

2014 -- S 2864

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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
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION TO INCLUDE IN ITS NEXT ROUND OF
SCHOOL COUNSELOR PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVAL REVIEWS A GREATER
EMPHASIS ON STRATEGIES AND SKILLS IN ORDER TO ALLOW SCHOOL
COUNSELORS TO MORE EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT WORKFORCE READINESS IN K-12
SETTINGS

Introduced By: Senators Picard, Pichardo, Cool Rumsey, Sheehan, and Cote

Date Introduced: April 09, 2014

Referred To: Senate Education

1 WHEREAS, School counselors play a central role in promoting student achievement and
2 supporting students as they consider their options for colleges and careers. These education
3 professionals serve as key conduits of information regarding career exploration opportunities.
4 They are natural collaborators who work well with agencies and organizations in the community
5 to maximize students' chances for success; and

6 WHEREAS, School counselors must be prepared to respond to the needs of today's
7 students, who now confront a challenging economy and careers that may span multiple
8 disciplines. For many students, first-hand workplace experience in the form of internships and
9 apprenticeships allows them to acquire job-embedded knowledge, develop insights into potential
10 careers, and build essential soft skills; and

11 WHEREAS, The educator preparation programs at Rhode Island's institutions of higher
12 education are responsible for providing school counselors with the coursework and training that
13 will enable them to support a range of students, including those in career and technical schools
14 and those who enter the workforce directly; and

15 WHEREAS, It is critical for school counselor preparation programs to ensure that their
16 graduates understand the ways that internships and apprenticeships enhance classroom-based
17 learning for K-12 students, and acquire practical knowledge of how to partner productively with

1 businesses, non-profit organizations, and other entities from the community that can offer
2 students extraordinary experiences; and

3 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Senate's recent report, The Rhode to Work, underscores
4 the need for many more secondary students to have the opportunity to pursue internships and
5 apprenticeships, to gain the skills they need to succeed in tomorrow's workforce; and

6 WHEREAS, The new set of standards for educator preparation programs approved by the
7 Board of Education at its November 13, 2013, meeting similarly highlight the need for educator
8 preparation programs to get K-12 students career ready and to integrate Rhode Island initiatives;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
11 (RIDE) is scheduled to review school counselor preparation programs at institutions of higher
12 education in the state; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
14 hereby respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary
15 Education to include in its next round of school counselor program approval reviews a greater
16 emphasis on strategies and skills in order to allow school counselors to more effectively support
17 workforce readiness efforts in K-12 settings; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby further requests that the school counselor
19 preparation programs in the state collaborate with RIDE to expand the learning opportunities for
20 school counselors in training that center on workforce readiness; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
22 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Chair of the Board of Education, the
23 Commissioner of Education, the Dean of the School of Education at Rhode Island College, and
24 the Dean of the School of Professional Studies at Providence College.

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