

2019 -- S 0265

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LC001202
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- AMERICANIZATION OF SCHOOLS

Introduced By: Senators Cano, Crowley, Nesselbush, Conley, and Metts

Date Introduced: February 13, 2019

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 16-29-7 and 16-29-9 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-29
2 entitled "Americanization Schools" are hereby repealed.

3 ~~**16-29-7. Required attendance by persons over compulsory school age.**~~

4 ~~Every person who has completed sixteen (16) years of life and who has not completed~~
5 ~~twenty one (21) years of life, and who cannot speak, read, and write the English language in~~
6 ~~accordance with standards approved by the department of elementary and secondary education,~~
7 ~~and who resides in a city or town in which the school committee has established a day~~
8 ~~continuation school for the teaching of the English language, or an evening school, shall attend~~
9 ~~either the day continuation school or the evening school at least two hundred (200) hours between~~
10 ~~the first day of September and the first day of June in every year until he shall have acquired~~
11 ~~reasonable facility in speaking, reading, and writing the English language in accordance with~~
12 ~~standards approved by the department of elementary and secondary education.~~

13 ~~**16-29-9. Penalty for failure to attend schools.**~~

14 ~~Any person who has completed sixteen (16) years of life and who has not completed~~
15 ~~twenty one (21) years of life, and who does not speak, read, and write English in accordance with~~
16 ~~standards approved by the department of elementary and secondary education, who resides in a~~
17 ~~city or town in which the school committee has made provision for the teaching of the English~~
18 ~~language in compliance with this chapter, who habitually absents himself or herself from public~~
19 ~~instruction, is sufficiently irregular to make it impossible for him or her to complete two hundred~~

1 ~~(200) hours of instruction annually within the time set by the school committee for conducting the~~
2 ~~schools, and is not attending private instruction approved by the school committee as provided in~~
3 ~~§ 16-29-8, may be fined for each willful absence one dollar (\$1.00) and not exceeding twenty~~
4 ~~dollars (\$20.00) in the aggregate during one year or, for persistent refusal to attend the~~
5 ~~instruction, may be committed to an institution during his or her minority.~~

6 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 -- AMERICANIZATION OF SCHOOLS

1 This act would repeal the requirement that persons between sixteen (16) and twenty-one
2 (21) years of age who cannot speak, read and write English attend school for the teaching of the
3 English language for at least two hundred (200) hours until they acquire reasonable facility in
4 speaking, reading and writing English. This act would also repeal fines and commitment to an
5 institution as punishment for willful violation of this act.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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