

2019 -- H 5253

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

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

Introduced By: Representatives O'Brien, McEntee, Craven, Marshall, and Amore

Date Introduced: January 31, 2019

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-22-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-22 entitled "Curriculum
2 [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended to read
3 as follows:

4 **16-22-4. Instruction in health and physical education.**

5 (a) All children in grades one through twelve (12) attending public schools, or any other
6 schools managed and controlled by the state, shall receive in those schools instruction in health
7 and physical education under rules and regulations the department of elementary and secondary
8 education may prescribe or approve during periods that shall average at least twenty (20) minutes
9 in each school day. No private school or private instruction shall be approved by any school
10 committee for the purposes of chapter 19 of this title as substantially equivalent to that required
11 by law of a child attending a public school in the same city or town unless instruction in health
12 and physical education similar to that required in public schools shall be given. Commencing
13 September 1, 2012, the required health education curriculum shall be based on the health
14 education standards of the Rhode Island health education framework: health literacy for all
15 students as promulgated by the Rhode Island department of education and consistent with the
16 mandated health instructional outcomes therein. Commencing September 1, 2012, the required
17 physical education curriculum shall be based on the physical education standards of the Rhode
18 Island physical education framework: supporting physically active lifestyles through quality

1 physical education as promulgated by the Rhode Island department of education and consistent
2 with the instructional outcomes therein.

3 (b) The department of elementary and secondary education shall incorporate, in
4 consultation with the state department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and
5 hospitals, substance-abuse prevention and suicide prevention into the health education
6 curriculum. For the purpose of this section, "substance-abuse prevention" means the
7 implementation of evidence-based, age-appropriate programs, practices, or curricula related to the
8 use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; "suicide prevention" means the
9 implementation of evidence-based, appropriate programs, practices, or curricula related to mental
10 health awareness and suicide prevention. Further, "substance-abuse prevention" and suicide
11 prevention programs shall specifically include information provided to students that mixing
12 opioids and alcohol can cause accidental death.

13 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 -- CURRICULUM [SEE TITLE 16 CHAPTER 97 -- THE
RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT]

- 1 This act would require that instruction in health and physical education include
- 2 information provided to students that mixing opioids and alcohol can cause accidental death.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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