

2020 -- H 7292

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LC003314
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS

Introduced By: Representatives Alzate, McNamara, Lyle, Amore, and Williams

Date Introduced: January 24, 2020

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 sections:

4 **16-11-10. Minority teacher recruitment and retention.**

5 (a) The Rhode Island commissioner of education shall develop and implement strategies
6 and utilize existing resources including, but not limited to, partnerships with public and private
7 universities to reach a goal of at least two hundred (200) new hire minority teachers and
8 administrators, being hired and employed by local boards of education in the state as of July 1,
9 2025, and that such levels are maintained.

10 (b) For purposes of this section, "minority" means individuals whose race is defined as
11 other than white, or whose ethnicity is defined as Hispanic or Latino by the federal Office of
12 Management and Budget for use by the Bureau of Census of the United States Department of
13 Commerce.

14 **16-11-11. Reporting requirements.**

15 The Rhode Island commissioner of education shall submit a progress report on the
16 development and implementation of reciprocity agreements and interstate agreements and any
17 recommendations for legislation to the governor, speaker of the house, senate president, the chair
18 of the house health, education and welfare committee, and the chair of the senate education
19 committee no later than March 1, 2021 and every March 1 thereafter.

1 **16-11-12. Mortgage assistance to certified teachers.**

2 The Rhode Island housing authority shall develop and administer a program for mortgage
3 assistance to certified teachers employed by a low-performing school district based on the Rhode
4 Island department of education's (RIDE) yearly report card, or employed by a school district that
5 has been intervened by RIDE pursuant to § 16-7.1-5. Such assistance shall be available to eligible
6 teachers for the purchase of a house as their principle residence, provided, the house is located in
7 the school district where the teacher is employed. In making assistance available under the
8 program, the authority shall utilize down payment assistance or any other appropriate housing
9 subsidies and/or partner with outside entities. The terms of any mortgage assistance shall allow
10 the mortgagee to realize a reasonable portion of equity gain upon sale of the mortgaged property.

11 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 create minority teacher recruitment by allowing the commissioner of
2 education to implement strategies to reach a goal of two hundred (200) new hire minority
3 teachers in the state by 2025. This act would also require progress reports by the commissioner of
4 education to inform the general assembly of development and implementation of reciprocity
5 agreements and interstate agreements. This act would also allow the Rhode Island housing
6 authority to develop and administer a program for mortgage assistance to certified teachers
7 employed by a low-performing school district.

8 This act would take effect upon passage.

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