

2024 -- H 7722

LC004877

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM

Introduced By: Representatives Vella-Wilkinson, Batista, Caldwell, Biah, Donovan,  
Shanley, Morales, Cruz, Ajello, and Hull  
Date Introduced: February 28, 2024

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-22 of the General Laws entitled "Curriculum [See Title 16  
2 Chapter 97 — the Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended by adding thereto the  
3 following section:

4 **16-22-39. Diversity, equity, and inclusion education.**

5 The department of elementary and secondary education (the "department") shall, pursuant  
6 to rules promulgated by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, develop  
7 curricular programs and materials on how schools can best incorporate and integrate instruction on  
8 and principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion ("DEI"), into a school's curriculum. In formulating  
9 these DEI programs and materials, the department shall consult with practicing teachers, principals,  
10 superintendents and experts knowledgeable in diversity, equity, and inclusion issues. This shall  
11 also include recommendations from the Rhode Island teachers' advisory council pursuant to § 16-  
12 102-1. Local school committees may incorporate the materials into their elementary and secondary  
13 school curriculum.

14 SECTION 2. Section 16-102-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-102 entitled "The Rhode  
15 Island Teachers' Advisory Council" is hereby amended to read as follows:

16 **16-102-1. Legislative purpose.**

17 (a) It is the purpose of the Rhode Island teachers' advisory council to provide a streamlined  
18 communication mechanism between teachers and the state board of education, the policy setting  
19 ~~board-of~~ council on elementary and secondary education, and the department of elementary and

1 [secondary education \(the "department"\)](#) by:

2 (1) Providing teachers with the ability to inform policymakers about implementation,  
3 concerns, and or practical issues regarding regulations and/or policies, whether proposed or  
4 promulgated;

5 (2) Bringing voices of classroom teachers into the conversation about policies and  
6 regulations which impact classroom activities; and

7 (3) Improving the conversation about the policies and regulations regarding our education  
8 system to ensure their successful implementation that benefits all Rhode Island students. [This shall  
9 include, but is not limited to, the promotion and integration of principles of diversity, equity, and  
10 inclusion \(“DEI”\) within school curriculum. The committee shall provide recommendations to the  
11 department pursuant to the provisions of § 16-22-39.](#)

12 [\(b\) The Rhode Island teachers’ advisory council shall also provide the department with  
13 recommendations on how to ensure principles of DEI are included and incorporated into the hiring  
14 process for teachers, teacher assistants, and other school education staff.](#)

15 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would promote the integration of diversity, equity, and inclusion principles and  
2           direct the department of elementary and secondary education to develop curricular programs and  
3           materials on how schools can best incorporate instruction on and principles of diversity, equity,  
4           and inclusion, into a school's curriculum. The department would consider recommendations from  
5           the Rhode Island teacher's advisory council. This council would also provide the department with  
6           recommendations on how to ensure principles of DEI are included and incorporated into the hiring  
7           process for teachers, teacher assistants, and other school education staff.

8           This act would take effect upon passage.

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