

2014 -- S 2968

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LC004579
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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: Senators Pichardo, Jabour, Lynch, Pearson, and Miller

Date Introduced: May 01, 2014

Referred To: Senate 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 **16-63-9.1. Legislative finding. --** The general assembly hereby finds that many adult
4 learners in Rhode Island encounter waiting lists as long as one year in duration, that prevent them
5 from enrolling in adult education programs, this situation frustrates their ability to lead fuller lives
6 and also stands in the way of the state's workforce development. It is further found that a program
7 that eliminates the waiting list for adult education programs would promote the general welfare of
8 the citizens of the state and create a stronger workforce for all of Rhode Island.

9 **16-63-9.2. Adult education "Wait no more" program. –** (a) There is hereby
10 established with the department of elementary and secondary education an adult education
11 waiting list elimination program. The program is founded for the express purpose of eliminating
12 the waiting time for adults to enter into approved adult education programs in Rhode Island,
13 including Adult Basic Education, Adult Secondary Education and English as a Second Language
14 programs.

15 (b) The commissioner of education is hereby vested with the authority to promulgate
16 such rules and regulations as are deemed necessary and in the public interest to establish and
17 place into operation the adult education waiting list elimination program and authorize payments.

18 (c) Rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to subsection (b) in this section shall
19 include, but not be limited to, the following areas of concern:

- 1 (1) The creation and use of a performance-based funding calculation to allocate program
2 funds;
3 (2) Emphasis on programs that minimize waiting lists by increasing program capacity;
4 (3) Emphasis on programs that reflect the state’s economic and workforce priorities;
5 (4) Emphasis on programs that direct participants to the workforce;
6 (5) Emphasis on programs that include a digital literacy component;
7 (6) Emphasis on programs that provide wraparound services for adult learners at the
8 lowest levels of performance; and
9 (7) Emphasis on programs that are fiscally transparent in their reporting.
10 (d) The department of secondary and elementary education is directed to provide on or
11 before July 1, 2015, and thereafter annually, a report to the general assembly that describes how
12 the program funds were allocated, the impact of the program on the waiting lists for adult
13 education programs, and the progress of adults participating in the adult education programs.
14 (e) The general assembly shall appropriate one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for fiscal
15 year 2015 to support the program.

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 -- ADULT EDUCATION

1 This act would establish with the department of elementary and secondary education and
2 adult education a waiting list eliminating programs for the purpose of eliminating the waiting
3 time for adults to enter into approved adult education programs. It would also require the general
4 assembly to appropriate one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the fiscal year 2015 to support the
5 program.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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