

2026 -- S 2626

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S T A T E O F R H O D E I S L A N D

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- SANITATION IN FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Tikoian, Ciccone, DiPalma, Burke, and LaMountain

Date Introduced: February 13, 2026

Referred To: Senate Labor & Gaming

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 21-27-10 of the General Laws in Chapter 21-27 entitled "Sanitation
2 in Food Establishments" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **21-27-10. Registration of food businesses.**

4 (a) No person shall operate a food business as defined in § 21-27-1 unless he or she
5 annually registers the business with the state director of health; provided, that food businesses
6 conducted by nonprofit organizations, hospitals, public institutions, farmers markets, roadside farm
7 stands, or any municipality shall be exempt from payment of any required fee. Additionally, no
8 license fee shall be required for an establishment that:

9 (1) Holds a Class C liquor license pursuant to § 3-7-8; and
10 (2) Complies with the license limits set forth in § 3-7-8(b).

11 (b) In order to set the registration renewal dates so that all activities for each establishment
12 can be combined on one registration instead of on several registrations, the registration renewal
13 date shall be set by the department of health. The registration period shall be for twelve (12) months
14 commencing on the registration renewal date. Any renewal registration fee shall be at the full,
15 annual rate regardless of the date of renewal. Any fee for a first-time application shall have the
16 registration fee pro-rated based upon the date of issuance of registration. If the registration renewal
17 date is changed, the department may make an adjustment to the fees of registered establishments,
18 not to exceed the annual registration fee, in order to implement the changes in registration renewal
19 date. Registrations issued under this chapter may be suspended or revoked for cause. Any

1 registration or license shall be posted in a place accessible and prominently visible to an agent of
2 the director.

3 (c) Registration with the director of health shall be based upon satisfactory compliance
4 with all laws and regulations of the director applicable to the food business for which registration
5 is required.

6 (d) The director of health is authorized to adopt regulations necessary for the
7 implementation of this chapter.

8 (e) Classification for registration shall be as follows:

9 (1) In-state and out-of-state food processors that sell food in Rhode Island (Wholesale)

10 (2) Food processors (Retail)

11 (3) Food service establishments:

12 (i) 50 seats or less

13 (ii) More than 50 seats

14 (iii) Mobile food service units

15 (iv) Industrial caterer or food vending machine commissary

16 (v) Cultural heritage educational facility

17 (4) Vending machine sites or location:

18 (i) Three (3) or less machines

19 (ii) Four (4) to ten (10) machines

20 (iii) Eleven (11) or more machines

21 (5) Retail markets:

22 (i) 1 to 2 cash registers

23 (ii) 3 to 5 cash registers

24 (iii) 6 or more cash registers

25 (6) Retail food peddler (meat, seafood, dairy, and frozen dessert products)

26 (7) Food warehouses

27 (f) In no instance, where an individual food business has more than one activity eligible
28 under this chapter for state registration within a single location, shall the business be required to
29 pay more than a single fee for the one highest classified activity listed in subsection (e) of this
30 section; provided, that, where several separate but identically classified activities are located within
31 the same building and under the management and jurisdiction of one person, one fee shall be
32 required. In each of the instances in this subsection, each activity shall be separately registered.

33 (g) Fees for registration of the above classifications shall be as set forth in § 23-1-54.

34 (h) The department shall also annually charge food service establishments, an additional

1 fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per year, which shall be transferred to the department of labor and
2 training and shall be deposited into the hospitality training restricted receipt account, which shall
3 be exempt from the indirect cost recovery provisions of § 35-4-27. Subject to appropriation by the
4 general assembly, these funds shall be used to provide hospitality industry workforce training
5 grants including, but not limited to, certified food and alcohol safety training programs offered in
6 multiple languages.

