

2014 -- H 8047

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

JOINT RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL
HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS TO PROMOTE
THE KINSHIP CARE POLICY OF THE SHARED LIVING ARRANGEMENTS PROGRAM
FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING SUBSIDY AID TO ELIGIBLE SIBLING
CAREGIVERS, IN ORDER TO AVOID ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT WHEN KINSHIP
CARE IS FOUND TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF INDIVIDUALS WITH
INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, McNamara, Ferri, Hull, and Abney

Date Introduced: April 10, 2014

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, For the first time in history, millions of people with intellectual and/or
2 developmental disabilities are aging in the community. This success brings with it new
3 challenges; and

4 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental
5 Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH), there are over 1,400 adults in Rhode Island with
6 intellectual/developmental disabilities living with elderly parents or other family members; and

7 WHEREAS, A portion of these individuals are currently eligible to move out of the
8 family home and into the home of a sibling when their parents are no longer able to provide the
9 care needed, thereby keeping the family intact and the individual living with people who know
10 them best; and

11 WHEREAS, This arrangement helps ease the loss of a parent and caregiver by
12 minimizing the fear and uncertainty that can accompany a disruptive move into the home of a
13 stranger; and

14 WHEREAS, This arrangement is known as Kinship Care, and is provided for under the
15 BHDDH Kinship Care Policy as revised on 09/10/12, "To allow individuals supported by
16 BHDDH the option of choosing a non-legally responsible qualified family member to assist in
17 providing care and supports in the community utilizing the Shared Living Arrangements program

1 (SLA)"; and

2 WHEREAS, Eligibility conditions require that the sibling being considered as the care
3 provider for the SLA program must be reviewed by BHDDH and found eligible in accordance
4 with the Eligibility Policy for Residential Services; and

5 WHEREAS, In addition, all SLA providers (including the sibling care-givers) must be
6 compliant with the SLA program requirements as noted in the Rule and Regulations for Licensing
7 Agencies Providing Services to Adults with Developmental Disabilities; and

8 WHEREAS, The Kinship Care Policy provides needed financial assistance or subsidy aid
9 to the program-qualified and compliant sibling caregiver for taking an eligible sibling into his or
10 her home and providing approved care; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence
12 Plantations hereby finds that the BHDDH SLA Kinship Care Policy regarding sibling care
13 promotes the general welfare of the citizens of the state and furthers the purpose of providing
14 cost-effective and most appropriate care for individuals with intellectual/developmental
15 disabilities; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly hereby respectfully encourages the
17 Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals to promote the
18 Kinship Care Policy of the Shared Living Arrangements Program for the purpose of providing
19 subsidy aid to eligible sibling caregivers, to avoid alternative placement when Kinship Care is
20 found to be in the best interests of individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities; and be
21 it further

22 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly hereby respectfully requests that the Secretary
23 of the Department of Health and Human Services provides the General Assembly with a fiscal
24 note within 120 days of the passage of this resolution; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
26 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Director of the Department of Behavioral
27 Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH), and the Secretary of the
28 Department of Health and Human Services.

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