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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

AN ACT

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - NATIONAL CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK SYSTEM

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, Felag, and Walaska

Date Introduced: February 28, 2013

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

(Attorney General)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Title 12 of the General Laws entitled "CRIMINAL PROCEDURE" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 <u>CHAPTER 1.6</u>

NATIONAL CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK SYSTEM

12-1.6-1. Automated fingerprint identification system database. -- The department of attorney general may establish and maintain an automated fingerprint identification system database that would allow the department to store and maintain all fingerprints submitted in accordance with the national criminal records check system. The automated fingerprint identification system database would provide for an automatic notification if, and when, a subsequent criminal arrest fingerprint card is submitted to the system and matches a set of fingerprints previously submitted in accordance with a national criminal records check. If the aforementioned arrest results in a conviction, the department shall immediately notify those individuals and entities with which that individual is associated and who are required to be notified of disqualifying information concerning national criminal records checks as provided in the general laws. The information in the database established under this section is confidential and not subject to disclosure under the access to public records act, chapter 2 of title 38 of the general laws.

12-1.6-2. Long-term health care workers. -- The department of the attorney general

1	shall maintain an electronic web-based system to assist facilities, licensed under chapters 23-17,
2	23-17.4, 23-17.7.1 or section 23-1-52, required to check relevant registries and conduct national
3	criminal records checks of routine contact patient employees. The department of the attorney
4	general shall provide for an automated notice, as authorized in section 12-1.6-1, to those facilities
5	if a routine contact patient employee is subsequently convicted of a disqualifying offense, as
6	described in the relevant licensing statute. The department of the attorney general may charge a
7	facility a one-time set up fee of up to one hundred dollars (\$100) for access to the electronic web-
8	based system under this section.
9	12-1.6-3. Immunity from liability The department of attorney general, the
10	department of health, or an employer who disqualifies an applicant from employment or
11	continued employment on the basis of a disqualification notice as described in section 12-1.6-2 or
12	of a national criminal records check relating to disqualifying information shall not be liable for
13	civil damages or subject to any claim, demand, cause of action, or proceeding of any nature as a
14	result of the disqualification.
15	12-1.6-4. Rules and regulations. – The department of attorney general may promulgate
16	rules and regulations to carry out the intent of this chapter.
17	SECTION 2. Section 23-1-52 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-1 entitled "Department
18	of Health" is hereby amended to read as follows:
19	23-1-52. Adult day care program licensure (a) The director is authorized and
20	directed to establish a program for the licensure of adult day care programs. "Adult day care
21	program" shall mean a comprehensive, nonresidential program designed to address the biological,
22	psychological, and social needs of adults through individual plans of care that incorporate, as
23	needed, a variety of health, social and related support services in a protective setting. The director
24	is further authorized to promulgate regulations as he or she deems necessary to implement these
25	provisions.
26	(b) Any person seeking employment in any adult day care facility licensed herein and
27	having routine contact with an adult day care client or having access to such a client's belongings
28	or funds shall undergo a national criminal records check, which shall include fingerprints
29	submitted to the federal bureau of investigation (FBI) by the bureau of criminal identification of
30	the department of the attorney general or a designated vendor approved by the department of the
31	attorney general. The national criminal records check shall be processed prior to or within one
32	week of employment. All persons who, as of July 1, 2013, are already employed by an adult day
33	care facility and all persons who, as of such date, already provide services under this section shall
34	be exempted from the requirements of this section for nurposes of their current employment only

