

2014 -- S 2861

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CONVENE WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO
ESTABLISH A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR COMPREHENSIVE K-12 SCHOOL
COUNSELOR PROGRAMS

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Pichardo, Cool Rumsey, Sheehan, and Cote

Date Introduced: April 09, 2014

Referred To: Senate Education

1 WHEREAS, A decade ago, the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary
2 Education (RIDE) collaborated with the Rhode Island School Counselor Association, Providence
3 College, and other educators and organizations to create the Rhode Island Framework for
4 Comprehensive K-12 School Counseling Programs; and

5 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Framework emphasizes the need for school counselors to
6 help young people understand the link between academics and future plans, develop skills in
7 career exploration, acquire and maintain positive personal/social relationships, and ultimately
8 become responsible and productive citizens; and

9 WHEREAS, Since the 2005 publication of the Rhode Island Framework, the state has
10 undergone a sea of change in terms of its industrial base, economic strength, and workforce
11 demographics. Now, more than ever, Rhode Island needs school counselors in place who act as
12 key intermediaries who collaborate with businesses and other organizations to ensure that
13 students acquire real world skills. By doing so, school counselors also allow employers in the
14 state to tap into a stronger pipeline of emerging talent; and

15 WHEREAS, For school counselors to succeed in the face of the new challenges
16 confronting the state, they need a robust, system-wide vision that reflects the transformed
17 landscape of today and tomorrow. This kind of vision best emerges through deliberate, purposeful
18 efforts to engage the right array of stakeholders; now, therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
2 hereby respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary
3 Education convene a group of stakeholders, including, but not limited to, the Rhode Island School
4 Counselors Association, faculty from school counselor preparation programs, representatives
5 from school districts, leaders from teachers unions, and partners from business and industry, to
6 establish a new framework for comprehensive K-12 school counselor programs that responds to
7 the state's most pressing workforce needs; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby further requests that RIDE work with stakeholders
9 to embed in the framework increased opportunities for secondary students to acquire real world
10 learning experiences through apprenticeships and internships. The framework should also include
11 a model system for tracking and monitoring outcomes, for school districts to consider and adopt;
12 and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby further requests that RIDE provide the General
14 Assembly with a written account of the new framework by June 1, 2015; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Chair of the Board of Education, the
17 Commissioner of Education, the President of the Rhode Island School Counselor Association, the
18 Dean of the School of Education at Rhode Island College, the Dean of the School of Professional
19 Studies at Providence College, and the President of the Greater Providence Chamber of
20 Commerce.

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