

2021 -- S 0076

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Cano, Lawson, Euer, Pearson, Miller, McCaffrey,  
Sosnowski, Ruggerio, and Seveney

Date Introduced: January 26, 2021

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 16-22-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-22 entitled "Curriculum  
2 [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended to read  
3 as follows:

4           **16-22-2. ~~Civics education~~ Civics education standards and graduation requirement.**

5           (a) The general assembly recognizes the importance of a citizenry well educated in the  
6 principles of democracy as enunciated in the constitutions of the state of Rhode Island and the  
7 United States. The general assembly directs the board of regents for elementary and secondary  
8 education to develop and adopt a set of grade level standards K-12 in civics education no later than  
9 August 31, 2007. These standards shall include, but not be limited to, the history of the state of  
10 Rhode Island, representative government, the rights and duties of actively engaged citizenship, and  
11 the principals of democracy. These civic education standards shall be used in the public schools of  
12 this state beginning in kindergarten and continuing through to and including grade 12. No private  
13 school or private instruction shall be approved for the purposes of chapter 19 of this title unless the  
14 course of study shall make provision for instruction substantially equivalent to that required by this  
15 chapter for public schools.

16           (b) Commencing with the graduating class of 2022 and all graduating classes thereafter, all  
17 high school students attending public schools, or any other schools managed and controlled by the  
18 state, shall demonstrate proficiency, as defined by the local school district, in civics education that  
19 shall also satisfy at least one-half credit or course requirement in history and social studies.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would require that commencing with the graduating class of 2022 and all  
2 subsequent graduating classes thereafter, all high school students attending public schools shall  
3 fulfill at least one-half credit or course requirement in civics education.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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