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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 HUMAN SERVICES -- CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Johnston, San Bento, Messier, Hull, and O`Grady

Date Introduced: February 06, 2014

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 40 of the General Laws entitled "HUMAN SERVICES" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 11.1

4 CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION ACT

5 **40-11.1-1. Short title.** – This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Child
6 Sexual Abuse Prevention Act."

7 **40-11.1-2. Findings of fact.** -- (a) The general assembly finds and declares:

8 (1) Child sexual abuse poses a serious threat to the health and safety of young people and
9 its damaging effects can last a lifetime, including, but not limited to, anxiety, depression,
10 substance abuse, posttraumatic stress disorder, aggression, social isolation, self inflicted harm,
11 criminal behavior and violent offenses.

12 (2) It is estimated that one in ten (10) children will be sexually abused before they turn
13 eighteen (18).

14 (3) Young children are especially vulnerable to sexual abuse.

15 (4) Approximately ninety percent (90%) of children who are victims of sexual abuse
16 know their abuser.

17 (5) The incidence of child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation and child abduction can
18 be reduced by raising awareness and building community based support for prevention through
19 training programs for coaches, trusted adults, who can act as advocates for children.

1 (b) Therefore, it is hereby declared coaches and assistant coaches of youth sports
2 programs must complete a child sexual abuse training program that meet the requirements of this
3 section to recognize, prevent, and react to incidents of child sexual abuse.

4 **40-11.1-3. Definitions. --** (a) For the purpose of this section, the term "youth sports
5 programs" means and includes any program organized for recreational athletic competition and/or
6 instruction, and whose participants are:

7 (1) Minors; or

8 (2) Physically or mentally disabled, regardless of age.

9 (b) "Minor" means any person not having reached eighteen (18) years of age;

10 (c) "Child sexual abuse" (CSA) means any sexual act between an adult and a minor, or
11 between two (2) minors, when one exerts power over the other; forcing, coercing or persuading a
12 child to engage in any type of sexual act; and non-contact acts such as exhibitionism, exposure to
13 pornography, voyeurism, and communicating in a sexual manner by phone or Internet.

14 **40-11.1-4. Child sexual abuse prevention training requirements. --** (a) Coaches and
15 assistant coaches of youth sports programs with children under age eighteen (18) shall be
16 responsible for completing a child sexual abuse prevention training program.

17 (b) The Rhode Island department of health shall work with The Rhode Island State
18 Alliance of YMCAs to maintain a list, available online, of approved training programs that meet
19 the following criteria: must provide techniques on how to recognize, prevent and react to
20 incidents of child sexual abuse based on best practices, available online or in person, offered in
21 English and in Spanish, and provide a minimum of two (2) hours of instruction time.

22 (c) Participating organizations shall require annual proof of current and valid CSA
23 training from all coaches in their youth sports programs prior to the start of coaching. Coaches
24 must retake a CSA prevention training course every five (5) years and maintain a copy of their
25 CSA prevention training certificate.

26 (d) Coaches must follow proper reporting procedures as set forth in § 40-11-3 if they
27 suspect a child is suffering from sexual abuse.

28 (e) The department of health shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to
29 effectuate the purposes of this section.

30 (f) The department of health, in collaboration with the department of children, youth and
31 families, shall report annually to the general assembly the status of the Child Sexual Abuse
32 Prevention Act.

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 HUMAN SERVICES -- CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION ACT

1 This act would create the "Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Act" which would require
2 coaches and assistant coaches to complete a child sexual abuse prevention training program, with
3 at least two (2) hours of instruction time. The course would be retaken every five (5) years.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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