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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 -- CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS

Introduced By: Senators Picard, Sheehan, Satchell, and Gallo

Date Introduced: February 05, 2015

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-11-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-11 entitled
2 "Certification of Teachers [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board Of Education Act]"
3 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **16-11-4. Annulment of certificates Annulment, renewal, recertification, or repeal of**
5 **certificates.** – (a) The commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall promulgate
6 rules and regulations under which a certificate may be annulled for cause. The holder shall be
7 entitled to notice and a hearing before the commissioner of elementary and secondary education
8 prior to the annulment of the certificate. The holder shall have an opportunity to appeal the
9 decision of the commissioner to the ~~board of regents for elementary and secondary education~~
10 council on elementary and secondary education, if desired.

11 (b) In the event the license of any person licensed pursuant to the provisions of this
12 chapter is subject to renewal, recertification, or repeal, for any reason, including, but not limited
13 to, the payment of licensing fees, the department of elementary and secondary education shall
14 send notice to such person of the need for such renewal, recertification, or repeal, by electronic
15 mail or "e-mail." Said notice shall be issued at least twenty (20) calendar days prior to the
16 proposed action. Such notice shall include:

17 (1) The action proposed by the department;

18 (2) The date such action proposed is to be taken; and

19 (3) A statement as to what actions the person needs to perform to retain the license, if

1 applicable. The e-mail notice required by subsection (b) of this section shall be in addition to and
2 not in place of any other notice required by law. The department shall obtain e-mail addresses
3 from all persons licensed under this chapter. Provided, that a person so licensed may, at his or her
4 own election, opt out of the provisions of subsection (b) of this section. Such opting out shall be
5 accomplished by the filing of a written opt-out notice on a form prepared by the department and
6 signed by the person holding the license. The opt-out notice form shall be maintained on file with
7 the department for three (3) years from the date of signature.

8 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 -- CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS

1 This act would require the department of elementary and secondary education to provide
2 e-mail notice to teachers and other licensed public school personnel when any action of
3 recertification, revocation, or repeal of their license is proposed and pending.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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