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LC005271/SUB A
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM -- FREE PLAY RECESS

Introduced By: Senators Coyne, Sosnowski, Archambault, Goldin, and DiPalma

Date Introduced: March 08, 2016

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Findings. - The General Assembly finds as follows:

2 (1) Free play time increasing learning outcomes for students; and

3 (2) The department of elementary and secondary education aspires to offer our children
4 the opportunities to participate in recess; and

5 (3) The legislature recognizes recess as a right for our youngest learners.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 16-22 of the General Laws entitled "Curriculum [See Title 16
7 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended by adding thereto
8 the following section:

9 **16-22-4.2. Free play recess. -- All children attending public schools, or any other**
10 **schools managed or controlled by the state, that has only elementary grades kindergarten through**
11 **five (5) shall receive in those schools at least twenty (20) consecutive minutes of supervised, safe,**
12 **and unstructured free play recess each day. Free play recess may be considered instructional time**
13 **for those schools that would be required to extend the current school day in order to meet this**
14 **requirement. Teachers shall make a good faith effort to not withhold recess for punitive reasons.**
15 **Free play recess is in addition to the requirements set forth in §16-22-4. As used herein, the term**
16 **"free play" means an unstructured environment, but which is supervised by appropriate school**
17 **personnel or staff.**

1 SECTION 3. 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 -- CURRICULUM -- FREE PLAY RECESS

- 1 This act would require public schools to provide students in grades kindergarten through
- 2 five (5) with at least twenty (20) minutes of free play recess each school day.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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