

2012 -- S 3065

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENTS OF RHODE ISLAND'S EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES TO STRENGTHEN YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION
EFFORTS IN RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Pichardo, Picard, Hodgson, Crowley, and Jabour

Date Introduced: June 12, 2012

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Nationally, youth violence is the second leading cause of death among
2 young people between the ages of ten and twenty-four years; and

3 WHEREAS, Violence affects the health of entire communities. It can increase health care
4 costs, decrease property values, and disrupt social services; and

5 WHEREAS, The risk factors surrounding youth violence are complex and can include
6 mental health issues, early involvement with alcohol, drugs, and tobacco, and low levels of social
7 cohesion within a community; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2011, 255 Rhode Island juveniles were referred to family court as a result
9 of violent crimes committed; and

10 WHEREAS, It is estimated that only five percent of eligible high-risk juvenile offenders
11 are effectively treated with an evidence-based intervention annually; and

12 WHEREAS, Youth of color are overrepresented within the juvenile justice system and it
13 is essential to promote fair and unbiased juvenile justice systems; and

14 WHEREAS, Partner agencies, schools, law enforcement, families, and communities must
15 work collaboratively in order to strengthen our young people's physical, social-emotional,
16 cultural, and economic environments in ways that promote their optimal well-being and that
17 prevent violence; and

18 WHEREAS, Valuable on-the-job training, work experience, and career exploration
19 programs for vulnerable at-risk youths are essential to bolster self-efficacy, independence, and

1 skills training for the future; now, therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
3 hereby supports the use of effective evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies to
4 strengthen programs serving at-risk youth; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby strongly urges Congress to fully fund the
6 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) for youth employment skills training and opportunities; and be
7 it further

8 RESOLVED, That this Senate strongly encourages the departments of Rhode Island's
9 Executive Office of Health and Human Services to engage in contracts that utilize evidence-
10 based, clinical practices that target risk factors which are individualized and culturally competent;
11 and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Senate respectfully requests the departments of the Executive
13 Office of Health and Human Services to report on an annual basis to the Senate Committee on
14 Health and Human Services, specific outcome data to evaluate performance measures to support
15 future contracts; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
17 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation, the
18 Governor, The Honorable Lincoln Chafee, and the Secretary of Rhode Island's Executive Office
19 of Health and Human Services.

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