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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - CHILDREN AND YOUTH
COLLABORATIVE

Introduced By: Senators Pichardo, Cool Rumsey, Goodwin, Lynch, and Jabour

Date Introduced: March 13, 2013

Referred To: Senate Education

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 155

4 CHILDREN AND YOUTH COLLABORATIVE

5 **42-155-1. Establishment.** – (a) There is established a children and youth collaborative.

6 The collaborative shall be comprised of the following membership:

7 (1) The director of the department of children, youth, and families, or his or her designee;

8 (2) The director of the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities
9 and hospitals, or his or her designee;

10 (3) The director of the department of health, or his or her designee;

11 (4) The commissioner of higher education, or his or her designee;

12 (5) The commissioner of elementary and secondary education, or his or her designee;

13 (6) The director of the department of human services, or his or her designee;

14 (7) The chief information officer of the division of information technology, or his or her
15 designee;

16 (8) The director of the department of labor and training, or his or her designee;

17 (9) The director of policy in the governor's office;

18 (10) The chief library officer of the office of library and information services, or his or

- 1 her designee;
- 2 (11) A representative of the Rhode Island state police who has expertise in youth/gang
3 violence, to be designated by the colonel of the state police;
- 4 (12) The chief judge of the Rhode Island family court, or his or her designee;
- 5 (13) Representatives from the Rhode Island department of elementary and secondary
6 education who specialize in early learning, career and technology programs, secondary education
7 and virtual learning to be appointed by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education.
8 One representative may specialize in more than one area, but there shall not be less than two (2)
9 representatives;
- 10 (14) A representative from the office of higher education that has expertise in the area of
11 academic and student affairs to be appointed by the commissioner of higher education;
- 12 (15) The executive director of Kids count, or his or her designee;
- 13 (16) A representative of each of the Boys and Girls clubs in Rhode Island designated by
14 the president of the local board;
- 15 (17) The chairperson of the YWCA Rhode Island, or his or her designee;
- 16 (18) A representatives of each of the YMCAs in Rhode Island, designated by chair of the
17 local board;
- 18 (19) The president of the College crusade of Rhode Island, or his or her designee;
- 19 (20) The executive director of Ocean state libraries, or his or her designee;
- 20 (21) The president and chief executive officer of the Rhode Island foundation, or his or
21 her designee;
- 22 (22) The president and chief executive officer of the United Way of Rhode Island, or his
23 or her designee;
- 24 (23) The executive director of the Rhode Island foster parents association, or his or her
25 designee;
- 26 (24) The chairperson of the Rhode Island parent information network, or his or her
27 designee;
- 28 (25) The president of the board of managers of the Rhode Island Parent and Teacher
29 Association, or his or her designee;
- 30 (26) A co-chair of the board of directors of Young voices, or his or her designee;
- 31 (27) The executive minister of the Rhode Island state council of churches, or his or her
32 designee;
- 33 (28) A representative of the children and youth cabinet of Providence designated by the
34 chairs of the children and youth cabinet of Providence;

1 (29) The president of the Rhode Island association of school committees, or his or her
2 designee;

3 (30) The president of the Rhode Island school superintendents' association, or his or her
4 designee;

5 (31) The president of the executive board of the Rhode Island school principals'
6 association, or his or her designee;

7 (32) The president of the Rhode Island police chiefs' association, or his or her designee;

8 (33) The president of the national education association Rhode Island, or his or her
9 designee;

10 (34) The president of the Rhode Island federation of teachers and health professionals, or
11 his or her designee;

12 (35) The president of the Rhode Island recreation and parks association, or his or her
13 designee; and

14 (36) A representative of the Rhode Island national guard who specializes in education to
15 be appointed by the Rhode Island adjutant general.

16 (b) The children and youth collaborative shall meet and organize initially at the call of
17 the chief judge of the family court and thereafter at the call of the chair. Upon organization, the
18 members of the collaborative shall elect from the majority of the members present a chairperson
19 and vice-chairperson and any other officers it chooses. Vacancies in the collaborative shall be
20 filled in like manner of the original appointment.

21 (c) The Rhode Island department of elementary and secondary education and/or the office
22 of higher education shall provide suitable quarters for meeting purposes.

23 (d) All departments and agencies of the state, shall furnish such advice and information,
24 documentary and otherwise, to said collaborative and its agents as is deemed necessary or
25 desirable by the collaborative to facilitate the purposes of this chapter.

26 **42-155-2. Purpose and objectives.** – (a) The purpose of the children and youth
27 collaborative, hereinafter CYCRI is to bring together stakeholders who have responsibilities in
28 policy areas concerning the children of Rhode Island from birth to college and career, from
29 preschools to family court, from parental engagement groups to youth advocates and from state
30 agencies to parks and recreation facilities.

31 (b) The objectives of the CYCRI shall include, but are not limited to, the following, to
32 identify and examine the issues that can affect the children and youth of Rhode Island, which may
33 include access to healthcare, access to mental health resources, reading at grade level initiatives,
34 math and science initiatives, improve school attendance rates at all grade levels; increase

1 graduation rates of our secondary education institutions, increase percentage of students going to
2 college or certificate bearing programs, access to extracurricular activities including sports, music
3 and the arts, programs to prevent bullying and youth violence, community engagement, parental
4 engagement, identifying standardized test supports and computer or other technology learning
5 opportunities for teachers, parents and students and others.

6 **42-155-3. Open meetings.** – All meetings of the children and youth collaborative and its
7 subcommittees, if any, shall comply with the open meetings laws pursuant chapter 46 of title 42.

8 **42-155-4. Reporting.** – The CYCRI shall report to the governor, the president of the
9 senate and the speaker of the house annually on December 31. The report shall include, but not
10 be limited to, the following:

11 (1) An updated organization chart, that identifies the adopted structure of the
12 collaborative, including subcommittees, chairs and leaders, if any;

13 (2) The areas/issues that the collaborative will focus on as well as the methods of
14 addressing said areas/issues and the definition of the goals;

15 (3) The status and achievements of the CYCRI, including the number of meetings held,
16 the successes of the group including the definition of the success if it is not apparent and the
17 rationale on why it should be defined as a success, if necessary;

18 (4) Identify the areas where public – private partnerships can assist in reaching the goals;

19 (5) Areas where legislation may be needed to accomplish goals; and

20 (6) Any other area that the CYCRI deems appropriate or other areas requested by the
21 governor, senate or house.

22 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 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - CHILDREN AND YOUTH
COLLABORATIVE

1 This act would establish a children and youth collaborative made up of specific
2 representatives associated with children in this state. They would be obligated to report annually
3 to the governor, president of the senate, and the speaker of the house with their goals, issues,
4 status, and achievements.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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