It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 16-97 of the General Laws entitled "The Rhode Island Board of Education Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

16-97-11. Competency-Based/Proficiency-Based Learning Model Policy.

(a) The council on elementary and secondary education shall adopt a competency-based/proficiency-based learning policy and a model district policy designed to increase programmatic opportunities for students to earn credits through demonstrations of competency.

(b) The council on elementary and secondary education competency-based/proficiency-based learning policy and model district policy shall be approved on or before June 1, 2021. The department of elementary and secondary education shall issue guidance on the application of the policy in areas that include, but are not limited to, virtual learning career and technical education, and foreign languages.

(c) Any seat time freed up by demonstrating competencies must be used to advance the academic and/or technical training of students, including, but not limited to, tutoring or other supports for areas a student may require, advanced placement (AP) courses, dual enrollment, and internships and apprenticeships. No student shall be allowed to use the available seat time as free time unless otherwise approved by the school district and the department of elementary and secondary education.

(d) The department of elementary and secondary education shall provide the aforementioned model district policy to school districts and school committees upon approval by
the council on elementary and secondary education.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.
This act would require that the board of elementary and secondary education adopt a competency-based/proficiency-based learning policy whereby students can earn credits through demonstration of competency.

This act would take effect upon passage.