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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 - TESTING  
REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW TEACHERS

Introduced By: Senators Sheehan, Gallo, Quezada, DiPalma, and Seveney

Date Introduced: February 13, 2020

Referred To: Senate Education

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 section:

4 **16-11-10. Testing requirements for new teachers.**

5 (a) The provisions of this section shall apply to all persons applying for his or her first  
6 educator certificate on and after July 1, 2022.

7 (b) The commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall have authority to  
8 grant, upon application, initial educator certificates to persons who have satisfied the  
9 requirements for such certificates as established by the council on elementary and secondary  
10 education (the "council"). The council shall define the knowledge of subject matter and  
11 demonstration of competencies commensurate with attainment and renewal of such certificates.

12 (c) To be eligible for initial licensure and certification as an educator, the candidate shall:

13 (1) Hold a bachelor's degree in arts or sciences from an accredited college or university,  
14 with a major course in the arts or sciences appropriate to the instructional field; and

15 (2) Demonstrate the content knowledge and classroom management skills necessary to be  
16 an effective educator using a collection of indicators, which may include, but need not be limited  
17 to:

18 (i) Score on a test established by the council, which shall include, but is not limited to,

1 three (3) parts:

2 (A) A writing section, which shall demonstrate that the candidate can communicate  
3 effectively with students, parents, and other educators;

4 (B) A content section, which shall demonstrate that the candidate is knowledgeable in the  
5 subject matter of the certificate sought; and

6 (C) A pedagogical section, which shall demonstrate that the candidate understands  
7 theories and methods of instruction to support student academic and non-academic development,  
8 instructional strategies to promote student development of particular skills, how to adjust  
9 instruction techniques based on ongoing assessments, and strategies to select and use meaningful  
10 materials at appropriate levels of difficulty for all students.

11 (i) Performance in a classroom setting through a teaching practicum, student teaching  
12 program, internship, or substantially similar experience that involves the supervised, practical  
13 application of instructional theory and content knowledge to the classroom;

14 (iii) Additional assessments the council may prescribe; or

15 (iv) Any combination of subsections (c)(2)(i), (ii), and (iii) of this section.

16 (d) No person shall be barred from certification under this section and chapter solely  
17 because of the person's score on any standardized teacher's test established by the council.

18 (e) Candidates who complete the requirements in this section shall be issued initial  
19 educator certificates, which shall permit them to seek employment in teaching positions requiring  
20 instructional certification in schools within this state.

21 (f) Teachers licensed pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall still be subject to the  
22 graduated licensing requirements in place for all teachers including, but not limited to,  
23 professional licensure, as applicable to teachers licensed prior to July 1, 2022.

24 (g) The commissioner is hereby authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary  
25 to implement the provisions of this section.

26 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 EDUCATION - CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS - TESTING  
REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW TEACHERS

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- 1           This act would establish testing requirements for initial certification of new teachers on
- 2 or after July 1, 2022.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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