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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - RHODE ISLAND PREVENTION,  
HEALTH PROMOTION, AND PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL

Introduced By: Representatives Naughton, E Coderre, McNamara, Morrison, and Ferri

Date Introduced: March 27, 2012

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 42 of the General Laws entitled "STATE AFFAIRS AND  
2 GOVERNMENT" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 18.2

4 RHODE ISLAND PREVENTION, HEALTH PROMOTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH

5 COUNCIL

6 **42-18.2-1. Establishment of Council.** – There is hereby established a Rhode Island  
7 prevention, health promotion, and public health council (hereafter referred to as “the council”).  
8 The department of health shall grant to the council reasonable access to appropriate staff.

9 **42-18.2-2. Composition of the Council.** – (a) The council shall have twenty-one (21)  
10 members as follows: (1) The director of the department of health, who shall serve as chairperson  
11 of the board; (2) The director of the department of labor and training; (3) The secretary of health  
12 and human services; (4) The director of the department of environmental management; (5) The  
13 commissioner of elementary and secondary education; (6) The director of the department of  
14 administration; (7) The director of the division of agriculture; (8) The director of the economic  
15 development corporation; (9) The director of the department of transportation; (10) The president  
16 of the University of Rhode Island; (11) The associate dean of the public health program of Brown  
17 University; (12) The dean of the college of pharmacy; (13) The president of the Rhode Island  
18 medical society; (14) The president of the Rhode Island dental society; (15) The president of the

1 Rhode Island nursing association; (16) The president of the hospital association of Rhode Island;  
2 (17) The president of the Rhode Island health centers association; (18) The president of the  
3 Rhode Island public health association; (19) The president of the Rhode Island public health  
4 institute; (20) The president of the league of cities and towns; (21) The head of any other state  
5 established agency that the chairperson determines is appropriate.

6 (b) Ten (10) members shall constitute a quorum. A majority vote of the council shall be  
7 required for all recommendations, advice, and approvals of the council in accordance with this  
8 chapter.

9 (c) Members from state government shall serve in an ex officio capacity as long as they  
10 are eligible.

11 (d) The council may establish subcommittees and advisory bodies as deemed necessary  
12 by the members.

13 **42-18.2-3. Meetings of the council.** – The council shall meet at the call of the chair, no  
14 less than quarterly.

15 **42-18.2-4. Purpose and Duties.** – The council shall:

16 (1) Provide coordination and leadership at the state level, and among all state departments  
17 and agencies, with respect to prevention, wellness and health promotion practices, the public  
18 health system, and integrative health care in Rhode Island;

19 (2) Develop a statewide prevention, health promotion, public health, and integrative  
20 health care strategy that incorporates the most effective and achievable means of improving the  
21 health status of Rhode Islanders and reducing the incidence of preventable illness and disability  
22 across the state;

23 (3) Provide recommendations to the governor and the general assembly concerning the  
24 most pressing health issues confronting the state and changes in state policy to achieve wellness,  
25 health promotion, and public health goals, including the reduction of tobacco use, sedentary  
26 behavior, and poor nutrition;

27 (4) Consider and propose evidence-based models, policies, and innovative approaches for  
28 the promotion of transformative models of prevention, integrative health, and public health on  
29 individual and community levels across the state;

30 (5) Submit annual reports required under section 6 of this chapter;

31 (6) Carry out other activities determined appropriate by the governor or as requested by  
32 the general assembly; and

33 (7) Make available to the public all information about activities of the council.

34 **42-18.2-5. Rhode Island Preventative Strategy.** – Not later than one year after the date

1 of enactment of this chapter, the chairperson, in consultation with the council, shall develop and  
2 make public a Rhode Island prevention, health promotion and public health strategy, and shall  
3 review and revise such strategy periodically. Such strategy shall:

4 (1) Set specific goals and objectives for improving the health of Rhode Island through  
5 prevention, health promotion, and public health programs, consistent with ongoing goal setting  
6 efforts conducted by specific agencies;

7 (2) Establish specific and measurable actions and timelines to carry out the strategy, and  
8 determine accountability for meeting those timelines, within and across state departments and  
9 agencies; and

10 (3) Make recommendations to improve staff efforts relating to prevention, health  
11 promotion, public health, and integrative health care practices to ensure state efforts are  
12 consistent with available standards and evidence.

13 **42-18.2-6. Annual Report.** – (a) Not later than January 1, 2014, and annually thereafter,  
14 the council shall submit to the governor and the general assembly, a report that:

15 (1) Describes the activities and efforts on prevention, health promotion, and public health  
16 and activities to develop and/or revise the state prevention strategy conducted by the council  
17 during the period for which the report is prepared;

18 (2) Describes the progress in meeting specific prevention, health promotion, and public  
19 health goals defined in the strategy and further describes corrective actions recommended by the  
20 council and taken by relevant agencies and organizations to meet these goals;

21 (3) Contains a list of state priorities on health promotion and disease prevention to  
22 address lifestyle behavior modification (smoking cessation, proper nutrition, appropriate exercise,  
23 mental health, behavioral health, substance use disorder, and domestic violence screenings) and  
24 the prevention measures for the five (5) leading disease killers in Rhode Island; and

25 (4) Contains specific science-based initiatives to achieve the measurable goals of the  
26 prevention strategy regarding nutrition, exercise, and smoking cessation, and targeting the five (5)  
27 leading disease killers in Rhode Island.

28 (b) The director of health shall address a joint session of the general assembly during the  
29 month of January or February of each year, at the invitation of the speaker of the house, to present  
30 the key findings and recommendations of the annual report.

31 **42-18.2-7. Applicability of other laws.** – The council, as well as any subcommittees or  
32 advisory bodies it may establish, shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 38-2, access to  
33 public records act, and chapter 42-46, open meetings act.

34 **42-18.2-8. Severability.** – If any provision of this chapter or the application of this

1 chapter to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other  
2 provisions or applications of the chapter, which can be given effect without the invalid provision  
3 or application, and to this end the provisions of this chapter are declared to be severable.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - RHODE ISLAND PREVENTION,  
HEALTH PROMOTION, AND PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL

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1           This act would establish a Rhode Island Prevention, Health Promotion, and Public Health  
2 Council. This council would provide coordination and leadership among all state departments  
3 with respect to prevention, wellness and health promotion practices.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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