

2019 -- H 5563

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LC001650
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION DEVELOP A SET OF KEY ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE
PRINCIPLES AND CONCEPTS TO BE INFUSED IN ALL SUBJECTS FOR K-12 PUBLIC
SCHOOL STUDENTS

Introduced By: Representatives Cortvriend, Fogarty, Carson, Tanzi, and Caldwell

Date Introduced: February 27, 2019

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

1 WHEREAS, The evidence for human-induced climate change is overwhelming and
2 undeniable; and

3 WHEREAS, The heaviest burden of climate change will fall on the next generation; and

4 WHEREAS, Nearly 10,000 students graduate from Rhode Island high schools each year,
5 armed with attitudes, skills, and knowledge about the climate that inform their actions; and

6 WHEREAS, The effect on the climate, positive or negative, of each of those 10,000
7 students lasts beyond a lifetime; and

8 WHEREAS, Students need to be prepared to implement changes in professional and
9 personal practices, to support and help develop new technology and policy, and to address the
10 coming social and economic challenges and opportunities arising from a changing climate; and

11 WHEREAS, It is thus essential that each of these graduates are climate literate; and

12 WHEREAS, It has been demonstrated that over eighty percent of the people of Rhode
13 Island support teaching students about the causes, consequences, and potential solutions to
14 climate change; and

15 WHEREAS, Only thirty percent of middle school and forty-five percent of high school
16 science teachers nationally, understand the extent of the scientific consensus on climate change;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The Resilient Rhody Report recommends that K-12 Education be expanded

1 to include education on environmental literacy, including climate-related emergency
2 preparedness, by developing resources for school use and identifying how these concepts can be
3 incorporated into existing state standards; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
5 Providence Plantations hereby urges all secondary public schools including middle schools, or
6 any other secondary schools managed and controlled by the state, to offer as part of the
7 curriculum, courses in climate and environmental literacy; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That this House hereby requests that the Rhode Island Department of
9 Education, in consultation with a wide representation from the environmental and climate
10 education community, develops a set of key environmental and climate principles and concepts
11 which should be infused into all subjects, develop learning standards for the same, and ensure that
12 all teacher professional development includes these principles and concepts; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That this House hereby urges the Rhode Island Department of Education to
14 ensure that teacher professional development in Rhode Island in the new Next Generation
15 Science Standards use climate as an exemplary anchor phenomenon; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That this House respectfully urges the Rhode Island Department of
17 Education to make available on its website, curriculum materials and such other materials as may
18 assist local and regional school committees and such other materials as may assist local and
19 regional school committees in developing instructional programs in climate and environmental
20 literacy. RIDE shall consult with practicing teachers, principals, superintendents and experts
21 when making such curriculum and other materials available. The curriculum and materials
22 selected shall be aligned with state standards and assessments and contain sufficient detail to
23 guide teachers in planning lessons aligned with state standards and assessments; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
25 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ms. Barbara S. Cottam, Chair, Rhode Island
26 Board of Education.

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