7 SECTION 2. Section 35-4-27 of the General Laws in Chapter 35-4 entitled "State Funds"
8 is hereby amended to read as follows:

9 **35-4-27. Indirect cost recoveries on restricted receipt accounts.**

10 Indirect cost recoveries of fifteen percent (15%) of cash receipts shall be transferred from
11 all restricted receipt accounts, to be recorded as general revenues in the general fund. However,
12 there shall be no transfer from cash receipts with restrictions received exclusively: (1) From
13 contributions from nonprofit charitable organizations; (2) From the assessment of indirect cost-
14 recovery rates on federal grant funds; or (3) Through transfers from state agencies to the department
15 of administration for the payment of debt service. These indirect cost recoveries shall be applied to
16 all accounts, unless prohibited by federal law or regulation, court order, or court settlement. The
17 following restricted receipt accounts shall not be subject to the provisions of this section:

18 Executive Office of Health and Human Services

19 HIV Care Grant Drug Rebates

20 Health System Transformation Project

21 Rhode Island Statewide Opioid Abatement Account

22 HCBS Support-ARPA

23 HCBS Admin Support-ARPA

24 Department of Human Services

25 Organ Transplant Fund

26 Veterans' home — Restricted account

27 Veterans' home — Resident benefits

28 Pharmaceutical Rebates Account

29 Demand Side Management Grants

30 Veteran's Cemetery Memorial Fund

31 Donations — New Veterans' Home Construction

32 Commodity Supplemental Food Program-Claims

33 Department of Health

34 Pandemic medications and equipment account

- 1 Miscellaneous Donations/Grants from Non-Profits
- 2 State Loan Repayment Match
- 3 Healthcare Information Technology
- 4 Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals
- 5 Eleanor Slater non-Medicaid third-party payor account
- 6 Hospital Medicare Part D Receipts
- 7 RICLAS Group Home Operations
- 8 Group Home Facility Improvement Fund
- 9 Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- 10 Emergency and public communication access account
- 11 Department of Environmental Management
- 12 National heritage revolving fund
- 13 Environmental response fund II
- 14 Underground storage tanks registration fees
- 15 De Coppet Estate Fund
- 16 Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission
- 17 Historic preservation revolving loan fund
- 18 Historic Preservation loan fund — Interest revenue
- 19 Department of Public Safety
- 20 E-911 Uniform Emergency Telephone System
- 21 Forfeited property — Retained
- 22 Forfeitures — Federal
- 23 Forfeited property — Gambling
- 24 Donation — Polygraph and Law Enforcement Training
- 25 Rhode Island State Firefighter's League Training Account
- 26 Fire Academy Training Fees Account
- 27 Attorney General
- 28 Forfeiture of property
- 29 Federal forfeitures
- 30 Attorney General multi-state account
- 31 Forfeited property — Gambling
- 32 Department of Administration
- 33 Health Insurance Market Integrity Fund
- 34 RI Health Benefits Exchange

- 1 Information Technology restricted receipt account
- 2 Restore and replacement — Insurance coverage
- 3 Convention Center Authority rental payments
- 4 Investment Receipts — TANS
- 5 OPEB System Restricted Receipt Account
- 6 Grants Management Administration
- 7 Office of Energy Resources
- 8 OER Reconciliation Funding
- 9 RGGI Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council Projects
- 10 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Operating and Maintenance Account
- 11 Clean Transportation Programs
- 12 Department of Housing
- 13 Housing Resources and Homelessness Restricted Receipt Account
- 14 Housing Production Fund
- 15 Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Fund
- 16 Department of Revenue
- 17 Car Rental Tax/Surcharge-Warwick Share
- 18 DMV Modernization Project
- 19 Jobs Tax Credit Redemption Fund
- 20 Legislature
- 21 Audit of federal assisted programs
- 22 Department of Children, Youth and Families
- 23 Children's Trust Accounts — SSI
- 24 Military Staff
- 25 RI Military Family Relief Fund
- 26 RI National Guard Counterdrug Program
- 27 Treasury
- 28 Admin. Expenses — State Retirement System
- 29 Retirement — Treasury Investment Options
- 30 Defined Contribution — Administration - RR
- 31 Violent Crimes Compensation — Refunds
- 32 Treasury Research Fellowship
- 33 Business Regulation
- 34 Banking Division Reimbursement Account

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- SANITATION IN FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

- 1 This act would establish a restricted receipt account at the department of labor and training
- 2 (“DLT”) to be used for hospitality industry workforce training grants, including certified food and
- 3 alcohol safety training programs to be offered in multiple languages, funded by an annual fee of
- 4 fifty (\$50.00) dollars to be charged by the department of health (“DOH”) to food service
- 5 establishments.
- 6 This act would take effect on January 1, 2027

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