

2016 -- S 2554

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT

Introduced By: Senators Metts, Pichardo, Crowley, DiPalma, and Gallo

Date Introduced: February 25, 2016

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-97 of the General Laws entitled "The Rhode Island Board of
2 Education Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-97-9. Closing the achievement gap. --** The board of education and council on
4 elementary and secondary education shall adopt a state goal of closing the achievement gaps in
5 third grade reading and third grade math for all groups and subgroups of student population by
6 fifty percent (50%) by school year 2020 and closure in its entirety by 2025. The board of
7 education shall direct the council on postsecondary education, in conjunction with the
8 Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College and the University of Rhode Island,
9 to develop strategies to increase the recruitment of minority teacher preparation students in an
10 effort to increase diversity in the teaching profession. The board of education in conjunction with
11 the department of elementary and secondary education and the office of the postsecondary
12 commissioner shall develop a plan and shall set state goals to close all achievement and
13 opportunity gaps across the PK – 20 public system of education.

14 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 - ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT

1 This act would require the board of education to adopt a state goal of closing the
2 achievement gaps in third grade reading and math.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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