

2024 -- S 2288

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS

Introduced By: Senators Cano, Mack, Kallman, Valverde, and DiMario

Date Introduced: February 12, 2024

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 **16-11-11. Educator preparation programs.**

5 (a) By August 1, 2025, all educator preparation programs approved by the state shall
6 include required coursework for prospective educators regarding cultural competency and how to
7 meet the instructional needs of multilingual learners.

8 (b) At a minimum, the coursework regarding cultural competency shall enable prospective
9 educators to:

10 (1) Understand their own cultural identity, biases, and experiences of both privilege and
11 marginalization;

12 (2) Respond to students of all cultures, classes, races, ethnic backgrounds, sexual
13 orientations, and faiths or religions in a manner that is respectful and shows students that they are
14 valued; and

15 (3) Adapt to the cultural contexts of the communities they may serve.

16 (c) At a minimum, the coursework regarding meeting the instructional needs of
17 multilingual learners shall enable prospective educators to:

18 (1) Design lessons and assignments so that all students can learn;

19 (2) Use research-based instructional strategies; and

1 (3) Develop assessments that fairly evaluate each learner's progress.

2 (d) The coursework required under this chapter may be a stand-alone course or
3 incorporated into existing courses.

4 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

- 1 This act would require all educator preparation programs to include lessons on cultural
- 2 competency and how teachers shall meet the instructional needs of multilingual learners.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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