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LC005879/SUB A
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM

Introduced By: Senator Sandra Cano

Date Introduced: April 28, 2022

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-22 of the General Laws entitled "Curriculum [See Title 16
2 Chapter 97 - the Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended by adding thereto the
3 following section:

4 **16-22-36. Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history study.**

5 (a) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, every public elementary school and
6 secondary school shall include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of Asian
7 American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) history, including the history of
8 AA and NHPIs in Rhode Island and the Northeast, as well as the contributions of AA and NHPIs
9 toward advancing civil rights from the 19th century onward. These events shall include the
10 contributions made by individual AA and NHPIs in government and the arts, humanities, and
11 sciences, as well as the contributions of AA and NHPI communities to the economic, cultural,
12 social, and political development of the United States. The studying of this material shall constitute
13 an affirmation by students of their commitment to respect the dignity of all races and peoples and
14 to forever eschew every form of discrimination in their lives and careers.

15 (b) The commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall make available to all
16 school districts instructional materials that may be used as guidelines for development of a unit of
17 instruction under this section. Provided, however, each school district shall itself determine the
18 minimum amount of instructional time that qualifies as a unit of instruction satisfying the
19 requirements of this section.

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 -- CURRICULUM

- 1 This act would require all public elementary and secondary schools in Rhode Island to
- 2 provide at least one unit of instruction on Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander
- 3 History and culture.
- 4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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