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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS - UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT

Introduced By: Representative Scott Slater

Date Introduced: February 27, 2014

Referred To: House Judiciary

(Attorney General)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 21-28-4.01 of the General Laws in Chapter 21-28 entitled "Uniform  
2 Controlled Substances Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **21-28-4.01. Prohibited acts A -- Penalties.** -- (a) (1) Except as authorized by this  
4 chapter, it shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture, deliver, or possess with intent to  
5 manufacture or deliver a controlled substance.

6 (2) Any person who is not a drug addicted person, as defined in section 21-28-1.02(18),  
7 who violates this subsection with respect to a controlled substance classified in schedule I or II,  
8 except the substance classified as marijuana, is guilty of a crime and upon conviction may be  
9 imprisoned to a term up to life, or fined not more than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000)  
10 nor less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or both.

11 (3) Where the deliverance as prohibited in this subsection shall be the proximate cause of  
12 death to the person to whom the controlled substance is delivered, it shall not be a defense that  
13 the person delivering the substance was at the time of delivery, a drug addicted person as defined  
14 in section 21-28-1.02(18).

15 (4) Any person, except as provided for in subdivision (2) of this subsection, who violates  
16 this subsection with respect to:

17 (i) A controlled substance classified in schedule I or II, is guilty of a crime and upon  
18 conviction may be imprisoned for not more than thirty (30) years, or fined not more than one  
19 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) nor less than three thousand dollars (\$3,000), or both;

1 (ii) A controlled substance classified in schedule III or IV, is guilty of a crime and upon  
2 conviction may be imprisoned for not more than twenty (20) years, or fined not more than forty  
3 thousand dollars (\$40,000), or both; provided, with respect to a controlled substance classified in  
4 schedule III(d), upon conviction may be imprisoned for not more than five (5) years, or fined not  
5 more than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), or both.

6 (iii) A controlled substance classified in schedule V, is guilty of a crime and upon  
7 conviction may be imprisoned for not more than one year, or fined not more than ten thousand  
8 dollars (\$10,000), or both.

9 (b) (1) Except as authorized by this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to create,  
10 deliver, or possess with intent to deliver, a counterfeit substance.

11 (2) Any person who violates this subsection with respect to:

12 (i) A counterfeit substance classified in schedule I or II, is guilty of a crime and upon  
13 conviction may be imprisoned for not more than thirty (30) years, or fined not more than one  
14 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), or both;

15 (ii) A counterfeit substance classified in schedule III or IV, is guilty of a crime and upon  
16 conviction may be imprisoned for not more than twenty (20) years, or fined not more than forty  
17 thousand dollars (\$40,000), or both; provided, with respect to a controlled substance classified in  
18 schedule III(d), upon conviction may be imprisoned for not more than five (5) years, or fined not  
19 more than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) or both.

20 (iii) A counterfeit substance classified in schedule V, is guilty of a crime and upon  
21 conviction may be imprisoned for not more than one year, or fined not more than ten thousand  
22 dollars (\$10,000), or both.

23 (c) (1) It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly or intentionally to possess a  
24 controlled substance, unless the substance was obtained directly from or pursuant to a valid  
25 prescription or order of a practitioner while acting in the course of his or her professional  
26 practice, or except as otherwise authorized by this chapter.

27 (2) Any person who violates this subsection with respect to:

28 (i) A controlled substance classified in schedules I, II and III, IV, and V, except the  
29 substance classified as marijuana, is guilty of a crime and upon conviction may be imprisoned for  
30 not more than three (3) years or fined not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than five  
31 thousand dollars (\$5,000), or both;

32 (ii) More than one ounce (1 oz.) of a controlled substance classified in schedule I as  
33 marijuana is guilty of a misdemeanor except for those persons subject to subdivision 21-28-  
34 4.01(a)(1) and upon conviction may be imprisoned for not more than one year or fined not less

1 than two hundred dollars (\$200) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500), or both.

2 (iii) Notwithstanding any public, special or general law to the contrary, the possession of  
3 one ounce (1 oz.) or less of marijuana by a person who is eighteen (18) years of age or older and  
4 who is not exempted from penalties pursuant to chapter 21-28.6 shall constitute a civil offense,  
5 rendering the offender liable to a civil penalty in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150)  
6 and forfeiture of the marijuana, but not to any other form of criminal or civil punishment or  
7 disqualification. Notwithstanding any public, special or general law to the contrary, this civil  
8 penalty of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) and forfeiture of the marijuana shall apply if the  
9 offense is the first (1st) or second (2nd) violation within the previous eighteen (18) months.

