

2024 -- H 7166

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- DIVORCE AND SEPARATION

Introduced By: Representatives Craven, Caldwell, Shanley, and O'Brien

Date Introduced: January 11, 2024

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 15-5 of the General Laws entitled "Divorce and Separation" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **15-5-30. Educational programs and classes for divorce and separation actions**
4 **affecting the family.**

5 (a) At any time during the pendency of a divorce or paternity action, where a minor child
6 is involved, the family court may order the parties to attend a class that is approved by the family
7 court and that addresses such issues as child development, family dynamics, how parental
8 separation affects a child's development and what parents can do to make raising a child in a
9 separated situation less stressful for the child.

10 (b) The family court may not require the parties to attend a class under this section as a
11 condition to the granting of the final judgment or order in the divorce or paternity action, however,
12 the family court may refuse to hear a custody or physical placement motion of a party who refuses
13 to attend a class ordered under this section.

14 (c)(1) Except as provided in this subsection, the parties shall be responsible for any cost of
15 attending the class.

16 (2) If the family court finds that a party is indigent, any costs that would be the
17 responsibility of that party shall be paid by the court.

18 (d) The family court is hereby authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to
19 carry out the purpose of this section including contacting with service providers to provide the

1 [program.](#)

2 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 DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- DIVORCE AND SEPARATION

- 1 This act would authorize the family court to order educational classes on child development
- 2 and family dynamics for divorcing parents with children.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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