

2008 -- S 2621

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LC02240
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2008

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM

Introduced By: Senators Doyle, Tassoni, McBurney, and Connors

Date Introduced: February 26, 2008

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Purpose and findings:

2 WHEREAS, Physical inactivity and poor nutrition are major contributors to the
3 childhood obesity epidemic causing the current generation of youth to have a lower life
4 expectancy than their parents' generation; and

5 WHEREAS, Childhood obesity has increased three hundred percent (300%) over the last
6 three decades leading to a dramatic increase in the incidence of heart disease, type II diabetes, and
7 other obesity related diseases among today's children and adolescents; and

8 WHEREAS, The economic impact of obesity on our health care system is estimated at
9 one hundred seventeen billion dollars per year and physical activity offers young people many
10 overall health benefits including cardiovascular endurance and maintenance of a healthy weight;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Children who become competent in a wide variety of motor skills are more
13 apt to participate in a physically active lifestyle.

14 SECTION 2. Section 16-22-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-22 entitled
15 "Curriculum" is hereby amended to read as follows:

16 **16-22-4. Instruction in health and physical education.** -- All children in grades one
17 through twelve (12) attending public schools, or any other schools managed and controlled by the
18 state, shall receive in those schools instruction in health and physical education under rules and
19 regulations the department of elementary and secondary education may prescribe or approve

1 during periods which shall average at least twenty (20) minutes in each school day. No private
2 school or private instruction shall be approved by any school committee for the purposes of
3 chapter 19 of this title as substantially equivalent to that required by law of a child attending a
4 public school in the same city and/or town unless instruction in health and physical education
5 similar to that required in public schools shall be given. The required health education
6 curriculum shall be based on the health education standards of the Rhode Island Health Education
7 Framework: Health Literacy for All Students and consistent with the mandated health
8 instructional outcomes therein. The required physical education curriculum shall be based on the
9 physical education standards of the Rhode Island Physical Education Framework: Supporting
10 Physically Active Lifestyles through Quality Physical Education and consistent with the
11 instructional outcomes therein. By October 2012, all school districts will develop and implement
12 a high quality, performance based physical education curriculum incorporating the Rhode Island
13 physical education standards.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM

1 This act would require that the physical education and health curriculums in schools be
2 based on standards set by Rhode Island Health Education Framework and Rhode Island Physical
3 Education Framework.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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