



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Council on Postsecondary Education  
80 Washington Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

**Enclosure 4b(1) & 4b(2)**  
**January 21, 2015**

**Eva-Marie Mancuso, Esq.**  
Chair

**Council on Elementary and  
Secondary Education**

January 16, 2015

**Patrick Guida, Esq.**  
Chair

Amy Beretta, Esq.

Colleen A. Callahan, Ed.D.

Karin Forbes

Jo Eva Gaines

Lawrence Purtill

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Mathies J. Santos

Joyce L. Stevos, Ph.D.

TO: Members of the Council on Postsecondary Education

FROM: Jim Purcell, Ed.D., Commissioner for Postsecondary  
Education

RE: **Current legislation being considered during the 2015  
Session of the General Assembly.**

**Council on Postsecondary  
Education**

There are currently two items of legislation being considered by the  
General Assembly early in the session:

**Michael Bernstein**  
Chair

H 5034 Reporting of Campus Sexual Assault  
H 5077 The Complete College Rhode Island Act

Antonio Barajas, M.D.

Dennis Duffy, Esq.

The Honorable Thomas Izzo

Judy Ouellette

Kerry I. Rafanelli, Esq.

John J. Smith, Jr.

Dr. Jeffery A. Williams

Our discussion will provide some background and context for these  
bills and their implications on the system if passed in their current  
form.

*Attachments.*

2015 -- H 5034

LC000262

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION - REPORTING OF CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT

Introduced By: Representatives Ackerman, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Tanzi, and Regunberg

Date Introduced: January 08, 2015

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 16 of the General Laws entitled "EDUCATION" is hereby amended

2 by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 76.2

4 SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORTING BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

5 16-76.2-1. "Sexual assault" defined. -- As used in this chapter, "sexual assault" means  
6 first degree sexual assault as defined in § 11-37-2; second degree sexual assault as defined in §  
7 11-37-4; and/or third degree sexual assault as defined in § 11-37-6.

8 16-76.2-2. Mandatory report of sexual assault to law enforcement by institutions of  
9 higher education. -- (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any statute, rule or regulation to the  
10 contrary, in the event that an institution of higher education receives a report of an alleged sexual  
11 assault made by a student enrolled in the institution or made by an employee of the institution  
12 against another such student or employee, the institution shall immediately notify the appropriate  
13 law enforcement authorities of the allegation.

14 (b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to preclude, or in any way restrict, an  
15 institution of higher education from responding to and investigating an allegation of sexual  
16 assault made pursuant to this section for the purpose of imposing disciplinary action on the  
17 alleged perpetrator of the assault.

1           **SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage**

**LC000262**

**EXPLANATION**  
**BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**OF**  
**A N A C T**  
**RELATING TO EDUCATION - REPORTING OF CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT**

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- 1           This act would require institutions of higher education to report allegations of sexual  
2 assault to law enforcement.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

LC000262

2015 -- H 5077

LC000233

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - THE COMPLETE COLLEGE RHODE ISLAND ACT

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Azzinaro, Diaz, Bennett, and Malik

Date Introduced: January 14, 2015

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 16 of the General Laws entitled "EDUCATION" is hereby amended  
2 by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 105

4 THE COMPLETE COLLEGE RHODE ISLAND ACT

5 16-105-1. Purpose. -- The purpose of this chapter is to increase the number of students  
6 who complete college or other forms of higher education to achieve degrees and credentials that  
7 have value in the labor market, and to close the achievement gaps for groups who are traditionally  
8 under-represented in higher education.

9 16-105-2. Board of education to set goals. -- The Rhode Island board of education shall  
10 establish state-wide goals that are school specific for increasing the number of graduates who  
11 earn certificates and degrees at both two (2) and four (4) year post-secondary public institutions  
12 of higher education through the year 2020. The board of education shall also develop  
13 recommendations for financial incentives tied to meeting these goals, which recommendations  
14 shall be presented for consideration to the general assembly on before January 1, 2016.

15 16-105-3. State-wide college access and completion data system. -- (a) The board of  
16 education shall develop and make available to the governor and the general assembly state-wide  
17 college access and completion data and related analyses that includes data on students'  
18 educational experiences and outcomes from early childhood through higher education in Rhode  
19 Island public institutions of higher education and into the workforce. Data collected shall include:

1           (1) The number of students taking developmental remediation courses and the  
2 pass/failure rate for such courses;

3           (2) Graduation rates for students who have been enrolled in developmental education  
4 courses at each institution;

5           (3) The number of post-secondary school students at each institution who are enrolled in  
6 twelve (12) to fourteen (14) credit hours per semester; and

7           (4) The number of post-secondary school students at each institution who are enrolled in  
8 fifteen (15) or more credit hours per semester.

9           (b) Graduation data shall include the average excess credits that students have  
10 accumulated and the approximate cost of these credits to both the students and the state. As used  
11 herein, the term "excess credits" refers to credits which the student earned and which were not  
12 required for the degree or certificate. Each institution shall also list the average time needed to  
13 earn a degree or certificate.

14           (c) Such data and analyses shall be utilized to develop and implement strategies for  
15 improving preparation for college as well as enrollment and completion rates, especially for  
16 nontraditional students.

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

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LC000233  
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**EXPLANATION**  
**BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**OF**  
**A N A C T**  
**RELATING TO EDUCATION - THE COMPLETE COLLEGE RHODE ISLAND ACT**

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1           **This act would establish the Complete College Rhode Island Act, for purposes of creating**  
2   **a comprehensive compilation of data showing academic progress among students and to develop**  
3   **strategies to increase the number of students graduating from state institutions of higher**  
4   **education.**

5           **This act would take effect upon passage.**

LC000233