

2024 -- S 2557 AS AMENDED

LC004216

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EDUCATION,  
TRAINING, AND COORDINATION FUND

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Picard, Burke, Lauria, Miller, and Tikoian

Date Introduced: March 01, 2024

Referred To: Senate Finance

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 100

4 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND COORDINATION FUND

5 **23-100-1. Definitions.**

6 As used in this chapter, the following words shall be construed as follows unless the context  
7 clearly indicates otherwise:

8 (1) "Behavioral health" means treatment and services for mental health and substance use  
9 disorders.

10 (2) "Eligible organization(s)" means the Substance Use and Mental Health Leadership  
11 Council of RI, and any other organization certified pursuant to the provisions of § 23-100-2.

12 (3) "Eligible services" means the programs used for educational purposes, training, and  
13 coordination of mental health or substance use disorder treatment providers.

14 **23-100-2. Behavioral Health Education, Training, and Coordination Fund established**  
15 **-- Uses of the fund.**

16 (a) There is established a separate fund within the general fund to be called the behavioral  
17 health education, training, and coordination fund which shall be administered by the general  
18 treasurer in accordance with the same laws and fiscal procedures as the general funds of the state.

1 The fund shall consist of sums collected as a result of the taxpayer check-off as provided for in §  
2 44-30-2.12. The general treasurer is authorized to accept any grant, devise, bequest, donation, gift,  
3 or assignment of money, bonds, or other valuable securities for deposit in and credit of the  
4 behavioral health education, training, and coordination fund.

5 (b) The monies received under this chapter and § 44-30-2.12 shall be made available and  
6 distributed by the treasurer annually by September 30, or as soon thereafter as the application is  
7 approved, to eligible organizations certified by the department of behavioral healthcare,  
8 developmental disabilities and hospitals for the calendar year.

9 (c) Upon distribution to eligible organizations with an approved application, the monies  
10 shall be used exclusively to provide education, training, or coordination of behavioral health  
11 treatment or service providers.

12 (d) Upon receipt of the annual application from an eligible organization as provided in this  
13 section, the director of the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and  
14 hospitals shall review each application to determine if it complies with the intent and requirements  
15 of this chapter. Upon a finding by the director of the department of behavioral healthcare,  
16 developmental disabilities and hospitals that the application complies with the intent and  
17 requirements of this chapter, the director of the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental  
18 disabilities and hospitals shall certify that the eligible organization has an approved application for  
19 the calendar year. The director of the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental  
20 disabilities, and hospitals shall provide notice of approval or denial of certification not later than  
21 September 15 to each eligible organization that has submitted an annual application.

22 (f) The director of the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and  
23 hospitals is authorized to promulgate any rules or regulations and prescribe forms necessary to  
24 implement the provisions of this chapter.

25 SECTION 2. Section 44-30-2.11 of the General Laws in Chapter 44-30 entitled "Personal  
26 Income Tax" is hereby amended to read as follows:

27 **44-30-2.11. Refund deduction for contribution to the substance use and mental health**  
28 **leadership council of RI.**

29 (a) There shall be provided as a deduction from any refund from the Rhode Island personal  
30 income tax otherwise due to a taxpayer for a taxable year a contribution to the substance use and  
31 mental health leadership council of RI. The provision for the contribution shall appear on the state  
32 personal income tax return as follows:

33 Substance use and mental health leadership council of RI.

34 Check if you wish to contribute

1           \_\_\_\_\_ \$1.00  
2           \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00  
3           \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00  
4           \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (write in amount of your tax REFUND for this  
5 program.)

6           (b) The tax administrator shall annually forward by August 1, all contributions made to the  
7 substance use and mental health leadership council of RI to the general treasurer to be deposited in  
8 the fund created in § 23-14-3. The general treasurer shall annually distribute the proceeds of the  
9 fund as prescribed in chapter 14 of title 23.

10           (c) The provisions of this section shall commence for returns filed for the tax year ending  
11 December 31, 2018, and shall sunset and expire for the tax year ending December 31, 2023.

12           SECTION 3. Chapter 44-30 of the General Laws entitled "Personal Income Tax" is hereby  
13 amended by adding thereto the following section:

14           **44-30-2.12. Refund deduction for contribution to the behavioral health education,**  
15 **training, and coordination fund.**

16           (a) There shall be provided as a deduction from any refund from the Rhode Island personal  
17 income tax otherwise due to a taxpayer for a taxable year a contribution to the behavioral health  
18 education, training, and coordination fund. The provision for the contribution shall appear on the  
19 state personal income tax return as follows:

20           Behavioral health education, training, and coordination fund.  
21           Check if you wish to contribute  
22           \_\_\_\_\_ \$1.00  
23           \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00  
24           \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00  
25           \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (write in amount of your tax REFUND for this  
26 program.)

27           (b) The tax administrator shall annually forward by August 1, contributions made to the  
28 behavioral health education, training, and coordination fund to the general treasurer to be deposited  
29 in the fund created in § 23-100-2. The general treasurer shall annually distribute proceeds of the  
30 fund as prescribed in chapter 100 of title 23.

31           (c) The provision of this section shall commence for returns filed for the tax year ending  
32 December 31, 2024.

33           SECTION 4. 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 -- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EDUCATION,  
TRAINING, AND COORDINATION FUND

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1           This act would establish the behavioral health education, training, and coordination fund  
2 to receive the checkoff contributions from Rhode Island personal income tax returns for tax years  
3 ending on or after December 31, 2024. This act would further define the "eligible organization(s)"  
4 to apply for receipt of the funds as the substance use and mental health leadership council of Rhode  
5 Island.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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