

2021 -- H 5281

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Introduced By: Representatives Vella-Wilkinson, Williams, Noret, Kazarian, Ackerman,  
and Azzinaro

Date Introduced: January 29, 2021

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 30-15 of the General Laws entitled "Emergency Management" is  
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **30-15-45. Essential mental health and substance use disorder services.**

4 During any declared state or local disaster emergency pursuant to this chapter, mental  
5 health and substance use disorder services provided by Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics  
6 Anonymous shall be considered an essential health benefit and the services provided thereby shall  
7 be permitted during the disaster emergency; provided, that adequate measures are implemented to  
8 provide the services safely within whatever guidelines may be established to address the issues  
9 relative to the declared disaster emergency.

10 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 MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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1           This act would permit Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings during  
2 a declared disaster emergency.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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