10 (iv) Notwithstanding any public, special or general law to the contrary, possession of one  
11 ounce (1 oz.) or less of marijuana by a person who is under the age of eighteen (18) years and  
12 who is not exempted from penalties pursuant to chapter 21-28.6 shall constitute a civil offense,  
13 rendering the offender liable to a civil penalty in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150)  
14 and forfeiture of the marijuana; provided the minor offender completes an approved drug  
15 awareness program and community service as determined by the court. In addition, the court shall  
16 order a substance abuse assessment and, if recommended, substance abuse treatment. If the  
17 person under the age of eighteen (18) years fails to complete an approved drug awareness  
18 program and community service within one year of the offense, the penalty shall be a three  
19 hundred dollar (\$300) civil fine and forfeiture of the marijuana, except that if no drug awareness  
20 program or community service is available, the penalty shall be a fine of one hundred fifty dollars  
21 (\$150) and forfeiture of the marijuana. The parents or legal guardian of any offender under the  
22 age of eighteen (18) shall be notified of the offense and the availability of a drug awareness, ~~and~~  
23 community service program, the mandatory substance abuse assessment. The drug awareness  
24 program must be approved by the court, but shall, at a minimum, provide four (4) hours of  
25 instruction or group discussion, and ten (10) hours of community service. Notwithstanding any  
26 other public, special or general law to the contrary, this civil penalty shall apply if the offense is  
27 the first (1st) or second (2nd) violation within the previous eighteen (18) months.

28 (v) Notwithstanding any public, special, or general law to the contrary, a person not  
29 exempted from penalties pursuant to chapter 21-28.6 found in possession of one ounce (1 oz.) or  
30 less of marijuana is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction may be imprisoned for not  
31 more than thirty (30) days or fined not less than two hundred dollars (\$200) nor more than five  
32 hundred dollars (\$500), or both, if that person has been previously adjudicated on a violation for  
33 possession of less than one ounce (1 oz.) of marijuana under subparagraphs 21-28-4.01(c)(2)(iii)  
34 or 21-28-4.01(c)(2)(iv) two (2) times in the eighteen (18) months prior to the third (3rd) offense.

1 (vi) Any unpaid civil fine issued under subparagraphs 21-28-4.01(c)(2)(iii) or 21-28-  
2 4.01(c)(2)(iv) shall double to three hundred dollars (\$300) if not paid within thirty (30) days of  
3 the offense. The civil fine shall double again to six hundred dollars (\$600) if it has not been paid  
4 within ninety (90) days.

5 (vii) No person may be arrested for a violation of subparagraphs 21-28-4.01(c)(2)(iii) or  
6 21-28-4.01(c)(2)(iv) except as provided in this subparagraph. Any person in possession of an  
7 identification card, license, or other form of identification issued by the state or any state, city or  
8 town, or any college or university, who fails to produce the same upon request of a police officer  
9 who informs the person that he or she has been found in possession of what appears to the officer  
10 to be one ounce (1 oz.) or less of marijuana, or any person without any such forms of  
11 identification that fails or refuses to truthfully provide his or her name, address, and date of birth  
12 to a police officer who has informed such person that the officer intends to provide such  
13 individual with a citation for possession of one ounce (1 oz.) or less of marijuana, may be  
14 arrested.

15 (viii) No violation of ~~subparagraphs § 21-28-4.01(c)(2)(iii) or 21-28-4.01(c)(2)(iv)~~ shall  
16 be considered a violation of parole or probation.

17 (ix) Any records collected by any state agency, ~~or tribunal, or the family court~~ that  
18 include personally identifiable information about violations of subparagraphs 21-28-  
19 4.01(c)(2)(iii) or 21-28-4.01(c)(2)(iv) shall be sealed eighteen (18) months after the payment of  
20 said civil fine.

