

2010 -- S 2583

LC01950

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES - STATE EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAM

Introduced By: Senator James C. Sheehan

Date Introduced: February 11, 2010

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 36-12 of the General Laws entitled "Insurance Benefits" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **36-12-16. Comprehensive state employees wellness program.** -- (a) Legislative
4 findings - The general assembly hereby finds that:

5 (1) Many states have moved forward to implement high quality wellness programs for
6 their employees similar to those being effectively utilized in the private sector; and

7 (2) That such programs provide education and valuable information for employees and
8 their families on health issues, disease prevention, exercise, eating habits, and healthy lifestyles,
9 that promote a healthy workforce; and

10 (3) That these programs have demonstrated significant cost savings, enhanced employee
11 productivity, and reduced future expenses for health care services; and

12 (4) That such a program could be designed to improve the quality of care and cost-
13 effectiveness of existing programs for Rhode Island state employees by utilizing the integration
14 of best practices from both conventional and complementary alternative medicine providers.

15 (b) The Rhode Island department of administration, in consultation with the Rhode Island
16 department of health and other appropriate agencies, shall establish a comprehensive wellness
17 program for state employees that includes, but is not limited to, a focus on smoking cessation,
18 disease prevention, reduction of chronic pain, and weight management. In developing the

1 comprehensive wellness program, the department shall consider the integration of both
2 conventional and complementary alternative medicines and treatments.

3 (c) Beginning on March 1, 2011, the department of administration shall annually provide
4 a report to the governor, the president of the senate, and the speaker of the house of
5 representatives regarding the effectiveness of the wellness program and the resultant cost savings.

6 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 PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES - STATE EMPLOYEE WELLNESS
PROGRAM

1 This act would establish a comprehensive state employees wellness program to promote
2 the improved health and wellness of state employees. It would require the state department of
3 administration to annually present a program progress report and cost savings to the governor, the
4 president of the senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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