1	All persons required to undergo a national criminal records check under this section shall not be
2	required to comply with the provisions of this section if they provide their potential employer
3	with evidence that they have undergone a national criminal records check in the preceding three
4	(3) years, but not before July 1, 2013, and they may request from the bureau of criminal
5	identification a letter indicating if any disqualifying information was discovered.
6	(1) The director may by rule, identify those positions requiring national criminal records
7	checks. The employee, through the employer, shall apply to the bureau of criminal identification
8	of the department of the attorney general for a national criminal records check. Upon the
9	discovery of any disqualifying information as defined in subsection 23-1-52(c) and in accordance
10	with rules promulgated by the director, the bureau of criminal identification of the department of
11	the attorney general shall inform the applicant in writing of the nature of the disqualifying
12	information; and, without disclosing the nature of the disqualifying information, shall notify the
13	employer in writing that disqualifying information has been discovered.
14	(2) An employee against whom disqualifying information has been found may provide a
15	copy of the national criminal records check to the employer. The employer shall make a judgment
16	regarding the continued employment of the employee.
17	(3) In those situations in which no disqualifying information has been found, the bureau
18	of criminal identification of the department of the attorney general shall inform the applicant and
19	the employer in writing of this fact.
20	(4) The employer shall maintain on file, subject to inspection by the department of health,
21	evidence that statewide criminal records checks have been initiated on all employees seeking
22	employment between January 1, 2008 and June 30, 2013, and the results of the checks. The
23	employer shall maintain on file, subject to inspection by the department, evidence that national
24	criminal records checks have been initiated on all employees seeking employment on or after July
25	1, 2013, and the results of those checks. Failure to maintain that evidence may be grounds to
26	revoke the license or registration of the employer.
27	(5) The employee shall be responsible for the cost of conducting the national criminal
28	records check through the bureau of criminal identification of the department of the attorney
29	general or a vendor designated by the department of the attorney general.
30	(c) Information produced by a national criminal records check pertaining to conviction,
31	for the following crimes will result in a letter to the employee and employer disqualifying the
32	applicant from employment: murder, voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, first
33	degree sexual assault, second degree sexual assault, third degree sexual assault, assault on persons
34	sixty (60) years of age or older, assault with intent to commit specified felonies (murder, robbery,

rape, burglary, or the abominable and detestable crimes against nature), felony assault, patient abuse, neglect or mistreatment of patients, burglary, first degree arson, robbery, felony drug offenses, felony obtaining money under false pretenses, felony embezzlement, abuse, neglect and/or exploitation of adults with severe impairments, exploitation of elders, felony larceny, or felony banking law violations, or a crime under section 1128(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. section 1320a-7(a)). An employee against whom disqualifying information has been found may provide a copy of the national criminal records check to the employer who shall make a judgment regarding the continued employment of the employee. For purposes of this subsection, "conviction" means, in addition to judgments of conviction entered by a court subsequent to a finding of guilty or a plea of guilty, those instances where the defendant has entered a plea of nolo contendere and has received a sentence of probation and those instances where a defendant has entered into a deferred sentence agreement with the attorney general.

SECTION 3. Sections 23-17-34 and 23-17-37 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-17 entitled "Licensing of Health Care Facilities" are hereby amended to read as follows:

23-17-34. Criminal records review -- Nursing facilities -- Home nursing care providers and home care providers. -- (a) Any person seeking employment in a nursing facility, a home nursing care provider, hospice provider or a home care provider which is or is required to be licensed, registered or certified with the department of health if that employment involves routine contact with a patient or resident without the presence of other employees, shall undergo a <u>national</u> criminal background records check which shall include fingerprints submitted to the federal bureau of investigation (FBI) by the bureau of criminal identification of the department of the attorney general or a designated vendor approved by the department of the attorney general. The national criminal records check shall to be initiated prior to or within one week of employment. All employees hired prior to the enactment of this section shall be exempted from the requirements of this section. All persons who, as of July 1, 2013, are already employed by a covered facility or provider and all persons who, as of such date, already provide services under this chapter shall be exempted from the requirements of this section for purposes of their current employment only. All persons required to undergo a national criminal records check under this section shall not be required to comply with the provisions of this section if they provide their potential employer with evidence that they have undergone a national criminal records check in the preceding three (3) years, but not before July 1, 2013, and they may request from the bureau of criminal identification a letter indicating if any disqualifying information was discovered.

(b) The director of the department of health may by rule identify those positions requiring criminal background records checks. The identified employee, through the employer, shall apply

attorney general for a statewide national criminal records check. Fingerprinting shall not be required. Upon the discovery of any disqualifying information as defined in section 23-17-37 and in accordance with the rule promulgated by the director of health, the bureau of criminal identification of the state police or the local police department of the attorney general will inform the applicant, in writing, of the nature of the disqualifying information; and, without disclosing the nature of the disqualifying information, will notify the employer, in writing, that disqualifying information has been discovered.

