

2014 -- S 2863

=====
LC005219
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND, IN
COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD, EXPAND ITS
OFFERING OF INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS

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

Date Introduced: April 09, 2014

Referred To: Senate Education

1 WHEREAS, Profound economic and technological changes are transforming the
2 structure and nature of work, placing new and additional responsibilities on Rhode Island's
3 workforce training and educational systems; and

4 WHEREAS, The Senate's "Rhode to Work" report found there is a projected "middle
5 skills" gap in Rhode Island along with a potential labor shortage in middle skill fields; and

6 WHEREAS, Such middle skilled occupations typically require some education and
7 training beyond high school, but less than a bachelor's degree; and

8 WHEREAS, In response to the growing and evolving workforce needs of the state, the
9 Community College of Rhode Island has expanded its workforce development programs,
10 including the introduction of industry-recognized credentials; and

11 WHEREAS, Industry-recognized and endorsed credential and certification programs
12 compose a model in workforce training that holds great potential for addressing the middle skills
13 gap and concerns about career readiness; and

14 WHEREAS, Such industry-recognized credentialing programs provide the training
15 necessary to acquire job-specific skills and abilities that employers are looking for, in
16 comparatively less time than a two or four year college degree; and

17 WHEREAS, Credentials are often "stackable", allowing individuals to earn shorter-term
18 credentials that have real value in the labor market; and then build on them to access more
19 advanced training and employment opportunities; and

1 WHEREAS, To be most effective, these credentials must be trusted and endorsed by
2 employers, and accessible by students; now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
4 hereby respectfully requests that the Community College of Rhode Island, in cooperation with the
5 Governor's Workforce Board, review and expand its offering of industry-recognized credentials
6 by determining those credentials that would best meet the needs of the Rhode Island job market;
7 and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby respectfully requests the College to report back to
9 the General Assembly by January 6, 2015, on the findings of this review, the extent to which the
10 demand can be met using current resources, and the need, if any, for additional resources to meet
11 this demand; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
13 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the President of the Community College of
14 Rhode Island and the Chair of the Governor's Workforce Board.

=====
LC005219
=====