

2014 -- H 7663

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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 PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
FOR THE DISABLED

Introduced By: Representatives Naughton, Canario, and Silva

Date Introduced: February 27, 2014

Referred To: House Finance

(Administration)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 37-2.4-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 37-2.4 entitled
2 "Habilitation Procurement Program" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **37-2.4-1. Definitions. --** The words defined in this section have the meanings set forth
4 below whenever they appear in this chapter, unless context in which they are used clearly requires
5 a different meaning or a different definition as prescribed for a particular section, group of
6 sections, or provision:

7 (1) "Board" means the habilitation procurement board created under this section;

8 (2) "Habilitation facility" means a program that is operated primarily for the purpose of
9 the employment and training of persons with a disability by a government agency or a qualified
10 organization licensed by the State of Rhode Island providing vocational rehabilitation to support
11 people with disabilities, and:

12 (i) Maintains an employment ratio of at least ~~sixty percent (60%)~~ forty percent (40%) of
13 the program employees under the procurement contract in question have severe disabilities;

14 (ii) Complies with any applicable occupational health and safety standards prescribed by
15 the United States department of labor or is a supported employment program approved by the
16 State of Rhode Island office of rehabilitation services;

17 (iii) Has its principal place of business in Rhode Island;

18 (iv) Produces any goods provided under this section in Rhode Island; and

1 (v) The services provided, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, are provided
2 by individuals with the majority being domiciled residents of the State of Rhode Island.

3 (3) "Person with a disability" means any individual who has a severe physical or mental
4 impairment which constitutes a substantial barrier to employment, as certified by the department
5 of human services or the department of behavioral health care, developmental disabilities and
6 hospitals.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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- 1 This act would lower the minimum acceptable ratio of severely disabled employees that a
- 2 habilitation facility must employ from sixty percent (60%) to forty percent (40%).
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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