

2025 -- S 0170

LC001056

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Introduced By: Senators Appollonio, Patalano, Lawson, Murray, Tikoian, Burke, and Ruggiero

Date Introduced: February 05, 2025

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-1-17 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-1 entitled "Department  
2 of Health" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-1-17. Additional general powers.**

4 (a) In addition to the other powers given to the director of health or the department of health  
5 by other provisions of the general laws, and in order to permit the director to properly perform the  
6 duties given to him or her by the general assembly, and to enforce the rules and regulations the  
7 director is authorized to promulgate and adopt, the director is further authorized to promulgate and  
8 adopt rules and regulations for the establishment of information collection, minimum sanitary  
9 requirements, and other duties given to the director by § 23-1-1 or by any other provision of law,  
10 and to enforce those rules and regulations. The director is further authorized to issue licenses or  
11 permits, and to revoke, suspend, or annul them, to aid in the enforcement of those rules and  
12 regulations.

13 (b) In the event of a public health emergency, the director is authorized to grant a temporary  
14 Rhode Island healthcare provider license for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days and limited to  
15 those healthcare providers who hold an active valid license in another state. The director is  
16 authorized to promulgate and adopt rules and regulations to establish a process for this temporary  
17 emergency license.

18 (c) In the event an application for professional licensure is delayed as a result of a medical  
19 or dental board of licensure's inability to establish a quorum, the director shall have the authority

1 to review and issue licenses for any pending applications pursuant to all applicable rules and  
2 regulations.

3 (1) Review of applications by the director shall apply to those medical or dental boards that  
4 have business pending but have been unable to establish a quorum for more than thirty (30) business  
5 days.

6 (2) The authority granted by this subsection shall not extend to any pending disciplinary  
7 actions.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This act would grant the director of the department of health the authority to approve or  
2 deny any applications for professional licensure pending before a medical or dental board of  
3 licensure that has been unable to establish a quorum for thirty (30) business days.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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