

2014 -- S 2180

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND THE STATE'S THREE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO
COLLABORATIVELY DEVELOP EXCEPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
OPPORTUNITIES IN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Introduced By: Senators P Fogarty, Algieri, Ciccone, Lombardi, and Doyle

Date Introduced: January 30, 2014

Referred To: Senate Education

1 WHEREAS, Career and Technical Education (CTE) spans the high school to college
2 years, providing a pathway for students interested in exploring career options prior to graduating
3 from high school; and

4 WHEREAS, CTE programs build on public-private partnerships that provide students
5 with academic and technical knowledge and work-related skills. Active involvement in
6 apprenticeships and hands-on opportunities with business and industry partners are common
7 within quality CTE programs; and

8 WHEREAS, At the secondary level, comprehensive high schools and career and
9 technical centers in Rhode Island provide CTE courses and programs to more than 5,700 high
10 school students in all five of the state's regions; and

11 WHEREAS, CTE also provides rich, job-embedded experiences for adult learners who
12 need to refresh their skills or wish to gain the skills necessary for entry into a new career. The
13 Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) and private institutions, including Johnson and
14 Wales University, New England Institute of Technology, and Roger Williams University, partner
15 with the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) on CTE initiatives; and

16 WHEREAS, CTE is funded through federal monies stemming from the Carl D. Perkins
17 program, as well as through state investments; and

18 WHEREAS, In March of 2012, the Rhode Island Board of Regents approved new career

1 and technical education regulations. The new CTE regulations were intended to transform
2 existing programs into new career preparation pathways in critical and emerging industries; and

3 WHEREAS, Rhode Island’s continued workforce challenges call for even more forceful
4 action by the new Board of Education, which has the authority to ensure collaboration across our
5 public systems of education. In particular, the state needs its secondary teachers and
6 postsecondary faculty to engage in exceptional professional development that focuses on a re-
7 imagined CTE system and thoughtfully takes place over time; and

8 WHEREAS, RIDE and the three public institutions of higher education in Rhode Island
9 can mobilize their human and material resources to create an exceptional program of professional
10 development that can transform our CTE system and drive student learning to new heights; now,
11 therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
13 hereby respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Department of Education, in collaboration with
14 the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the University of Rhode
15 Island, develop a three-year program of exceptional CTE professional development for all
16 secondary CTE teachers and administrators in the state, for provisionally-certified CTE teachers,
17 and for relevant faculty at the three public institutions of higher education. The professional
18 development should reflect world-class CTE practices, programs, and instructional approaches
19 that can lead to a transformed system of CTE in Rhode Island; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That this Senate requests that the professional development series focus on
21 creating challenging CTE programs of study, increasing academic excellence, building effective
22 relationships with business, industry, and other partners, and connecting secondary and
23 postsecondary education and training. RIDE should make participation in this professional
24 development a requirement for schools and districts to apply for and receive CTE categorical
25 funding; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is directed and authorized to
27 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Chair of the Board of Education, the
28 Commissioner of Education, and the presidents of the Community College of Rhode Island,
29 Rhode Island College, and the University of Rhode Island.

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