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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT

Introduced By: Senators Picard, and Pearson

Date Introduced: January 13, 2015

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 16-97 of the General Laws entitled "The Rhode Island Board of  
2 Education Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **16-97-8. Competency-Based/Proficiency-Based Learning Model Policy. – (a) The**  
4 council on elementary and secondary education shall adopt a competency-based/proficiency-  
5 based learning policy and a model district policy designed to increase programmatic opportunities  
6 for students to earn credits through demonstrations of competency.

7           (b) The council on elementary and secondary education competency-based/proficiency-  
8 based learning policy and model district policy shall be approved on or before June 1, 2016. The  
9 department of elementary and secondary education shall issue guidance on the application of the  
10 policy in areas that include, but are not limited to, virtual learning career and technical education,  
11 and foreign languages.

12           (c) Any seat time freed up by demonstrating competencies must be used to advance the  
13 academic and/or technical training of students, including, but not limited to, tutoring or other  
14 supports for areas a student may require, advanced placement "AP" courses, dual enrollment, and  
15 internships and apprenticeships. No student shall be allowed to use the available seat time as free  
16 time unless otherwise approved by the school district and the department of elementary and  
17 secondary education.

18           (d) The department of elementary and secondary education shall provide the  
19 aforementioned model district policy to school districts and school committees upon approval by

1 [the council on elementary and secondary education.](#)

2 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 -- THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT

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1           This act would require that the board of education adopt a competency-based/proficiency  
2 based learning policy whereby students can earn credits through demonstration of competency  
3 and this policy would be approved by June 1, 2016.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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