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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND
TRAINING--DIGITAL CREDENTIALING

Introduced By: Representatives Messier, Fellela, Barros, Baginski, and Alzate

Date Introduced: March 25, 2022

Referred To: House Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 28-1 of the General Laws entitled "Department of Labor and
2 Training" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **28-1-5. Digital credentialing.**

4 Effective July 1, 2023, the department of labor and training ("department") shall require
5 publicly funded workforce and training programs to supplement all paper-based credentials with
6 verified electronic credentials. Credentials include, but are not limited to, certifications, licenses,
7 degrees, and training completion certificates issued by workforce and training programs within the
8 department's responsibility. An "electronic credential" means an electronic method by which a
9 person may display or transmit to another person information that verifies information about a
10 person such as their licensure, program completion, and verified skills and competencies. The
11 department may use a third-party electronic credential system that is not maintained by the agency.
12 Such electronic credential system shall include a verification system that is operated by the agency
13 or its agent on its behalf for the purpose of verifying the authenticity and validity of electronic
14 credentials.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND
TRAINING--DIGITAL CREDENTIALING

1 This act would mandate the department of labor and training to require publicly funded
2 workforce and training programs to supplement all paper-based credentials with verified electronic
3 credentials.

4 This act would take effect on July 1, 2023.

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