21 (3) Jurisdiction. – (i) Any and all violations of ~~subparagraphs § 21-28-4.01(c)(2)(iii) and~~  
22 ~~21-28-4.01(c)(2)(iv)~~ shall be the exclusive jurisdiction of the Rhode Island traffic tribunal. All  
23 money associated with the civil fine issued under ~~subparagraphs § 21-28-4.01(c)(2)(iii) or 21-28-~~  
24 ~~4.01(c)(2)(iv)~~ shall be payable to the Rhode Island traffic tribunal. Fifty percent (50%) of all fines  
25 collected by the Rhode Island traffic tribunal from civil penalties issued pursuant to  
26 ~~subparagraphs § 21-28-4.01(c)(2)(iii) or 21-28-4.01(c)(2)(iv) shall be expended on drug~~  
27 ~~awareness and treatment programs for youth~~ shall be deposited with and administered by the  
28 department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals (BHDDH) to fund  
29 prevention and treatment services for youth.

30 (ii) Any and all violations of § 21-28-4.01(c)(2)(iv) shall be the exclusive jurisdiction of  
31 the Rhode Island family court. All money associated with the civil fine issued under § 21-28-  
32 4.01(c)(2)(iv) shall be payable to the Rhode Island family court. Fifty percent (50%) of all fines  
33 collected by the Rhode Island family court from civil penalties issued pursuant to § 21-28-  
34 4.01(c)(2)(iv) shall be deposited with and administered by the department of behavioral

1 [healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals \(BHDDH\) to fund prevention and treatment](#)  
2 [services for youth.](#)

3 (4) Additionally every person convicted or who pleads nolo contendere under paragraph  
4 (2)(i) of this subsection or convicted or who pleads nolo contendere a second or subsequent time  
5 under paragraph (2)(ii) of this subsection, who is not sentenced to a term of imprisonment to  
6 serve for the offense, shall be required to:

7 (i) Perform, up to one hundred (100) hours of community service;

8 (ii) Attend and complete a drug counseling and education program as prescribed by the  
9 director of the ~~department of mental health, retardation and hospitals~~ [department of behavioral](#)  
10 [healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals](#) and pay the sum of four hundred dollars  
11 (\$400) to help defray the costs of this program which shall be deposited ~~as general revenues~~ [with](#)  
12 [and administered by the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and](#)  
13 [hospitals \(BHDDH\) to fund prevention and treatment services.](#) Failure to attend may result after  
14 hearing by the court in jail sentence up to one year;

15 (iii) The court shall not suspend any part or all of the imposition of the fee required by  
16 this subsection, unless the court finds an inability to pay;

17 (iv) If the offense involves the use of any automobile to transport the substance or the  
18 substance is found within an automobile, then a person convicted or who pleads nolo contendere  
19 under paragraphs (2)(i) and (ii) of this subsection shall be subject to a loss of license for a period  
20 of six (6) months for a first offense and one year for each offense after this.

21 (5) All fees assessed and collected pursuant to paragraph (3)(ii) of this subsection shall  
22 be deposited ~~as general revenues~~ [with and administered by the department of behavioral](#)  
23 [healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals \(BHDDH\) to fund prevention and treatment](#)  
24 [services](#) and shall be collected from the person convicted or who pleads nolo contendere before  
25 any other fines authorized by this chapter.

26 (d) It shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture, distribute, or possess with intent  
27 to manufacture or distribute, an imitation controlled substance. Any person who violates this  
28 subsection is guilty of a crime, and upon conviction shall be subject to the same term of  
29 imprisonment and/or fine as provided by this chapter for the manufacture or distribution of the  
30 controlled substance which the particular imitation controlled substance forming the basis of the  
31 prosecution was designed to resemble and/or represented to be; but in no case shall the  
32 imprisonment be for more than five (5) years nor the fine for more than twenty thousand dollars  
33 (\$20,000).

34 (e) It shall be unlawful for a practitioner to prescribe, order, distribute, supply, or sell an

1 anabolic steroid or human growth hormone for: (1) enhancing performance in an exercise, sport,  
2 or game, or (2) hormonal manipulation intended to increase muscle mass, strength, or weight  
3 without a medical necessity. Any person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor  
4 and upon conviction may be imprisoned for not more than six (6) months or a fine of not more  
5 than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or both.

6 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on September 1, 2014.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS - UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT

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1           This act would transfer the jurisdiction of possession of one ounce (1 oz.) or less of  
2 marijuana by a person who is under the age of eighteen (18) years from the Rhode Island traffic  
3 tribunal to the Rhode Island family court. The act would also require the family court to order a  
4 substance abuse assessment and, if recommended, substance abuse treatment, for such violations.

5           This act would take effect on September 1, 2014.

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