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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS-REGULATION OF POWDERED CAFFEINE

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, McNamara, Solomon, Amore, and Naughton

Date Introduced: February 12, 2015

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 21 of the General Laws entitled "FOOD AND DRUGS" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 37

4 REGULATION OF POWDERED CAFFEINE

5 **21-37-1. Legislative findings and purpose.** -- (a) Caffeine is a known alkaloid found in
6 coffee, tea, kola nuts and is naturally present in more than sixty (60) plants. While generally used
7 as a stimulant, it doesn't actually provide energy but on the contrary, provides the illusion of
8 energy. While caffeine can be found naturally, powdered caffeine is manufactured in a laboratory
9 setting and if used in small doses, can be used safely to caffeinate medicines, food and soft
10 drinks. When used in high doses however, caffeine can raise the user's blood pressure, cause
11 heartburn, dehydration and can lead to seizures, erratic heartbeats and in some cases, death.

12 (b) Currently powdered caffeine is not regulated by the food and drug administration, and
13 it is the purpose of this chapter to promote the health and safety of the consumers, particularly
14 minors, by regulating the sale, possession and use of powdered caffeine within the state of Rhode
15 Island.

16 **21-37-2. Definition.** -- As used in this chapter, the term "powdered caffeine" means any
17 concentrated powdered form of the stimulant caffeine, or any powder substance sold or marketed
18 as pure or concentrated caffeine.

19 **21-37-3. Prohibited activities.** -- (a) It shall be illegal for any person, partnership,

1 corporation or other entity to sell, give, provide or otherwise supply powdered caffeine to any
2 person under the age of twenty-one (21) years.

3 (1) Any person, partnership, corporation or other entity located within or without the state
4 of Rhode Island that violates this section, shall be punished upon conviction: (i) For a first
5 offense, by a fine of up to five hundred dollars (\$500); (ii) For a second offense by a fine of up to
6 one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and/or imprisonment of up to one year; and (iii) For a third offense
7 by a fine of up to three thousand dollars (\$3,000) and/or imprisonment of up to three (3) years.

8 (b) Any person being under the age of twenty-one (21) years who possesses powdered
9 caffeine may be punished upon conviction by a fine of up to five hundred dollars (\$500) and may
10 be ordered to perform up to thirty (30) hours of community service, and upon a second violation
11 hereof may also be ordered to undergo a substance abuse assessment by a licensed substance
12 abuse professional.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would prohibit the sale of powdered caffeine to any person under the age of
2 twenty-one (21) years of age and would prohibit the possession of powdered caffeine by anyone
3 in that age group. Penalties would include fines and imprisonment for subsequent offenses and
4 fines and counseling for those found in possession.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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