

2020 -- S 2781

LC005246

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Senators Archambault, Satchell, Cano, Paolino, and Sheehan

Date Introduced: March 12, 2020

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-21 of the General Laws entitled "Health and Safety of Pupils" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-21-37. Basic emergency and response skills for teachers.**

4 (a) One third (1/3) of all Rhode Island teachers shall be required to complete training in the
5 basic emergency and response skills ("BEARS") curriculum, including hands-only
6 cardiopulmonary resuscitation, Heimlich maneuver, and bleeding control, for three (3) years, until
7 at least eighty percent (80%) of all teachers in each district have been trained once, during the
8 school years 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023.

9 (b) The Rhode Island department of education shall verify that the required percentage of
10 teachers, in each school district, have been trained in and completed the "BEARS" curriculum;
11 provided, that each individual school district shall have autonomy over how that mandatory
12 curriculum is implemented.

13 (c) Time spent by teachers receiving initial and refresher training in BEARS shall count
14 towards their professional development requirements.

15 (d) No teachers or other school personnel, who have completed BEARS training who
16 render emergency care on school grounds, school buildings, or in school functions, shall be liable
17 to the person assisted, for civil damages due to any injuries which result from acts or omissions by
18 the person rendering the emergency care covered by the BEARS curriculum, which may constitute
19 ordinary negligence.

1 (1) The immunity provided in subsection (d) of this section shall not apply to acts or
2 omissions constituting gross, willful or wanton negligence.

3 (2) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to require any teacher or other
4 school personnel, to render emergency first aid.

5 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====
LC005246
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION - HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

1 This act would require that eighty percent (80%) of all teachers, in the next three (3) years,
2 be trained in the basic emergency and response skills curriculum ("BEARS"), specifically, in
3 hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation, Heimlich maneuver, and bleeding control.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC005246
=====