- (c) An employee against whom disqualifying information has been found may <u>provide</u> request that a copy of the <u>national</u> criminal <u>records check</u> <u>background report be sent</u> to the employer who shall make a judgment regarding the continued employment of the employee.
- (d) In those situations in which no disqualifying information has been found, the bureau of criminal identification of the state police or the local police department of the attorney general shall inform the applicant and the employer, in writing, of this fact.
- (e) The employer shall maintain on file, subject to inspection by the department of health, evidence that <u>statewide</u> criminal records checks have been initiated on all employees seeking employment <u>after between</u> October 1, 1991 <u>and June 30, 2013</u>, and the results of the checks. <u>The employer shall maintain on file, subject to inspection by the department of health, evidence that national criminal records checks have been initiated on all employees seeking employment on or after July 1, 2013, and the results of those checks. Failure to maintain that evidence would be grounds to revoke the license or registration of the employer.</u>
- (f) It shall be the responsibility of the bureau of criminal identification of the state police or the local police department to conduct the criminal records check to the applicant for employment without charge to either the employee or the employer. The employee shall be responsible for the cost of conducting the national criminal records check through the bureau of criminal identification of the department of the attorney general or a vendor designated by the department of the attorney general.
- 23-17-37. Disqualifying information. -- (a) Information produced by a criminal records review pertaining to conviction, for the following crimes will result in a letter to the employee and employer disqualifying the applicant from employment: murder, voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, first degree sexual assault, second degree sexual assault, third degree sexual assault, assault on persons sixty (60) years of age or older, assault with intent to commit specified felonies (murder, robbery, rape, burglary, or the abominable and detestable crime against nature) felony assault, patient abuse, neglect or mistreatment of patients, burglary, first

1	degree arson, robbery, felony drug offenses, larceny, or felony banking law violations felony
2	obtaining money under false pretenses, felony embezzlement, abuse, neglect and/or exploitation
3	of adults with severe impairments, exploitation of elders, or a crime under section 1128(a) of the
4	social security act (42 U.S.C. section 1320a-7(a)). An employee against whom disqualifying
5	information has been found may request that a copy of the national criminal background report be
6	sent_records check to the employer who shall make a judgment regarding the continued
7	employment of the employee.
8	(b) For purposes of this section, "conviction" means, in addition to judgments of
9	conviction entered by a court subsequent to a finding of guilty or a plea of guilty, those instances
10	where the defendant has entered a plea of nolo contendere and has received a sentence of
11	probation and those instances where a defendant has entered into a deferred sentence agreement
12	with the attorney general.
13	SECTION 4. Chapter 23-17 of the General Laws entitled "Licensing of Health Care
14	Facilities" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:
15	23-17-60. Criminal records review - long-term care hospital (a) For the purposes of
16	this section, a "long-term care hospital" shall mean a facility as described in 42 U.S.C. section
17	1395ww(d)(1)(iv), which receives payment for inpatient services it provides to Medicare
18	beneficiaries pursuant to 42 U.S.C. section 1395ww(m).
19	(b) Any person seeking employment in any long-term care hospital having routine
20	contact with a long-term care hospital patient or having access to such a patient's belongings or
21	funds shall undergo a national criminal records check, which shall include fingerprints submitted
22	to the federal bureau of investigation (FBI) by the bureau of criminal identification of the
23	department of the attorney general or a designated vendor approved by the department of the
24	attorney general. The national criminal records check shall be processed prior to or within one
25	week of employment. All persons who, as of July 1, 2013, are already employed by a long-term
26	care hospital and all persons who, as of such date, already provide services under this section
27	shall be exempted from the requirements of this section for purposes of their current employment
28	only. All persons required to undergo a national criminal records check under this section shall
29	not be required to comply with the provisions of this section if they provide their potential
30	employer with evidence that they have undergone a national criminal records check in the
31	preceding three (3) years, but not before July 1, 2013, and they may request from the bureau of
32	criminal identification a letter indicating if any disqualifying information was discovered.
33	(1) The director may by rule identify those positions requiring national criminal records

checks. The employee, through the employer, shall apply to the bureau of criminal identification

