

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 210

Approved April 23, 2025

WHEREAS, Rhode Island public schools, including those in Providence, are facing a severe shortage of new teachers; and

WHEREAS, Myriad impediments prohibit many aspirant teachers from entering education as a career and a vocation; and

WHEREAS, It would behoove school districts to avail themselves of the experience and knowledge of retired educators, administrators, and staff as is feasible; and

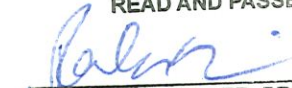

WHEREAS, Extending the limit on the number of days retired teachers, administrators, and staff may work as substitute employers temporarily and eliminating standardized examinations in the certification process will bolster the ranks of school employees to the benefit of all the educators, students, and families of Rhode Island.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby supports the passage of H-5322 and H-5339 and strongly urges the Rhode Island General Assembly and the Governor of Rhode Island to enact this legislation on behalf of all Rhode Islanders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be sent to lead sponsor Representative O'Brien, the Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives K. Joseph Shekarchi, President of the Rhode Island Senate Dominick Ruggerio, and the members of the Providence Delegation to express the strong support of the Providence City Council for H-5322 and H-5339.

IN CITY COUNCIL

APR 17 2025
READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.



Mayor

Date: 4/23/25

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT [SEE TITLE 16 CHAPTER 97 -
- THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT]

Introduced By: Representatives O'Brien, Dawson, McNamara, Slater, Diaz, Solomon,
Kazarian, J. Brien, Hull, and J. Lombardi

Date Introduced: February 05, 2025

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-16-24.2 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-16 entitled "Teachers'
2 Retirement [See Title 16 Chapter 97 — The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby
3 amended to read as follows:

4 **16-16-24.2. Substitute teaching and post-retirement employment related to statewide**
5 **staffing.**

6 (a) Notwithstanding any public or general law, or rule or regulation to the contrary, any
7 teacher, administrator, or staff member who has retired under the provisions of title 16, 36, or 45
8 may exceed the ninety-day (90) cap on post-retirement employment upon:

9 (1) A determination by the local education authority that there exists a specialized need,
10 within their authority, to fill positions on a temporary basis, that may exceed the ninety-day (90)
11 cap on post-retirement employment;

12 (2) Retired teachers, administrators, and staff members being asked to exceed the ninety-
13 day (90) cap on post-retirement employment possess the skills, training, and knowledge necessary
14 to help address teacher and administrative staffing shortages; and

15 (3) The local education authority has notified the state retirement board that it has
16 determined that exceeding the ninety-day (90) cap on post-retirement employment is necessary to
17 help address teacher and administrative staffing shortages.

18 Provided, however, that no employment may be offered to a retiree subject to this section

1 unless the employer has made a good-faith effort each school year to fill the position with a
2 nonretired employee without success, and certifies, in writing, that it has done so to the employees'
3 retirement system and to the bargaining agents of all education unions with whom the employer
4 has collective bargaining agreements.

5 (b) Any teacher, administrator, or staff member who has retired under the provisions of
6 title 16, 36, or 45, and has been employed or re-employed under the provisions of this section, shall
7 not be entitled to additional service credits for such employment, and the teacher, administrator, or
8 staff member shall not be responsible for any contribution to the pension system as a result of the
9 employment; provided, however, the local educational authority shall make the employer
10 contribution for the teacher, administrator, or staff member as if the district had hired a new teacher,
11 administrator, or staff member.

12 (c) This section shall become effective on June 21, 2024, and unless extended by the
13 general assembly, this section shall sunset on ~~June 20, 2025~~ [July 1, 2026](#).

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 -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT [SEE TITLE 16 CHAPTER 97 -
- THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT]

- 1 This act extends the sunset provision allowing retired teachers to substitute teach in excess
- 2 of 90 days. The sunset provision is extended from June 20, 2025 until July 1, 2026.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS

Introduced By: Representatives O'Brien, Corvese, Finkelman, Donovan, McEntee, Cruz,
Furtado, Slater, Solomon, and Hull

Date Introduced: February 07, 2025

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 16-11-2.3 and 16-11-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-11 entitled
2 "Certification of Teachers [See Title 16 Chapter 97 — The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]"
3 are hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **16-11-2.3. Standardized testing — Issuance of certificates.**

5 (a) No person who obtained an initial certificate prior to January 8, 2002 shall be barred
6 from certification under this chapter solely because of his or her score on any standardized teacher's
7 examination; provided, however, that he or she successfully completes an assessment, based on
8 criteria established by the board of regents for elementary and secondary education, in accordance
9 with 34 CFR § 200.56.

10 (b) The board of regents for elementary and secondary education may administer a written
11 examination to prospective teachers seeking certification.

12 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, until July 1,
13 2027, the requirement of completion of a standardized teacher's examination as a prerequisite to
14 obtaining a teaching certificate under this chapter shall be suspended. No applicant for a teaching
15 certification under this chapter shall be required to take any standardized teacher's examination or
16 assessment designated by the board of elementary and secondary education or the department of
17 elementary and secondary education prior to July 1, 2027. Provided, however, this subsection shall
18 not apply to any testing that is required as part of an accredited post-secondary teacher preparation
19 program.

1 **16-11-3. Certificates without examination.**

2 The board of regents for elementary and secondary education may, in its discretion, issue
3 certificates of qualification without examination to persons who may present evidence of
4 qualification and shall comply with the regulations of the board. Provided, that any teacher who is
5 certified in two (2) fields or subjects of science, other than general science, shall also be
6 automatically certified in the field or subject of general science without the need for examination
7 or other proof of qualifications in the subject of general science.

8 **(b) Until July 1, 2027, the requirement of completion of a standardized teacher's**
9 **examination as a prerequisite to obtaining a teaching certificate under this chapter shall be**
10 **suspended. No applicant for a teaching certification under this chapter shall be required to take any**
11 **standardized teacher's examination or assessment designated by the board of elementary and**
12 **secondary education or the department of elementary and secondary education prior to July 1, 2027.**
13 **Provided, however, this subsection shall not apply to any testing that is required as part of an**
14 **accredited post-secondary teacher preparation program.**

15 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC001297
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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 provide that until July 1, 2027, an applicant for a teaching certificate in
2 Rhode Island would not be required to complete a standardized teacher's examination as a
3 prerequisite to obtaining a teaching certificate.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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