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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF TEACHERS GENERALLY

Introduced By: Representatives Casimiro, Chippendale, J. Brien, Hopkins, Roberts,
Place, Furtado, Cortvriend, Potter, and Paplauskas
Date Introduced: February 06, 2026
Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-12 of the General Laws entitled "Rights and Duties of Teachers
2 Generally" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:
- 3 **16-12-12. Districts to consult list when hiring teachers who are new to the district.**
- 4 (a) The following definitions apply in this section unless the context clearly requires
5 otherwise.
- 6 (1) "Applicant" means an applicant for employment as a teacher in a certificated or
7 classified position who is currently or was previously employed by a school district other than the
8 district where the applicant is applying for employment.
- 9 (2) "Department" means the Rhode Island department of elementary and secondary
10 education.
- 11 (3) "Employer" means a school district employer.
- 12 (b) Before hiring an applicant, a school district shall contact the department, and the
13 department shall disclose whether or not the applicant's name appears on a list of those teachers
14 who have been terminated for good and just cause, which list is maintained by the department
15 pursuant to § 16-13-9.
- 16 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 -- RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF TEACHERS GENERALLY

1 This act would require that before hiring an applicant for employment as a teacher in a
2 school district, the district would contact the department of elementary and secondary education,
3 and the department would disclose whether or not the applicant's name appears on a list of those
4 teachers who have been terminated for good and just cause, which list is maintained by the
5 department pursuant to § 16-13-9.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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