

2012 -- S 2522

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LC01831
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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 CRIMINAL OFFENSES - CHILDREN

Introduced By: Senators Pichardo, Metts, Felag, and Jabour

Date Introduced: February 16, 2012

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 11-9-13.7 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-9 entitled "Children"
2 are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **11-9-13.7. Signs concerning sales to individuals under age eighteen (18).** -- Signs
4 provided by the department of ~~mental health, retardation and hospitals,~~ behavioral healthcare,
5 developmental disabilities and hospitals, or an exact duplicate of it made privately, shall: (1)
6 Contain in red bold lettering a minimum of three-eighths (3/8") inch high on a white background
7 the following wording: in both English and Spanish:

8 THE SALE OF CIGARETTES AND OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO PERSONS
9 UNDER THE AGE OF 18 IS AGAINST RHODE ISLAND LAW (Section 11-9-13.8(1), Rhode
10 Island Statutes) PHOTO ID FOR PROOF OF AGE IS REQUIRED FOR PURCHASE.

11 ~~(2)~~ Contain the phone number at the department of ~~mental health, retardation and~~
12 ~~hospitals,~~ behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals, where violations of
13 sections 11-9-13.2 -- 11-9-13.19 can be reported, in addition to any other information required by
14 the department of ~~mental health, retardation and hospitals~~ behavioral healthcare, developmental
15 disabilities and hospitals.

16 ~~(3)~~ ~~Be~~ The sign shall be displayed prominently for public view wherever tobacco
17 products are sold at each cash register, each tobacco vending machine, or any other place from
18 which tobacco products are sold. The sign shall be electronically available in both English and
19 Spanish online at the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and

1 [hospitals.](#)

2 SECTION 2. Chapter 11-9 of the General Laws entitled "Children" is hereby amended by
3 adding thereto the following section:

4 **11-9-13.8.1. Signs concerning the health effects of tobacco. – (a) Cigarette smoking**
5 causes many harmful effects. In Rhode Island, seventeen and three-tenths percent (17.3%) of
6 adults, and twenty and three tenths percent (20.3%) of women of child bearing age, eighteen (18)
7 to forty-four (44) years of age, are smokers. Smoking in women of child bearing age increases the
8 risk of preterm delivery. Premature and low birth weight babies face an increased risk of serious
9 health complications during the newborn period, chronic lifelong disabilities and health problems,
10 and death. Smoking causes approximately eighty-seven percent (87%) of all lung cancer deaths,
11 as well as causes cancer of the larynx, mouth, pharynx, esophagus and bladder. Smoking also
12 increases the risk of heart disease, which is the number one cause of death in the United States. In
13 all, tobacco use causes nearly one in five (5) deaths, killing four hundred forty-three thousand
14 (443,000) people in the United States each year, yet smoking is the single most preventable cause
15 of death in the United States.

16 (b) Signs provided by the department of behavioral health care, developmental
17 disabilities and hospitals, or an exact duplicate of it made privately, shall: (1) Contain in red bold
18 lettering a minimum of one-quarters of an inch (1/4") high on a white background the following
19 wording, in both English and Spanish: WARNING: SMOKING CIGARETTES CONTRIBUTES
20 TO LUNG DISEASE, CANCER, HEART DISEASE, STROKE AND RESPIRATORY
21 ILLNESS AND DURING PREGNANCY MAY RESULT IN LOW BIRTH WEIGHT AND
22 PREMATURE BIRTH.

23 (c) The signs shall also include information regarding resources available to Rhode Island
24 residents who would like to quit smoking.

25 (d) The sign shall be displayed prominently for public view wherever tobacco products
26 are sold at each cash register, each tobacco vending machine, or any other place from which
27 tobacco products are sold. The sign shall be electronically available in both English and Spanish
28 online at the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals
29 website.

30 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would require the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental
2 disabilities and hospitals to issue new smoking warning signs which would include language that
3 smoking can contribute to lung and heart disease, respiratory illness, and that smoking during
4 pregnancy can result in premature births and low birth weights. The new signs would also
5 encourage smokers who want to quit to call a phone number on the sign or visit a website for a
6 quit smoking organization.

7 This act would take effect on July 1, 2012.

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