

2019 -- H 5168

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LC000281  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- AMERICANIZATION OF SCHOOLS

Introduced By: Representatives Edwards, Diaz, Alzate, Mendez, and Tobon

Date Introduced: January 23, 2019

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Sections 16-29-7 and 16-29-9 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-29  
2 entitled "Americanization Schools" are hereby repealed.

3           ~~16-29-7. Required attendance by persons over compulsory school age.~~

4           ~~Every person who has completed sixteen (16) years of life and who has not completed~~  
5 ~~twenty one (21) years of life, and who cannot speak, read, and write the English language in~~  
6 ~~accordance with standards approved by the department of elementary and secondary education,~~  
7 ~~and who resides in a city or town in which the school committee has established a day~~  
8 ~~continuation school for the teaching of the English language, or an evening school, shall attend~~  
9 ~~either the day continuation school or the evening school at least two hundred (200) hours between~~  
10 ~~the first day of September and the first day of June in every year until he shall have acquired~~  
11 ~~reasonable facility in speaking, reading, and writing the English language in accordance with~~  
12 ~~standards approved by the department of elementary and secondary education.~~

13           ~~16-29-9. Penalty for failure to attend schools.~~

14           ~~Any person who has completed sixteen (16) years of life and who has not completed~~  
15 ~~twenty one (21) years of life, and who does not speak, read, and write English in accordance with~~  
16 ~~standards approved by the department of elementary and secondary education, who resides in a~~  
17 ~~city or town in which the school committee has made provision for the teaching of the English~~  
18 ~~language in compliance with this chapter, who habitually absents himself or herself from public~~  
19 ~~instruction, is sufficiently irregular to make it impossible for him or her to complete two hundred~~

1 ~~(200) hours of instruction annually within the time set by the school committee for conducting the~~  
2 ~~schools, and is not attending private instruction approved by the school committee as provided in~~  
3 ~~§ 16-29-8, may be fined for each willful absence one dollar (\$1.00) and not exceeding twenty~~  
4 ~~dollars (\$20.00) in the aggregate during one year or, for persistent refusal to attend the~~  
5 ~~instruction, may be committed to an institution during his or her minority.~~

6 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 -- AMERICANIZATION OF SCHOOLS

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1           This act would repeal the requirement that persons between sixteen (16) and twenty-one  
2 (21) years of age who cannot speak, read and write English attend school for the teaching of the  
3 English language for at least two hundred (200) hours until they acquire reasonable facility in  
4 speaking, reading and writing English. This act would also repeal fines and commitment to an  
5 institution as punishment for willful violation of this act.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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