

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

—————
A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - HEALTH BENEFITS PREVIOUSLY
NEGOTIATED

Introduced By: Senator David E. Bates

Date Introduced: March 13, 2013

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 27 of the General Laws entitled "INSURANCE" is hereby amended
2 by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 77

4 RHODE ISLAND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE UNIFORM BENEFIT ACT

5 **27-77-1. Short title - Purpose.** – (a) This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the
6 “Rhode Island Municipal Employee Uniform Benefit Act.”

7 (b) The purpose of this chapter is to create uniform medical and prescription drug benefit
8 plan designs for Rhode Island municipal employees.

9 **27-77-2. Board of directors established.** – (a) There is established the board of directors
10 of the Rhode Island municipal employees’ health care benefits program (“board”).

11 (b) The board shall consist of five (5) members, as follows:

12 (1) One member shall be appointed by the president of Rhode Island council 94 of the
13 American federation of state, county and municipal employees;

14 (2) Two (2) members shall be appointed by the president of the Rhode Island league of
15 cities and towns.

16 (3) One member shall be appointed by the executive director of the Rhode Island
17 Interlocal trust.

18 (4) One member shall be appointed by the director of the state department of revenue.

1 (c) Each appointing authority may remove or replace any member appointed by that
2 appointing authority at any time.

3 (d) Members of the board shall serve without compensation.

4 (e) The board shall review the work and report of the Rhode Island uniform school
5 employees health care benefits program board and make such recommendations and
6 modifications as it sees fit based upon the characteristics of the municipal employment
7 population.

8 (f) The board shall report to the governor, general assembly, and the executive board of
9 the Rhode Island league of cities and towns by February 1, 2012 with recommendations on the
10 means, feasibility and benefits of developing a statewide health benefit purchasing arrangement
11 for municipal employees.

12 SECTION 2. Title 28 of the General Laws entitled "LABOR AND LABOR
13 RELATIONS" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

14 CHAPTER 9.8

15 HEALTH BENEFITS PREVIOUSLY NEGOTIATED

16 **28-9.8-1. Retiree health insurance.** – Retiree health benefits collectively stated pursuant
17 to chapters 28-9.1, 28-9.2, 28-9.3 and 28-9.4 of the general laws shall remain in full force and
18 effect, except that all future negotiated changes for active employees relating to cost sharing and
19 plan upon design of health insurance shall be applicable to all new and existing retirements.

20 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====
LC01931
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - HEALTH BENEFITS PREVIOUSLY
NEGOTIATED

1 This act would create a board to make recommendations for the means, feasibility and
2 benefits for developing a statewide municipal employees' health benefit purchasing arrangement.
3 It would require that the negotiated medical benefits for fire fighters, municipal police, teachers
4 and municipal employee retirees remain in full force and effect, except that all future negotiated
5 changes for active employees relating to cost sharing and plan design of health insurance shall be
6 applicable to all new and existing retirees.

7 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC01931
=====