1	of the department of the attorney general for a national criminal records check. Upon the
2	discovery of any disqualifying information as defined in subsection 23-17-60(c) and in
3	accordance with the rule promulgated by the director, the bureau of criminal identification of the
4	department of the attorney general shall inform the applicant in writing of the nature of the
5	disqualifying information; and, without disclosing the nature of the disqualifying information,
6	shall notify the employer in writing that disqualifying information has been discovered.
7	(2) An employee against whom disqualifying information has been found may provide a
8	copy of the national criminal records report to the employer. The employer shall make a judgment
9	regarding the continued employment of the employee.
10	(3) In those situations in which no disqualifying information has been found, the bureau
11	of criminal identification of the department of the attorney general shall inform the applicant and
12	the employer in writing of this fact.
13	(4) The employer shall maintain on file, subject to inspection by the department, evidence
14	that statewide criminal records checks have been initiated on all employees seeking employment
15	between October 1, 1991 and June 30, 2013, and the results of the checks. The employer shall
16	maintain on file, subject to inspection by the department, evidence that national criminal records
17	checks have been initiated on all employees seeking employment on or after July 1, 2013, and the
18	results of those checks. Failure to maintain that evidence would be grounds to revoke the license
19	or registration of the employer.
20	(5) The employee shall be responsible for the cost of conducting the national criminal
21	records check through the bureau of criminal identification of the department of the attorney
22	general or a vendor designated by the department of the attorney general.
23	(c) Information produced by a national criminal records check pertaining to conviction,
24	for the following crimes will result in a letter to the employee and employer disqualifying the
25	applicant from employment: murder, voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, first
26	degree sexual assault, second degree sexual assault, third degree sexual assault, assault on persons
27	sixty (60) years of age or older, assault with intent to commit specified felonies (murder, robbery,
28	rape, burglary, or the abominable and detestable crimes against nature), felony assault, patient
29	abuse, neglect or mistreatment of patients, burglary, first degree arson, robbery, felony drug
30	offenses, felony obtaining money under false pretenses, felony embezzlement, abuse, neglect
31	and/or exploitation of adults with severe impairments, exploitation of elders, felony larceny, or
32	felony banking law violations, or a crime under section 1128(a) of the Social Security Act (42
33	U.S.C. section 1320a-7(a)). An employee against whom disqualifying information has been found

may provide a copy of the national criminal records check to the employer who shall make a

1 judgment regarding the continued employment of the employee. For purposes of this subsection,

2 "conviction" means, in addition to judgments of conviction entered by a court subsequent to a

3 finding of guilty or a plea of guilty, those instances where the defendant has entered a plea of

4 <u>nolo contendere and has received a sentence of probation and those instances where a defendant</u>

5 <u>has entered into a deferred sentence agreement with the attorney general.</u>

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SECTION 5. Sections 23-17.4-27 and 23-17.4-30 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-17.4 entitled "Assisted Living Residence Licensing Act" are hereby amended to read as follows:

23-17.4-27. Criminal records review. -- (a) Any person seeking employment in any assisted living residence licensed under this act and having routine contact with a resident or having access to a resident's belongings or funds shall undergo a national criminal background records check to which shall include fingerprints submitted to the federal bureau of investigation (FBI) by the bureau of criminal identification of the department of the attorney general or a designated vendor approved by the department of the attorney general. The national criminal records check shall be processed prior to or within one week of employment. All employees hired prior to the enactment of this section shall be exempted from the requirements of this section. All persons who, as of July 1, 2013, are already employed by an assisted living residence and all persons who, as of such date, already provide services under this chapter, shall be exempted from the requirements of this section for purposes of their current employment only. All persons required to undergo a national criminal records check under this section shall not be required to comply with the provisions of this section if they provide their potential employer with evidence that they have undergone a national criminal records check in the preceding three (3) years, but not before July 1, 2013, and they may request from the bureau of criminal identification a letter indicating if any disqualifying information was discovered.

