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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM

Introduced By: Senators Euer, Valverde, Quezada, Lauria, Gallo, Kallman, Vargas,
Acosta, Mack, and Pearson
Date Introduced: January 09, 2026

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.**

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~~ principles of democracy, and media literacy. These civic education standards shall
12 be used in the public schools of this state beginning in kindergarten and continuing through to and
13 including grade 12. No private school or private instruction shall be approved for the purposes of
14 chapter 19 of this title unless the course of study shall make provision for instruction substantially
15 equivalent to that required by this chapter for public schools.

16 (b) All middle and high school students attending public schools, or any other schools
17 managed and controlled by the state, shall demonstrate proficiency, as defined by the local school
18 district, in civics education that shall also satisfy half credit or course requirement in history and
19 social studies.

1 (c) Each public school district shall provide not less than one student-led civics project for
2 students during either middle or high school; provided, however, that each such project shall be
3 consistent with the history and social studies standards and frameworks promulgated by the Rhode
4 Island board of education. Civics projects may be individual, small group, or class wide, and
5 designed to promote a student’s ability to:

6 (1) Reason, make logical arguments, and support claims using valid evidence; and

7 (2) Demonstrate an understanding of the connections between federal, state, and local
8 policies, including issues that may impact the student’s community.

9 (d) The department of education shall begin implementing subsections (b) and (c) of this
10 section for the 2022-2023 academic year.

11 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 add "media literacy" to the standards currently taught in civic education for
2 kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12), which are the history of Rhode Island, representative
3 government, the rights and duties of actively engaged citizenship and the principles of democracy.
4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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