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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Introduced By: Representative John J. Lombardi

Date Introduced: January 08, 2015

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-96 of the General Laws entitled "The College and Career
2 Success for All Students Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-96-4.1. Professional development related to reading disabilities.** – (a) The
4 department of education shall provide professional development opportunities related to reading
5 disabilities, including dyslexia, to school district personnel. The professional development shall
6 be made available to general education, special education, basic skills and English as a second
7 language teachers, instruction support staff, administrators, supervisors, child study team
8 members, and speech-language specialists. The professional development opportunities shall be
9 designed to account for the various manners in which different school district personnel interact
10 with, or develop instructional programs for, students with reading disabilities.

11 (b) The Rhode Island board of education shall require certain teaching staff members to
12 annually complete at least two (2) hours of professional development instruction on the screening,
13 intervention, accommodation, and use of technology for students with reading disabilities,
14 including dyslexia. The professional development requirement shall apply to general education
15 teachers employed in grades kindergarten through grade three (3), special education, basic skills,
16 and English as a second language teachers, reading specialists, learning disabilities teacher
17 consultants, and speech-language specialists. The board of education may make the professional
18 development opportunities available to other instruction or support staff as the board deems
19 appropriate.

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 - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1 This act would provide for professional development opportunities relating to reading
2 disabilities and would require two (2) hours of professional development instruction pertaining to
3 reading disabilities for certain general education teachers.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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