

2019 -- H 6098

LC002571

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS

Introduced By: Representatives Alzate, Maldonado, Edwards, Speakman, and Slater

Date Introduced: May 10, 2019

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-11 of the General Laws entitled "Certification of Teachers [See
2 Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended by adding
3 thereto the following section:

4 **16-11-9. Testing requirements for new teachers.**

5 (a) The provisions of this section shall apply to all persons applying for his or her first
6 educator certificate on and after July 1, 2021.

7 (b) The commissioner of elementary and secondary education (the "commissioner") shall
8 have authority to grant, upon application, initial educator certificates to persons who have
9 satisfied the requirements for such certificates as established by the council on elementary and
10 secondary education (the "council"). The council shall define the knowledge of subject matter and
11 demonstration of competencies commensurate with attainment and renewal of such certificates.

12 (c) To be eligible for initial licensure and certification as an educator, the candidate shall:

13 (1) Hold a bachelor's degree in arts or sciences from an accredited college or university
14 with a major course in the arts or sciences appropriate to the instructional field;

15 (2) Take a test established by the council which shall include, but not be limited to, three

16 (3) parts:

17 (i) A writing section, which shall demonstrate that the candidate can communicate
18 effectively with students, parents, and other educators;

19 (ii) A content section, which shall demonstrate that the candidate is knowledgeable in the

1 subject matter of the certificate sought;

2 (iii) A pedagogical section, which shall demonstrate that the candidate understands
3 theories and methods of instruction to support student academic and non-academic development,
4 instructional strategies to promote student development of particular skills, how to adjust
5 instruction techniques based on ongoing assessments, and strategies to select and use meaningful
6 materials at appropriate levels of difficulty for all students; and

7 (3) Be of sound moral character.

8 (d) No person shall be barred from certification under this section and chapter solely
9 because of the person's score on any standardized teacher's test or examination or other tests
10 established by the council.

11 (e) Candidates who complete the requirements in this section shall be issued initial
12 educator certificates which shall permit them to seek employment in teaching positions requiring
13 instructional certification in schools within this state.

14 (f) The tests required by subsection (c) of this section shall, to the greatest extent
15 possible, be modeled after the Massachusetts tests for educator licensure, or such similar tests as
16 may be adopted in Massachusetts.

17 (g) Teachers licensed pursuant to this section shall still be subject to the graduated
18 licensing requirements in place for all teachers, including, but not limited to, professional
19 licensure, as applicable to teachers licensed prior to July 1, 2021.

20 (h) The commissioner is hereby authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary
21 to implement the provisions of this section.

22 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 - CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS

1 This act would direct the council on elementary and secondary education to implement
2 teacher licensure tests modeled after the Massachusetts tests for educator licensure, commencing
3 on July 1, 2021.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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