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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

HUMAN SERVICES - YOUTH PREGNANCY AND AT-RISK PREVENTION SERVICES
PROGRAM

Introduced By: Representatives DeSimone, Palangio, Ajello, Lombardi, and Canario

Date Introduced: June 12, 2014

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 40 of the General Laws entitled "HUMAN SERVICES" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 5.3

4 YOUTH PREGNANCY AND AT-RISK PREVENTION SERVICES PROGRAM

5 **40-5.3-1. Short title.** -- This chapter is hereby entitled "Youth Pregnancy and At-Risk
6 Prevention Services Program".

7 **40-5.3-2. Youth pregnancy and at-risk prevention services program. – Findings. –**
8 **Legislative intent. - Goals.** -- The legislature hereby finds and declares the following:

9 (a) Young people, especially at-risk youth, are more vulnerable to teen pregnancy, child
10 abuse, gang and drug-related activity, juvenile crime, school failure, neglect and other illicit
11 activities during the potentially unsupervised summer months as well as the hours between the
12 end of school and the time their parents or guardians return home from work.

13 (b) Without community-based prevention and mentoring programs, the threats to the
14 well-being and safety of our youth continue.

15 (c) In order to minimize the risk to young people, it is the intent of the general assembly
16 to expand after school and summer community based prevention, mentoring and development
17 programs and to implement those programs in accordance with the federal Temporary Assistance
18 for Needy Families Program ("TANF" program) described in Title IV Part A of the federal Social

1 Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 601 et. seq.

2 (d) The goal of the program shall be to focus on the particular TANF goal of preventing
3 youth pregnancies as well as reducing other at-risk behavior described in this section.

4 **40-5.3-3. Youth pregnancy and at-risk prevention services program. –**

5 **Establishment.** – (a) There is hereby established an after-school and summer youth prevention
6 and development program to be administered by the department of human services. The
7 establishment of the program pursuant to this chapter shall be contingent upon the availability and
8 receipt of federal funding for the purpose set forth in §40-5.3-2. The department shall ensure that
9 the goals of this chapter are met and that the state meets the federal requirements. The director of
10 the department, to the extent that federal TANF funds are made available, shall allocate to the
11 program no less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) annually.

12 (b) In the event that there are changes in the federal TANF program, the department shall
13 seek support through the general assembly to make all necessary changes and shall take all
14 necessary steps to comply with the federal law.

15 (c) Except as otherwise provided for herein, the director is responsible for
16 implementation of this chapter.

17 **40-5.3-4. Youth pregnancy and at-risk prevention services program. – Eligibility**

18 **requirements.** – (a) The Rhode Island Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs is hereby authorized, on
19 behalf of its member organizations, to make an application to the department for funding under
20 this chapter.

21 (b) The following requirements and conditions shall be necessary to establish eligibility
22 for funding:

23 (1) The organization must demonstrate that its members are affiliated and in good
24 standing with a nationally chartered organization as described in Title 36, Subtitle II, Part B of the
25 Patriotic and National Organizations, 36 U.S.C. 311 et. seq.;

26 (2) The organization must provide tested and proven programs;

27 (3) The organization must demonstrate that its members provide programs that are
28 facility-based;

29 (4) The organization must demonstrate that its members' programs are offered for a
30 minimum of ten (10) hours weekly during the school year and twenty (20) hours weekly during
31 the summer;

32 (5) The organization must demonstrate that its members' programs exist in a minimum of
33 seven (7) towns and cities within the state;

34 (6) The organization must demonstrate that its members' programs are administered in

1 accordance with this chapter, is designed to meet or exceed the minimum federal TANF
2 guidelines;

3 (7) The organization must demonstrate that it is eligible to receive federal TANF funding;
4 and

5 (8) The organization must be able to raise four dollars (\$4) for every one dollar received
6 from the state through federal funding.

7 **40-5.3-5. Annual report to general assembly.** – No later than March 1st of each year,
8 the director shall submit a report to the general assembly showing how, within available
9 resources, the department expects to operate the programs authorized under this chapter in the
10 succeeding fiscal year. The director will provide an annual report of program impact on youth and
11 indicators of success.

12 **40-5.3-6. Report to federal government.** – The department shall make reports to the
13 federal government or any agency or department thereof, in the form and nature required by it,
14 and shall in all respects comply with any request or direction of the federal government or any
15 agency or department thereof which may be necessary to assure the correctness and verification
16 of the reports.

17 **40-5.3-7. Rules and regulations.** – The director of the department shall promulgate
18 rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter. Any reference to the
19 department's rule making process is pursuant to this section.

20 **40-5.3-8. Severability.** – If any provision of this chapter or the application thereof to any
21 person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or
22 applications of the chapter, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application,
23 and to this end the provisions of this chapter are declared to be severable.

24 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

HUMAN SERVICES - YOUTH PREGNANCY AND AT-RISK PREVENTION SERVICES
PROGRAM

1 This act would create a youth pregnancy and at-risk prevention services program to be
2 administered by the department of human services. The director of the department, shall obtain
3 funding through the federal TANF program and shall annually allocate \$250,000 from those
4 funds to the program.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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