

2024 -- H 7291 SUBSTITUTE A

LC004461/SUB A/2

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- RHODE ISLAND EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION
WORKFORCE DATA ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Shallcross Smith, Alzate, Ackerman, Diaz, Kazarian,
Cruz, Felix, Casimiro, and Donovan

Date Introduced: January 26, 2024

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Legislative findings.

2 The general assembly hereby finds that:

3 (1) Front-line educators working in licensed child care and early learning programs are the
4 backbone of the state's early education and afterschool system. Consistent data and information
5 about this workforce is needed to better support professional development, to inform of policy
6 decisions, and to evaluate the impact of strategic investments.

7 (2) In 2022, one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in funding from the American Rescue Plan
8 Act was allocated to the department of human services to establish a statewide early care and
9 education workforce registry data system.

10 (3) As of 2023, according to the National Workforce Registry Alliance, Rhode Island was
11 one of only eight (8) states that did not have a functioning early care and education workforce
12 registry.

13 SECTION 2. Title 16 of the General Laws entitled "EDUCATION" is hereby amended
14 by adding thereto the following chapter:

15 CHAPTER 114

16 RHODE ISLAND EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION WORKFORCE DATA ACT

17 **16-114-1. Short title.**

18 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Rhode Island Early Care and

1 Education Workforce Data Act."

2 **16-114-2. Rhode Island early care and education workforce registry data system.**

3 (a) On or before July 1, 2025, the department of human services shall implement an early
4 care and education workforce registry that meets the recommended guidelines of the National
5 Workforce Registry Alliance and includes information about staff who work directly with children
6 in all licensed child care and early learning centers and family child care homes in the state.

7 (b) The registry shall be designed to support communication of important information and
8 professional development opportunities directly to front-line child care and early educators. The
9 registry shall also be designed to help the state gather and maintain information about the
10 demographics and annual turnover of educators in licensed child care and early learning programs
11 by key factors including educational qualifications and age category of children they teach.

12 (c) Annually, beginning on or before January 1, 2026, the department of human services
13 shall produce an annual report on the status of the early care and education registry and the
14 characteristics of the early care and education workforce, including demographic information,
15 qualifications, and turnover data. The report shall be shared with the general assembly, the
16 children's cabinet, all licensed child care centers and family child care homes, and individuals
17 participating in the registry. The report shall also be posted on the department's website for the
18 general public.

19 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====
LC004461/SUB A/2
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- RHODE ISLAND EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION
WORKFORCE DATA ACT

1 This act would codify the previously funded Rhode Island early care and education
2 workforce registry data system in the general laws, require that the data system meets national
3 standards, and provide a deadline for implementation. It also directs the department of human
4 services to produce annual reports on the status of both the registry data system and the early care
5 and education workforce.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC004461/SUB A/2
=====