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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO EXAMINE THE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator Joshua Miller

Date Introduced: March 03, 2015

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

1 WHEREAS, Too many Rhode Islanders confront substance use disorders. The struggles
2 of these Rhode Islanders involve their families and impact entire communities throughout the
3 state; and

4 WHEREAS, A cadre of behavioral health professionals who work in centers, public
5 facilities, and private offices offer screening and prevention services, as well as treatment for
6 substance use disorders. In addition to the range of emerging behavioral health practices that
7 these professionals have to master, they also confront demographic changes in their patient
8 populations and a transformed compensation system; and

9 WHEREAS, These changes challenge the state as a whole to take steps to ensure that our
10 licensed behavioral health professionals are as prepared as possible to provide services, respond
11 to patient needs, and engage in ongoing training; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
13 hereby respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human
14 Services (EOHHS) examine the licensing requirements of behavioral health professionals in
15 Rhode Island, with particular regard to the impact of anticipated changes in the demographics of
16 Medicaid enrollees, the need to expand the pool of providers of substance use disorder services in
17 Rhode Island, and the goal of strengthening and increasing professional and business training to
18 providers of recovery services in Rhode Island. In conducting this examination, the Secretary of
19 the Executive Office of Health and Human Services may collaborate with a range of stakeholders

1 and consider other states' actions to inform recommendations; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby respectfully requests that the Secretary of the
3 Executive Office of Health and Human Services shall submit a report of findings and
4 recommendations for proposed changes in behavioral health licensing requirements to the
5 President of the Senate and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services on
6 or before February 4, 2016; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
8 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health
9 and Human Services, the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health, and the Director of
10 the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals.

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