

2014 -- H 7564

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LC004612
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - ADULT EDUCATION

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Slater, Almeida, Williams, and Cimini

Date Introduced: February 26, 2014

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-63 of the General Laws entitled "Adult Education" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following sections:

3 **16-63-13.1. Legislative findings.** – The general assembly finds: (1) That close to eighty-
4 four thousand (84,000) working age Rhode Islanders do not have a high school diploma or
5 equivalent;

6 (2) That increasing the number of Rhode Islanders who have a high school diploma or
7 equivalent is vital to the state's economic competitiveness;

8 (3) That workers who have a high school diploma or equivalent earn almost seventy
9 percent (70%) more than those who do not have this credential; and

10 (4) That the cost of taking the high school equivalency test rose by over one hundred
11 percent (100%) from 2013 to 2014 and the state wishes to remove any financial barrier to taking
12 the test.

13 **16-63-13.2. High school equivalency test - Waiver of fees.** – (a) The Rhode Island
14 department of education shall adopt a rule or regulation granting a waiver of fees associated with
15 the high school equivalency test for individuals with limited income; provided, however, that to
16 be eligible for a fee waiver, an individual must have received at least a minimum passing score on
17 the high school equivalency practice test, or section of the test. The department shall publish the
18 proposed rule for public comment prior to adopting a final version of the rule.

19 (b) There is hereby appropriated the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) on

1 [a yearly basis commencing July 1, 2014 and every July thereafter to cover administrative](#)
2 [expenses associated with the implementation of this section.](#)

3 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO EDUCATION - ADULT EDUCATION

1 This act would authorize the department of education to waive any fees associated with
2 the high school equivalency test for individuals with limited income and appropriates the sum of
3 two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) each year commencing July 1, 2014 to cover
4 administrative costs associated with this program.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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