

2026 -- H 7728

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS

Introduced By: Representatives O'Brien, McNamara, Shallcross Smith, Craven,
Azzinaro, Corvese, Fellela, McEntee, Donovan, and Read
Date Introduced: February 12, 2026

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-11 of the General Laws entitled "Certification of Teachers [See
2 Title 16 Chapter 97 — The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended by adding
3 thereto the following section:
4 **16-11-3.1. Emergency certification.**
5 Notwithstanding any provisions of this chapter or any regulations to the contrary,
6 including, but not limited to, § 16-11-3, the Rhode Island council on elementary and secondary
7 education may, upon application, issue an emergency preliminary certificate to persons without
8 examination for a period of one school year. This emergency preliminary certificate may be
9 renewed annually, for four (4) additional school years, in order that the total time a person may
10 receive an emergency preliminary certificate shall be up to five (5) school years. Applications for
11 all renewals shall comply with the terms and conditions of 200 RICR 20-20 § 1.8.10.
12 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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- 1 This act would allow emergency preliminary certificates for teaching to be issued for up to
- 2 a total of five (5) school years.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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