(b) The director of the department of health may by rule identify those positions requiring national criminal background records checks. The employee, through the employer, shall apply to the bureau of criminal identification of the state police or local police department of the attorney general for a statewide national criminal records check. Fingerprinting shall not be required. Upon the discovery of any disqualifying information as defined in section 23-17.4-30 and in accordance with the rule promulgated by the director of health, the bureau of criminal identification of the state police or the local police department of the attorney general will inform the applicant in writing of the nature of the disqualifying information; and, without disclosing the nature of the disqualifying information, will notify the employer in writing that disqualifying information has been discovered.

(c) An employee against whom disqualifying information has been found may request

that provide a copy of the <u>national</u> criminal <u>background report be sent records check</u> to the employer. The administrator shall make a judgment regarding the continued employment of the employee.

- 4 (d) In those situations in which no disqualifying information has been found, the bureau
 5 of criminal identification (BCI) of the state police or the local police department of the attorney
 6 general shall inform the applicant and the employer in writing of this fact.
 - (e) The employer shall maintain on file, subject to inspection by the department of health, evidence that statewide national criminal records checks have been initiated on all employees seeking employment between after October 1, 1991 and June 30, 2013, and the results of the checks. The employer shall maintain on file, subject to inspection by the department of health, evidence that national criminal records checks have been initiated on all employees seeking employment on or after July 1, 2013, and the results of those checks. Failure to maintain that evidence would be grounds to revoke the license or registration of the employer. (f) It shall be the responsibility of the bureau of criminal identification (BCI) of the state police or the local police department to conduct the criminal records check to the applicant for employment without charge to either the employee or employer. The employee shall be responsible for the cost of conducting the national criminal records check through the bureau of criminal identification of the department of the attorney general or a vendor designated by the department of the attorney general.
 - 23-17.4-30. Disqualifying information. -- (a) Information produced by a criminal records review pertaining to conviction, for the following crimes will result in a letter to the employee and employer disqualifying the applicant from employment: murder, voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, first degree sexual assault, second degree sexual assault, third degree sexual assault on persons sixty (60) years of age or older, assault with intent to commit specified felonies (murder, robbery, rape, burglary, or the abominable and detestable crime against nature) felony assault, patient abuse, neglect or mistreatment of patients, burglary, first degree arson, robbery, felony drug offenses, felony obtaining money under false pretenses, felony embezzlement, abuse, neglect and/or exploitation of adults with severe impairments, exploitation of elders, felony lareeny or felony banking law violations or a crime under section 1128(a) of the social security act (42 U.S.C. section 1320a-7(a)). An employee against whom disqualifying information has been found may request that a copy of the criminal background report be sent records check to the employer who shall make a judgment regarding the continued employment of the employee.
 - (b) For purposes of this section, "conviction" means, in addition to judgments of

conviction entered by a court subsequent to a finding of guilty or a plea of guilty, those instances where the defendant has entered a plea of nolo contendere and has received a sentence of probation and those instances where a defendant has entered into a deferred sentence agreement with the attorney general.

SECTION 6. Sections 23-17.7.1-17 and 23-17.7.1-20 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-17.7.1 entitled "Licensing of Nursing Service Agencies" are hereby amended to read as follows:

23-17.7.1-17. Criminal records review. -- (a) Any person seeking employment in a facility which is or is required to be licensed or registered with the department of health if that employment involves routine contact with a patient or resident without the presence of other employees, shall undergo a <u>national</u> criminal <u>background</u> <u>records</u> check, which shall <u>include</u> fingerprints submitted to the federal bureau of investigation (FBI) by the bureau of criminal identification of the department of the attorney general or a designated vendor approved by the department of the attorney general. The national criminal records check shall be initiated prior to, or within one week of, employment. All employees hired prior to the enactment of this section shall be exempted from the requirements of this section. All persons who, as of July 1, 2013, are already employed by a covered facility and all persons who, as of such date, already provide services under this chapter shall be exempt from the requirements of this section for purposes of their current employment only. All persons required to undergo a national criminal records check under this section shall not be required to comply with the provisions of this section if they provide their potential employer with evidence that they have undergone a national criminal records check in the preceding three (3) years, but not before July 1, 2013, and they may request from the bureau of criminal identification a letter indicating if any disqualifying information was discovered.

