

2019 -- S 0548

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - HEALTH AND SAFETY OF STUDENTS

Introduced By: Senators Archambault, McCaffrey, Metts, Quezada, and Seveney

Date Introduced: March 14, 2019

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-21 of the General Laws entitled "Health and Safety of Pupils" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-21-37. Basic emergency and response skills (BEARS) training required.**

4 (a) The Rhode Island department of education (RIDE) shall implement a plan wherein all
5 Rhode Island teachers shall have been trained in the basic emergency and response skills
6 ("BEARS") curriculum (hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation, Heimlich maneuver, and
7 bleeding control) within three (3) years.

8 (b) Time spent by teachers receiving initial and refresher training in BEARS shall count
9 towards professional development requirements.

10 (c) The BEARS training requirements shall phase into effect over a three (3) year
11 timeframe. One third (1/3) of all Rhode Island teachers shall be required to complete BEARS
12 teacher training every year until every teacher is trained once during the school years 2020-2021,
13 2021-2022, and 2022-2023.

14 (d) Thereafter, in accordance with this section, eighty percent (80%) of Rhode Island
15 teachers shall participate in BEARS training once every three (3) years.

16 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 - HEALTH AND SAFETY OF STUDENTS

1 This act would require the Rhode Island department of education, within the next three
2 (3) years, to create a plan where all Rhode Island teachers would be trained in the BEARS
3 curriculum (BEARS training includes hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation, Heimlich
4 maneuver, and bleeding control). The act would also provide that training time would count
5 towards professional development. The goal would be to have eighty percent (80%) of Rhode
6 Island teachers trained in BEARS curriculum by having refresher training every three (3) years.

7 This act would take effect upon passage.

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