

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY

Introduced By: Senators Moura, Kettle, Shibley, Bates, and Maher

Date Introduced: March 10, 2011

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 86

4 HEALTH CARE FREEDOM OF CHOICE ACT

5 **23-86-1. Short title.** – This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the “Rhode
6 Island Health Care Freedom of Choice Act of 2011.”

7 **23-86-2. Legislative findings.** – It is hereby found and declared as follows:

8 (1) A resident of the State of Rhode Island has the right to purchase health insurance or to
9 refuse to purchase health insurance.

10 **23-86-3. Government interference.** – The government may not interfere with a
11 resident’s right to purchase health insurance or with a resident’s right to refuse to purchase health
12 insurance. The government may not enact a law that would restrict these rights or that would
13 impose a form of punishment for exercising either of these rights.

14 **23-86-4. No penalty incurred.** – No provision of this chapter renders a resident of this
15 state liable for any penalty, assessment, fee, or fine as a result of the resident’s choice not to
16 procure or obtain health insurance coverage.

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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

1 This act would give residents of the State of Rhode Island the right to purchase or refuse
2 to purchase health insurance with no penalty to be incurred for the refusal to purchase health
3 insurance.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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