(b) The director of the department of health may, by rule, identify those positions requiring <u>national</u> criminal <u>background</u> <u>records</u> checks. The employee, through the employer, shall apply to the bureau of criminal identification of the <u>state police or local police</u> department <u>of</u> the attorney general for a <u>national statewide</u> criminal records check. <u>Fingerprinting shall not be</u> required. Upon the discovery of any disqualifying information as defined in section 23-17.7.1-20 and in accordance with the rule promulgated by the director of the department of health, the bureau of criminal identification of the <u>state police or the local police</u> department <u>of the attorney general</u> will inform the applicant, in writing, of the nature of the disqualifying information; and, without disclosing the nature of the disqualifying information, will notify the employer, in writing, that disqualifying information has been discovered.

(c) An employee against whom disqualifying information under section 23-17.7.1-20(b)

has been found may request that provide a copy of the <u>national</u> criminal background report be sent records check to the employer who shall make a judgment regarding the continued employment of the employee.

- (d) In those situations in which no disqualifying information has been found, the bureau of criminal identification of the state police or the local police department of the attorney general shall inform the applicant and the employer, in writing, of this fact.
 - (e) The employer shall maintain on file, subject to inspection by the department of health, evidence that criminal records checks have been initiated on all employees seeking employment between October 1, 1991 and June 30, 2013, and the results of the checks. The employer shall maintain on file, subject to inspection by the department of health, evidence that national criminal records checks have been initiated on all employees seeking employment on or after July 1, 2013, and the results of those checks. Failure to maintain that evidence would be grounds to revoke the license or registration of the employer.
 - (f) It shall be the responsibility of the bureau of criminal identification of the state police or the local police department to conduct the criminal records check to the applicant for employment without charge to either the employee or the employer. The employee shall be responsible for the cost of conducting the national criminal records check through the bureau of criminal identification of the department of the attorney general or a vendor designated by the department of the attorney general.
 - 23-17.7.1-20. Disqualifying information. -- (a) Information produced by a criminal records review pertaining to conviction, for the following crimes will result in a letter to the employee and employer disqualifying the applicant from the employment: murder, voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, first degree sexual assault, second degree sexual assault, third degree sexual assault on persons sixty (60) years of age or older, assault with intent to commit specified felonies (murder, robbery, rape, burglary, or the abominable and detestable crime against nature), felony assault, patient abuse, neglect or mistreatment of patients, first degree arson, robbery, felony drug offenses, larceny, or felony banking law violations felony obtaining money under false pretenses, felony embezzlement, abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation of adults with severe impairments, exploitation of elders, felony larceny, or felony banking law violations or a crime under section 1128(a) of the social security act (42 U.S.C. section 1320a-7(a)).
 - (b) Information produced by a <u>national</u> criminal records <u>review check</u> pertaining to convictions for crimes other than those listed in subsection (a) of this section shall entitle, but not obligate the employer to decline to hire the applicant. An employee against whom conviction

- 1 information related to this subsection has been found may request that provide a copy of the
- 2 <u>national</u> criminal background report be sent records check to the employer who shall make a
- 3 determination regarding the continued employment of the employee.
- 4 (c) For purposes of this section "conviction" means, in addition to judgments of
- 5 conviction entered by a court subsequent to a finding of guilty or a plea of guilty, those instances
- 6 where the defendant has entered a plea of nolo contendere and has received a sentence of
- 7 probation and those instances where a defendant has entered into a deferred sentence agreement
- 8 with the attorney general.
 - SECTION 7. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.

LC01289

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EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

AN ACT

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - NATIONAL CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK SYSTEM

This act would expand the type of criminal records check required for persons applying to be routine contact patient employees in a long-term facility or provider.

This act would take effect on July 1, 2013.

LC01289