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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS

Introduced By: Senators Pichardo, Gallo, DiPalma, and Ciccone

Date Introduced: March 10, 2011

Referred To: Senate Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 28 of the General Laws entitled "LABOR AND LABOR
2 RELATIONS" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 54

4 ENHANCEMENT OF RHODE ISLAND'S HEALTHCARE WORKPLACE

5 **28-54-1. Legislative findings. --** It is hereby found and declared as follows:

6 (1) Over the next several years Rhode Island will need to expand and enhance its
7 healthcare work force, a major sector within the knowledge economy, in order to fulfill the
8 growing demand for quality health services.

9 (2) An effective training fund is essential to address the anticipated shortage in healthcare
10 services especially in the nursing field which currently has an older workforce.

11 (3) Increasing the state's middle skills healthcare workforce capacity-jobs that require
12 more than a high school diploma but less than a four (4) year degree – will enable Rhode Island's
13 current and incoming healthcare workers to effectively fill the new jobs created by the expanding
14 healthcare industry.

15 **28-54-2. Healthcare middle skill training fund council. --** (a) There shall be established
16 within the department of labor and training a healthcare middle skill training fund council. This
17 council shall have seven (7) members, all of whom shall be appointed by the director of the
18 department of labor and training and serve at the pleasure of the director of the department of
19 labor and training.

1 (b) The healthcare middle skill training fund council shall determine the process for
2 providing incentives and reimbursements to healthcare providers that invest in training and
3 upgrading opportunities in the current healthcare workforce.

4 (c) The healthcare middle skill training fund council shall promulgate rules and
5 regulations regarding bona fide apprenticeship programs, in the healthcare field and shall certify
6 such programs.

7 (d) Employers conducting bona fide apprenticeship programs certified by the healthcare
8 middle skill training fund council shall be eligible to obtain funding from the council should such
9 funding become available.

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 LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS

1 This act would create a healthcare middle skills training fund council within the
2 department of labor and training. This council would certify bona fide apprenticeship programs
3 and provide funding for these programs to the extent it is available.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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