

2014 -- H 8221

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LC005705  
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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 HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THE RHODE ISLAND LUPUS EDUCATION  
AND AWARENESS PLAN

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, McNamara, Slater, Ruggiero, and Cimini

Date Introduced: May 21, 2014

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-87-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-87 entitled "The Rhode  
2 Island Lupus Education and Awareness Plan" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-87-5. Establishment of the lupus education and awareness plan (LEAP).** -- (a)

4 The study commission established in this chapter shall:

5 (1) Analyze the current state of education on lupus in the state;

6 (2) Evaluate materials and resources currently available from government agencies,  
7 hospitals, lupus advocacy organizations; and

8 (3) Identify gaps in the current lupus education modalities in the state through a needs  
9 assessment or similar mechanism.

10 (b) Upon completing the needs assessment described in subsection (a), the study  
11 commission shall report on the results of its assessment to the department of health and to the  
12 general assembly. Utilizing the results of such assessment, and with input from the committees of  
13 the general assembly, having cognizance of matters relating to public health and the department of  
14 health, the study commission shall develop a comprehensive lupus education and awareness plan.

15 (c) The study commission shall develop a comprehensive plan to improve education and  
16 awareness surrounding lupus for healthcare practitioners, public health personnel, patients, and  
17 persons who may have lupus. The plan shall include the recommendations on how to best:

18 (1) Distribute medically-sound health information produced by the Lupus Foundation of

1 America, Inc., the Lupus Foundation of New England and/or government agencies, including, but  
2 not limited to, the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,  
3 and the Social Security Administration, through local health departments, schools, agencies on  
4 aging, employer wellness programs, physicians and other health professionals, hospitals, health  
5 plans and health maintenance organizations, women's health, and nonprofit and community-based  
6 organizations;

7 (2) Utilize volunteers in the community to distribute brochures and other materials that  
8 promote lupus education and awareness;

9 (3) Develop educational materials for health professionals that identify the most recent  
10 scientific and medical information and clinical applications regarding the treatment of lupus;

11 (4) Work to increase knowledge among physicians, nurses, and health and human  
12 services professionals about the importance of lupus diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation;

13 (5) Support continuing medical education plans in the state's leading academic  
14 institutions by providing them the most recent scientific and medical information and clinical  
15 applications regarding the treatment of lupus;

16 (6) Conduct statewide workshops and seminars for extensive professional development  
17 regarding the care and management of patients with lupus in an effort to bring the latest  
18 information on clinical advances to care providers; and

19 (7) Develop and maintain a directory of lupus-related healthcare services, that includes a  
20 listing of healthcare providers with specialization in services to diagnose and treat lupus and that  
21 can be disseminated, within available appropriations, by the department of health to individuals  
22 with lupus, family members of those with lupus, representatives from voluntary organizations,  
23 healthcare professionals, health plans, local health agencies and authorities and to other agencies  
24 of the state.

25 (d) The study commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the Rhode  
26 Island department of health and to both chambers of the general assembly annually on or before  
27 ~~December 1~~, [March 31](#) commencing in ~~2014~~ [2015](#). The study commission may make periodic  
28 revisions to the plan that are consistent with the purposes of this section.

29 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 -- THE RHODE ISLAND LUPUS EDUCATION  
AND AWARENESS PLAN

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1           This act would change the reporting date from December 1, 2014, to March 31, 2015, for  
2 the study commission on the "Rhode Island Lupus Education and Awareness Plan Act of 2012"  
3 to report its findings and recommendations to the Rhode Island department of health and the  
4 general assembly.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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