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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PLACES OF ASSEMBLY

Introduced By: Senators Satchell, Kettle, Conley, Metts, and Pichardo

Date Introduced: February 13, 2013

Referred To: Senate Housing & Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 23-28.6 of the General Laws entitled "Places of Assembly" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:
3 **23-28.6-25. Warming centers.** -- Each city or town, subject to the provisions of section
4 23-28.6-5 along with the prior written approval of the state fire marshal or local fire chief, shall
5 be allowed to offer temporary emergency shelter from extreme cold weather. These locations
6 shall be current places of assembly and shall be referred to as "warming centers." This section
7 shall take effect upon the air temperature reaching or falling below twenty degrees Fahrenheit
8 (20° F), or the actual temperature combined with the prevailing winds, commonly referred to as
9 the "wind chill factor" reaching twenty degrees Fahrenheit (20° F) or less. Pursuant to this
10 section, these warming centers shall be exempt on a temporary basis, from existing fire and safety
11 regulations.

12 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 HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PLACES OF ASSEMBLY

1 This act would authorize cities and towns to utilize existing places of assembly as
2 warming centers in extreme cold weather. This act would further allow, upon the prior written
3 approval of the state fire marshal or local fire chief, existing places of assembly an exemption, on
4 a temporary basis, from current fire and safety regulations.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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