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LC01785  
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# STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2002

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ADULT EDUCATION -- EDUCATION

Introduced By: Senators Parella, Paiva-Weed, Graziano, Walton, and J Cicilline

Date Introduced: February 06, 2002

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 16-63-14 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-63 entitled "Adult  
2 Education" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **16-63-14. Appropriations of state funds. --** (a) That an estimated one hundred thirty-  
4 two thousand (132,000) Rhode Island adults over age twenty-five (25) lack a high school diploma  
5 and fifty thousand (50,000) have less than a ninth (9th) grade education;

6           That an estimated one hundred fifty thousand (150,000) Rhode Island adults have little or  
7 not English literacy and computational skills and an additional one hundred sixty-five thousand  
8 (165,000) have minimal skills;

9           That each year thousands of adults are on waiting lists for adult literacy and English as a  
10 Second Language (ESL) programs;

11           It is difficult for adult literacy and ESL programs to hire and retain qualified teachers  
12 because funding for programs is so limited.

13           That to be competitive in the new knowledge-intensive economy, Rhode Island must be  
14 able to provide a literate and skilled workforce.

15           Investment in adult literacy is also an investment in children's success: children of adults  
16 who participate in literacy programs improve their grades and test scores and reading skills and  
17 are less likely to drop out of school.

18           ~~(a)~~ (b) The general assembly shall make certain annual appropriations of state funds, for  
19 the purposes of adult education, as part of the total appropriations to the department, as prescribed

1 in section 16-5-22.

2 (c) For fiscal year 2003, there is hereby appropriated the sum of three million dollars  
3 (\$3,000,000) to increase access to and improve the quality of programs and services described in  
4 Category 1 of section 5 of this chapter.

5 ~~(b)~~ (d) The state controller is authorized to draw his or her orders upon the general  
6 treasurer for the payment of the state's obligations arising from this chapter, or so much of the  
7 sum as may be required upon receipt by him or her of vouchers properly authenticated by the  
8 ~~commission~~ department.

9 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 ADULT EDUCATION -- EDUCATION

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1           This act appropriates \$3,000,000 to increase access and quality to adult education. The  
2 act would also declare certain findings.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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