

2017 -- H 6196

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- HEALTH CARE FACILITIES STAFFING

Introduced By: Representatives Barros, Cunha, Tobon, Blazejewski, and Maldonado

Date Introduced: May 05, 2017

Referred To: House Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 23-17.20 of the General Laws entitled "Health Care Facilities
2 Staffing" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **23-17.20-3.1. Overtime requirement for first-year medical residents.**

4 (a) No health care facility as defined in §23-17.20-2 shall require a first-year medical
5 resident to accept work in excess of an agreed to, predetermined scheduled work shift of twenty-
6 four (24) hours except in an unforeseeable emergent circumstance.

7 (b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit voluntary overtime in excess of an
8 agreed to, predetermined scheduled work shift of twenty-four (24) hours.

9 (c) The provisions of this section shall not apply in the case of an unforeseeable emergent
10 circumstance when:

11 (1) The overtime is required only as a last resort and is not used to fill vacancies resulting
12 from chronic short staffing; and

13 (2) The employer has exhausted reasonable efforts to obtain staffing.

14 (d) The requirement that the employer shall exhaust reasonable efforts to obtain staffing
15 shall not apply in the event of any declared national, state or municipal emergency or a disaster or
16 other catastrophic event which substantially affects or increases the need for health care services.

1 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 HEALTH AND SAFETY -- HEALTH CARE FACILITIES STAFFING

1 This act would prohibit health care facilities from requiring first-year medical residents to
2 work a shift in excess of twenty-four (24) hours, except in an unforeseeable emergent
3 circumstance or in the event of any declared national, state or municipal emergency, disaster or
4 other catastrophic event.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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