

**2016 -- H 7758**

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LC005185  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016**

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Introduced By: Representatives O'Brien, Serpa, Fellela, Shekarchi, and Marshall

Date Introduced: February 26, 2016

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 16-22-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-22 entitled "Curriculum  
2 [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended to read  
3 as follows:  
4           **16-22-4. Instruction in health and physical education.** – (a) All children in grades one  
5 through twelve (12) attending public schools, or any other schools managed and controlled by the  
6 state, shall receive in those schools instruction in health and physical education under rules and  
7 regulations the department of elementary and secondary education may prescribe or approve  
8 during periods which shall average at least twenty (20) minutes in each school day. No private  
9 school or private instruction shall be approved by any school committee for the purposes of  
10 chapter 19 of this title as substantially equivalent to that required by law of a child attending a  
11 public school in the same city and/or town unless instruction in health and physical education  
12 similar to that required in public schools shall be given. Commencing September 1, 2012, the  
13 required health education curriculum shall be based on the health education standards of the  
14 Rhode Island Health Education Framework: Health Literacy for All Students as promulgated by  
15 the Rhode Island department of education and consistent with the mandated health instructional  
16 outcomes therein. Commencing September 1, 2012, the required physical education curriculum  
17 shall be based on the physical education standards of the Rhode Island Physical Education  
18 Framework: Supporting Physically Active Lifestyles through Quality Physical Education as  
19 promulgated by the Rhode Island department of education and consistent with the instructional

1 outcomes therein.

2 (b) The department of elementary and secondary education shall consider, in consultation  
3 with national or state organizations focused on substance abuse prevention, treatment and  
4 education, the incorporation of substance abuse education into health education curriculum. For  
5 the purpose of this section, "substance abuse prevention education" means the presentation of  
6 age-appropriate educational materials and curriculum in the area of alcoholism, drug abuse and  
7 opioid overdose prevention by a licensed chemical dependency professional licensed pursuant to  
8 chapter 69 of title 5.

9 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

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- 1           This act would require the incorporation of substance abuse education, provided by
- 2 licensed chemical dependency professionals, into the health education curriculum.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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