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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND  
HOSPITALS -- GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Introduced By: Representative Joseph M. McNamara

Date Introduced: January 22, 2021

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 40.1-29-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 40.1-29 entitled  
2 "Governor's Council on Behavioral Health" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **40.1-29-3. Members.**

4 (a) The council shall consist of ~~thirty-one (31)~~ thirty-two (32) voting members.

5 (1) There shall be four (4) members of the legislature, two (2) shall be from the senate and  
6 shall be appointed by the senate president to serve for their legislative term, one from each of the  
7 major political parties, and two (2) shall be from the house of representatives and shall be appointed  
8 by the speaker to serve for their legislative term, one from each of the two (2) major political parties.

9 (2) The non-legislative members shall be the executive director of the Substance Use and  
10 Mental Health Leadership Council of RI, the mental health advocate, the child advocate, ~~and~~ a  
11 representative of the AFL-CIO to be appointed by the governor and the president of the Hospital  
12 Association of Rhode Island or a designee thereof.

13 (3) The remaining twenty-three (23) public members shall be appointed by and serve at the  
14 pleasure of the governor and shall represent such community interests as substance use disorder  
15 treatment and prevention professionals, youth with behavioral health challenges or their  
16 representatives, consumers of substance use disorder programs and their families, mental health  
17 treatment professionals, adult and elderly consumers of mental health services and their families,  
18 families of children who are consumers of mental health and substance use disorder services, the

1 judiciary, criminal justice officials, and local government officials.

2 (4) Not less than fifty (50%) percent of the public members shall be individuals who are  
3 not state employees or providers of behavioral health services.

4 (5) There shall be sufficient representation by the families of children who are consumers  
5 of mental health and substance use disorder services in order to ensure adequate representation of  
6 such children.

7 (6) Every effort shall be made to ensure that appointed members represent the cultural  
8 diversity of the state.

9 (7) All members shall have demonstrable expertise in, or experience with, substance use  
10 disorders or mental health services in Rhode Island. In addition, the directors or their designees of  
11 the departments of children, youth and families; corrections; education; health; human services;  
12 behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals; the office of healthy aging; the  
13 attorney general or designee, and the executive director of the Rhode Island justice commission  
14 shall serve as ex officio and without a vote as members of the council.

15 (b) Any vacancy that may occur in the council shall be filled in the same manner as the  
16 original appointments.

17 (c) The governor shall designate one member as the chairperson of the council.

18 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 BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND  
HOSPITALS -- GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

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1           This act would increase the membership of the governor's council on behavioral health  
2 from thirty-one (31) to thirty-two (32) members by adding the president of the Hospital Association  
3 of Rhode Island or a designee.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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