



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
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GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES  
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# Legislative Impact Statement

To: Chairperson Joseph M. McNamara  
House Education Committee

From: Bob Cooper, Executive Secretary

Re: 22 House 6667 AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS -- TRAUMA INFORMED SCHOOLS ACT

Tuesday, February 01, 2022

The Governor's Commission on Disabilities' Legislation Committee has developed a Legislative Impact Statement on the bill listed below. The Commission would be pleased to present testimony to the committee. Please contact me (462-0102) if testimony is desired or for additional information.

Introduced By Representative Ranglin-Vassell

This act would establish the implementation of trauma-informed practices in schools throughout the state.

This act would take effect upon passage.

## Legislation Committee finds this bill Beneficial

A trauma informed school is characterized by an understanding and a commitment of all teachers and staff to an awareness of how trauma affects students of trauma (which according to recent studies are 40% of all students). Trauma informed teachers and staff are aware of trauma's impact on students' behavior, their relationships, their ability or inability to self-regulate behavior, and how that affects their classroom behavior.

An important shift in trauma informed schools is that instead of labeling and engaging in "battle" with non-performing" and "non-compliant" students, questions are asked regarding possible reasons for explaining the students' behaviors. This results in a school that understands and recognizes that a student's behavior is shaped by their former life experiences; and drives a response for addressing, (in a positive and affirming manner), the students' needs and challenges. A trauma informed school is ready to address students who manifest through behavior their need for supports. But how are ALL students supported regardless of their trauma history? If a school that is trauma informed provides a safe and sane, secure and caring climate, it can and will ultimately address the needs of all students.

Source:

<https://www.traumainformedschool.us/#:~:text=What%20is%20a%20Trauma%20Informed%20School%3F%20A%20trauma,to%20recent%20studies%20are%2040%25%20of%20all%20students%29.>

cc: Representative Ranglin-Vassell  
Rico Vota, Governor's Office on Legislative Affairs