

2020 -- S 2380

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LC004226  
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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 -- FINANCIAL LITERACY

Introduced By: Senators Cano, Paolino, Gallo, Goodwin, and McCaffrey

Date Introduced: February 13, 2020

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 16-22-13 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 amended to read as follows:

4           **16-22-13. Consumer education.**

5           (a) The council on elementary and secondary education (the "council"), in consultation  
6 with the Rhode Island department of education (the "department"), shall develop and approve  
7 statewide academic standards for the instruction of consumer education in public high schools by  
8 no later than December 31, 2020, and again as required by the procedures set forth in subsections  
9 (e) and (f) of this section.

10           (b) By the start of the 2021-2022 school year, the ~~The~~ school committees of the several  
11 cities, towns, and ~~school districts~~ local education agencies ("LEAs") shall ~~provide for pupils in~~  
12 ~~the~~ ensure that public high schools ~~in grades eight (8) through twelve (12) to be taught and be~~  
13 ~~required to study courses which~~ offer a course that ~~include~~ includes instruction in consumer  
14 education, ~~which~~ that is aligned with the statewide standards.

15           (c) The standards shall ~~may~~ include, but not necessarily be limited to, installment  
16 purchasing, budgeting, comparison of prices, credit and the law, employment and income, rights  
17 and responsibilities in the marketplace, money management, maintaining credit, saving,  
18 investing, protecting and insuring assets, and other personal finance or consumer economic topics  
19 of study ~~approved by the department of elementary and secondary education.~~

1           (d) The standards shall:

2           (1) Clearly set forth the skills, competencies, and knowledge expected to be demonstrated  
3 by all students at the conclusion of individual grades or grade spans;

4           (2) Reflect sensitivity to different learning styles; and

5           (3) Be in a form readily comprehensible by the public.

6           (e) The council shall review the consumer education standards regularly, making changes  
7 if appropriate, to ensure that the standards continue to outline the knowledge and skills students  
8 are expected to demonstrate regarding the responsible and informed use of financial services. The  
9 review cycle shall begin in 2025, with subsequent reviews taking place in 2030, 2035, and every  
10 five (5) years thereafter.

11           (f) Any recommended changes or updates to existing standards shall be approved by the  
12 council at least sixty (60) days prior to the changes taking effect.

13           (g) Beginning with the graduating class of 2023, all students shall demonstrate  
14 proficiency in consumer education prior to graduating high school. LEAs shall have the discretion  
15 to allow students the ability to demonstrate proficiency by one or more of the following:

16           (1) Successful completion of a consumer education course of study aligned with the  
17 standards developed and approved by the council;

18           (2) Successful completion of a project aligned with the standards developed and approved  
19 by the council, under the supervision of a certified educator;

20           (3) Successful completion of a consumer education assessment that is aligned with the  
21 standards developed and approved by the council and taken in a controlled testing environment;  
22 or

23           (4) Another demonstration of proficiency approved by the council.

24           (h) Schools shall be permitted to make exceptions and accommodations to the  
25 requirements of this section for students with disabilities, as provided in chapter 24 of title 16, in  
26 those cases wherein the student cannot be reasonably expected to demonstrate proficiency to  
27 council standards.

28           (i) The council, in consultation with the department, shall compile and publish the  
29 following by April 1, 2021:

30           (1) A list of micro-credentialing programs that train educators in the skills necessary to  
31 deliver consumer education lessons in accordance with statewide standards; and

32           (2) Resources and instructional materials including, but not limited to, lesson plans,  
33 assessments, and activities that align with the consumer education standards adopted by the  
34 council.

1           (j) The council shall review the list of micro-credentialing programs and resources and  
2 instructional materials compiled in subsection (i) of this section regularly, making changes if  
3 appropriate. The review cycle shall begin in 2025, with subsequent reviews taking place in 2030,  
4 2035, and every five (5) years thereafter.

5           (k) By August 1, 2023, and annually by August 1 thereafter, the department shall publish  
6 a report on the consumer education instruction in Rhode Island schools. The report shall include,  
7 but need not be limited to, the following:

8           (1) The number of high school students at each grade level who have completed a high-  
9 school level course of study in consumer education that is aligned with the standards developed  
10 and approved by the council; and

11           (2) A list of the middle schools and elementary schools that have incorporated consumer  
12 education into their curricula.

13           (l) This section shall not apply to private schools.

14           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 -- FINANCIAL LITERACY

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1           This act would require the council on elementary and secondary education, in  
2           consultation with the Rhode Island department of education, to develop and approve statewide  
3           academic standards for the instruction of consumer education in public high schools by no later  
4           than December 31, 2020.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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