

2010 -- S 2270

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LC00805
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- RI COORDINATES HEALTH PLANNING ACT
OF 2006

Introduced By: Senator C Levesque

Date Introduced: February 11, 2010

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 23-81-2 and 23-81-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-81
2 entitled "Rhode Island Coordinated Health Planning Act of 2006" are hereby amended to read as
3 follows:

4 **23-81-2. Legislative findings.** -- It is hereby found and declared:

5 (a) The vast majority of Rhode Islanders believe that quality, affordable health care
6 should be available to all in our state;

7 (b) Our current health care crisis affects all facets of Rhode Island's economy, with a
8 particular burden on small business owners, young people, and those approaching retirement;

9 (c) A majority of Rhode Islanders believe that the state government has a significant role
10 to play in solving this health care crisis;

11 (d) The current state health care infrastructure is fragmented with an array of state
12 departments and offices carrying out health care planning, along with a myriad of private efforts,
13 all with a lack of coordination;

14 (e) Because an essential component of health planning is resource allocation, there is a
15 need to professionalize the health services council and revitalize the certificate of need process;

16 (f) Recognizing that many departments of state government are involved in the
17 collection of data and information related to health care, health care outcomes, health care
18 insurance, consumer behavior and trends, and that accurate and accessible, collection and housing

1 of this information is necessary for the general assembly to enact useful health care policy;

2 (g) Rhode Island's small size makes us the perfect laboratory to create a unified health
3 care system, planned and coordinated with a functioning public/private partnership, with broad
4 representation of all of the health care stakeholders;

5 (h) The general assembly finds that the people of this state have a fundamental interest in
6 the establishment of a comprehensive strategic health care planning process and the preparation,
7 maintenance, and implementation of plans to improve the quality, accessibility, portability, and
8 affordability of health care in Rhode Island; that the continued growth, viability and development
9 of the health care infrastructure by the private and public sectors requires effective planning by
10 the state; and that state and local plans and programs must be properly coordinated with the
11 planning requirements and programs of the federal government; and

12 (i) The coordinated health planning process should create usable and dynamic guidance
13 that helps design a health care system and improves the health of Rhode Islanders.

14 (j) The department of health is pursuing federal and private funds for the establishment
15 and continuation of the health planning accountability advisory council, and implementation of
16 coordinated health planning is intended to manage growth in the cost of health care to the state.

17 **23-81-6. Funding. --** The department of health ~~may apply for and receive private and/or~~
18 ~~public funds to carry out the requirements of this chapter.~~ is pursuing federal and private funds
19 for the establishment and continuation of the health planning accountability advisory council, and
20 implementation of coordinated health planning is intended to manage growth in the cost of health
21 care to the state. Upon the effective date of this section, the state shall allocate matching funds of
22 two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) annually for this purpose from funds attached to
23 the two percent (2%) annual tax on the gross premiums on contracts of insurance imposed under
24 chapter 44-17.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- RI COORDINATES HEALTH PLANNING ACT
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- 1 This act would allocate matching funds of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000)
- 2 to the continuation of the health planning and accountability advisory council from funds attached
- 3 to the 2% annual tax on gross premiums on insurance contracts.
- 4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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