

2018 -- H 8168

LC005308

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- MANDATORY EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

Introduced By: Representatives Tobon, Barros, Edwards, Slater, and Lombardi

Date Introduced: May 04, 2018

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-22-21 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-22 entitled
2 "Curriculum [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby
3 repealed.

4 ~~**16-22-21. Community service learning.**~~

5 ~~(a) The legislature recognizes the importance of community service learning as a means~~
6 ~~of enhancing life in the community and as a way of enlightening young people about the needs of~~
7 ~~others. Whenever young people are led through teaching and example, the likelihood of their~~
8 ~~becoming productive citizens in society is increased a thousandfold.~~

9 ~~(b) The department of elementary and secondary education shall encourage the~~
10 ~~establishment of community service learning programs in local school districts by developing a~~
11 ~~model program and appropriate guidelines for implementation of the model program. Any local~~
12 ~~school district may petition the commissioner of education for approval of its community service~~
13 ~~learning program, which may be used in partial fulfillment of the requirement for obtaining a high~~
14 ~~school diploma. The commissioner shall develop criteria that local school districts may use as a~~
15 ~~means of determining and recognizing community service learning activities for credit towards a~~
16 ~~high school diploma. Local school districts that elect to establish community service learning~~
17 ~~programs pursuant to this section shall submit community service learning program plans for~~
18 ~~approval by the commissioner every five (5) years.~~

19 SECTION 2. Chapter 16-22 of the General Laws entitled "Curriculum [See Title 16

1 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended by adding thereto
2 the following section:

3 **16-22-21.1. Legislative findings – Community service requirements.**

4 (a) The general assembly makes the following findings:

5 (1) Community service:

6 (i) Allows for its participants to be exposed to the needs of others;

7 (ii) Enables students to apply their curriculum content, skills, and behavior taught in their
8 classroom to their service;

9 (iii) Helps students learn what it means to be a good citizen, to fully appreciate what
10 government does for its people, and to value themselves as powerful resources critical to the
11 development of a truly healthful community;

12 (iv) Improves the likelihood that students will become productive citizens;

13 (v) Promotes students' self-esteem and self-worth;

14 (vi) Provides a broad exposure to civic duty, enables the development of individual
15 capabilities, furthers career connections and the establishment of support networking while
16 helping the students to become active citizens who promote community needs;

17 (vii) Shall become an integral part of all students' educational experiences; and

18 (viii) Teaches its participants about diversity, helps develop their intellectual
19 understanding and curiosity, and improves communication skills.

20 (b) As used in this section, "community service" means structured programs and
21 activities where students perform work/services for the direct benefit of the community, under the
22 auspices of public and nonprofit organizations. It shall relate as much as is practical to lessons
23 that are being taught in the classroom. Its focus shall be on instilling civic awareness and values
24 in all participating students.

25 (c) Students in every grade, from kindergarten to grade twelve (12), shall be required to
26 perform increasing amounts of community service, each school year, as a prerequisite for their
27 promotion into their next grade.

28 (d) The following is the amount of hours each student must successfully perform in that
29 school year:

30 (1) Kindergarten 10 hours;

31 (2) Grade 1 10 hours;

32 (3) Grade 2 10 hours;

33 (4) Grade 3 10 hours;

34 (5) Grade 4 10 hours;

- 1 (6) Grade 5 10 hours;
- 2 (7) Grade 6 10 hours;
- 3 (8) Grade 7 10 hours;
- 4 (9) Grade 8 10 hours;
- 5 (10) Grade 9 30 hours;
- 6 (11) Grade 10 40 hours;
- 7 (12) Grade 11 50 hours;
- 8 (13) Grade 12 50 hours.

9 (e) The department of elementary and secondary education shall establish community
10 service learning programs for its local school districts which incorporate the mandates of this
11 section, are grade appropriate, and complement each grade's curriculum and statewide standards.
12 Each program shall contain preparation, action and reflection components. The programs shall
13 identify and approve organizations and government entities which provide the students with the
14 opportunity to perform public service, as well as the types of service that are acceptable.

15 (f) An approval process for each individual student's proposed community service plan
16 shall be established. These programs shall also include a voluntary portion for students who elect
17 to receive academic credit for their community service.

18 (g) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations which implement this
19 mandatory educational community service section.

20 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would require all students to perform a minimum amount of community service
2 each school year and would grant them the option to perform certain forms of community service
3 for academic credit.

4 This act would take effect on July 1, 2019.

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