

2025 -- H 5171 SUBSTITUTE A

LC000790/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- HARM REDUCTION CENTER ADVISORY
COMMITTEE AND PILOT PROGRAM

Introduced By: Representatives Edwards, Craven, Potter, Caldwell, Kislak, Bennett,
Ajello, Batista, McEntee, and Kazarian
Date Introduced: January 24, 2025

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. The title of Chapter 23-12.10 of the General Laws entitled "Harm Reduction
Center Advisory Committee and Pilot Program." is hereby amended to read as follows:

~~CHAPTER 23-12.10~~

~~Harm Reduction Center Advisory Committee and Pilot Program. [Expires March 1, 2026.]~~

CHAPTER 23-12.10

HARM REDUCTION CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PROGRAM

SECTION 2. Sections 23-12.10-1 and 23-12.10-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-12.10
entitled "Harm Reduction Center Advisory Committee and Pilot Program." are hereby amended to
read as follows:

23-12.10-1. Purpose and creation — Municipal authorization required.

(a) The purpose of this chapter is to authorize a ~~four-year (4)~~ pilot program to prevent drug
overdoses through the establishment of “harm reduction centers,” which, as used in this chapter,
shall be defined as a community-based resource for health screening, disease prevention, and
recovery assistance where persons may safely consume pre-obtained substances. Smoking of pre-
obtained substances shall also be permitted within the harm reduction center.

(b) Each harm reduction center shall provide the necessary healthcare professionals to
prevent overdose, and shall provide referrals for counseling or other medical treatment that may be
appropriate for persons utilizing the harm reduction center.

1 (c) The director of the department of health shall promulgate regulations to authorize the
2 program established by this chapter, and in accordance with § 23-12.10-5. Nothing contained in
3 this section authorizes a harm reduction center without approval of the municipality in which the
4 center is proposed.

5 (d)(1) Any harm reduction center proposed to be operated pursuant to the provisions of this
6 chapter shall require municipal authorization and approval prior to opening or operating in any
7 community within this state.

8 (2) As used in this chapter, the term “municipal authorization and approval” means an
9 express affirmative vote by the city or town council, or the equivalent governing body, of any
10 municipality where a harm reduction center is proposed to be located, which affirmative vote
11 approves:

12 (i) The opening and operation of the proposed harm reduction center;

13 (ii) The exact location of the proposed harm reduction center, which shall include street
14 address and plat and lot number or other applicable number as used by the municipality’s tax
15 assessor; and

16 (iii) An express authorization as to the hours of operation of the proposed harm reduction
17 center.

18 (e) Each harm reduction center approved for operation pursuant to the provisions of this
19 chapter shall cease operations on or before March 1, 2026, unless an act of the general assembly
20 expressly authorizes the continuation of the operation of the harm reduction center.

21 **23-12.10-6. Sunset.**

22 On or before January 31, ~~2026~~ 2028, the director of the department of health and the
23 attorney general shall submit to the governor, the speaker of the house, and the president of the
24 senate, recommendations as to continuation of the provisions of this chapter, and unless extended
25 by the general assembly, the provisions of this chapter shall sunset and expire on March 1, ~~2026~~
26 2028.

27 **SECTION 3. 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 -- HARM REDUCTION CENTER ADVISORY
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- 1 This act extends the sunset provision of the four (4) year pilot program to prevent drug
2 overdoses through the establishment of harm reduction centers for two (2) years to March 1, 2028.
3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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