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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Introduced By: Senators Murray, Valverde, Gu, Lawson, Sosnowski, Urso, and Vargas

Date Introduced: March 14, 2025

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

(Dept. of Health)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-11-8 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-11 entitled "Sexually
2 Transmitted Diseases" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-11-8. Blood test of pregnant women.**

4 It shall be the duty of every physician, midwife, physician assistant and nurse practitioner
5 engaged in prenatal attendance upon a pregnant woman to obtain a blood specimen of that pregnant
6 woman within thirty (30) days after the first professional visit and again obtain a blood specimen
7 during the third trimester. ~~That blood specimen~~ These blood specimens shall be submitted to the
8 laboratory of the state department of health, or to a laboratory approved by the department, for the
9 performance of a Wassermann or other standard laboratory blood test for syphilis. Any violation
10 of the provisions of this section shall constitute a misdemeanor and that physician, midwife,
11 physician assistant or nurse practitioner shall be fined not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) nor more
12 than one hundred dollars (\$100) for each offense.

13 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 HEALTH AND SAFETY -- SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

- 1 This act would provide a duty upon midwives, physician assistants and nurse practitioners
2 to obtain a blood specimen of pregnant women within thirty (30) days after the first professional
3 visit and during the third trimester.
4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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