

2020 -- S 2181

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LC004087
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Cano, Lawson, Sheehan, and Satchell

Date Introduced: February 04, 2020

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-22-2 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 **16-22-2. ~~Civics education~~ Civics education standards and graduation requirement.**

5 (a) The general assembly recognizes the importance of a citizenry well educated in the
6 principles of democracy as enunciated in the constitutions of the state of Rhode Island and the
7 United States. The general assembly directs the board of regents for elementary and secondary
8 education to develop and adopt a set of grade level standards K-12 in civics education no later
9 than August 31, 2007. These standards shall include, but not be limited to, the history of the state
10 of Rhode Island, representative government, the rights and duties of actively engaged citizenship,
11 and the principals of democracy. These civic education standards shall be used in the public
12 schools of this state beginning in kindergarten and continuing through to and including grade 12.
13 No private school or private instruction shall be approved for the purposes of chapter 19 of this
14 title unless the course of study shall make provision for instruction substantially equivalent to that
15 required by this chapter for public schools.

16 (b) Commencing with the graduating class of 2021 and all graduating classes thereafter,
17 all high school students attending public schools, or any other schools managed and controlled by
18 the state, shall demonstrate proficiency, as defined by the local school district, in civics education
19 that shall also satisfy at least one-half credit or course requirement in history and social studies.

1 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 -- CURRICULUM

1 This act would require that commencing with the graduating class of 2021 and all
2 subsequent graduating classes thereafter, all high school students attending public schools shall
3 fulfill at least one-half credit or course requirement in civics education.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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