This act would implement a voluntary quality rating system to increase the quality of early care and education and school-age child care. This act would take effect upon passage.	<u>Office of Special Populations</u>

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Explanation	RIDE Responsibilities
S - 461 H - 5661	Senator Ciccone Representative Corvese	An Act Relating to Education - Committees and Superintendents	This act would authorize elected school committees to retain the services of independent legal counsel as it may deem necessary and convenient. This act would take effect upon passage.	<u>Legal Office</u>
S - 556 Sub A as amended H - 6371 Sub A	Senator Tassoni Representative Gablinski	An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles - School, Pupil Transport Vehicle	This act would provide for pupil transportation vehicles in order to allow for the transportation of small number of students. This act would take effect upon passage.	<u>Office of Finance</u>
S - 776 H - 5874	Senator Doyle Representative Dennigan	An Act Relating to Elections - Voting Districts and Officials	This act would allow high school juniors and seniors to be appointed as election officials. This act would take effect upon passage.	
S - 875 Sub B H - 6166 Sub A	Senator Lanzi Representative Naughton	An Act Relating to Education - Dating Violence "Lindsey Ann Burke Act"	This act would require districts to implement dating violence procedures. This act would also require school districts to incorporate an age-appropriate dating violence education program for grades 7 through 12 into the district's health education curriculum. This act would take effect upon passage.	<u>Progressive Support &amp; Intervention</u> RIDE shall develop a model dating violence policy to assist school districts in developing policies for dating violence reporting and response. The Model Policy shall be issued on or before 4/1/08
S - 923 H - 6279	Senator Paiva - Weed Representative Mumford	An Act Relating to Education - Transportation	This act would require a report on the subject of regional bus services for special needs students be submitted by 3/8/08. This act would take effect upon passage.	<u>Office of Finance</u> <u>Office of Special Populations</u> RIDE in collaboration with DOA (Statewide Planning) and RIPTA, shall develop a plan for the creation and implementation of a statewide system of transportation of students with special needs to and from school. RIDE shall submit a report of its findings and plans to the General Assembly by 3/30/08
S - 953 Sub A H - 6051 Sub A	Senator Alves Representative Costantino	An Act Relating to Education - Foundation Level School Support	This act would require all school housing bonds issued, including those issued by a municipal public buildings authority, would require an enabling act from the general assembly. This act would take effect upon passage.	<u>Office of Finance</u>
S - 1053	Senator Paiva - Weed	An Act Relating To Education - Health and Safety of Pupils	This act would require 2 evacuation drills and 2 lockdown drills to be included among the 15 mandatory drills which schools must conduct each year. This act would take effect upon passage.	<u>Progressive Support &amp; Intervention</u> RIDE will assist school districts in the implementation of this legislation.

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Explanation	RIDE Responsibilities
S - 1067 H - 6440	Senator Tassoni Representative Winfield	An Act Relating to Education - Cooperative Service Among School Districts	This act would grant to the Northern RI Collaborative the following powers: to purchase, take, receive, lease, take by gift, or otherwise acquire, own, hold, mortgage, finance, improve, or use realty and fixtures at 300 George Washington Highway, Smithfield and to create a wholly owned subsidiary entity to facilitate any of the above mentioned powers. This act would take effect upon passage.	<u>Office of Special Populations</u>
S - 5286 Sub A	Representative Silva	An Act Relating to Education	This act would add labor and labor relations, negotiating, collective bargaining agreements, and employee contract analysis to the professional development program offered by Rhode Island College and the Rhode Island Association of School Committees. This act would take effect upon passage.	
H - 5300 Sub A as amended	Representative Watson	An Act Making Appropriations for the Support of the State for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2008	An Act Making Appropriations for the Support of the State for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2008 (2008 BUDGET)	<u>Office of Finance</u>
H- 5351 Sub A as amended	Representative McNamara	An Act Relating to Education	This act would create the "Rhode Island Dropout Prevention Act of 2007." It would be the responsibility of the Rhode Island department of elementary and secondary education to work in collaboration with the school districts and the department of higher education to implement strategies to lower the dropout rate. This act would take effect on September 1, 2007.	<u>Middle &amp; High School Reform</u> <u>Progressive Support &amp; Intervention</u> RIDE shall work with school districts with the lowest High School graduation rates. In addition, RIDE in collaboration with Higher Ed, may develop a plan for a high school "fast track to college" program. RIDE & Higher Ed shall report to the general assembly on the feasibility of establishing this program and the potential costs of a pilot program by 1/1/08.
H - 5671 Sub A as amended	Representative Baldelli- Hunt	An Act Relating to Education - Health and Safety of Pupils	This act would require schools to post a notice in conspicuous place advertising if there is a student in the school that has an allergy to peanuts and prohibit the sale of peanuts and peanut based products in the cafeteria if it is known that an enrolled student has a peanut allergy. This act would take effect upon passage.	<u>Progressive Support &amp; Intervention</u>
H - 5900	Representative Dennigan	An Act Relating to Education - Curriculum	This act would establish a pilot program to encourage physical exercise and promote healthy weight levels in children. This act would take effect upon passage.	<u>Progressive Support &amp; Intervention</u>
H - 6131 as amended	Representative Naughton	An Act Relating to Education	This act would create the Rhode Island community support academy. This act would take effect upon passage.	<u>Office of Special Populations</u>

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Explanation	RIDE Responsibilities
H - 6563 Sub A	Representative Slater	AN ACT RELATING TO THE COMPUTATION OF SCHOOL HOUSING AID IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF REFUNDING BONDS BY A LOCAL COMMUNITY OR A MUNICIPAL PUBLIC BUILDINGS AUTHORITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY OR BY THE RHODE ISLAND HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL BUILDING CORPORATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY	This act would provide that, in connection with the issuance of school funding bonds benefiting any local community, any net interest savings that result from the refunding shall be allocated between the community and the state of Rhode Island by applying the school housing aid ratio that would otherwise apply in connection with school housing projects of the community. A local community or municipal public buildings authority would not be entitled to the benefits of this act unless the net present value savings resulting from the refunding is at least three percent (3%) of the refunding bond issue. This act would also amend the Rhode Island health and educational building corporation act to authorize the Rhode Island health and educational building corporation to issue refunding bonds for the benefit of local communities to refinance school housing aid projects. This act would take effect upon passage.	<u>Office of Finance</u>