

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - PUBLIC HEALTH AND WORKPLACE SAFETY
ACT

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, Sosnowski, Miller, Coyne, and Seveney

Date Introduced: March 02, 2017

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-20.10-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-20.10 entitled
2 "Public Health and Workplace Safety Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-20.10-2. Definitions.**

4 The following words and phrases, whenever used in this chapter, shall be construed as
5 defined in this section:

6 (1) "Assisted living residence" means a residence that provides personal assistance and
7 meals to adults in accordance with chapter 17.4 of this title.

8 (2) "Bar" means an establishment that is devoted to the serving of alcoholic beverages for
9 consumption by guests on the premises and in which the serving of food is only incidental to the
10 consumption of those beverages, including, but not limited to, taverns, nightclubs, cocktail
11 lounges and cabarets.

12 (3) "Business" means a sole proprietorship, partnership, joint venture, corporation, or
13 other business entity formed for profit-making purposes, including retail establishments where
14 goods or services are sold as well as professional corporations and other entities where legal,
15 ~~media~~ [medical](#), dental, engineering, architectural or other professional services are delivered.

16 (4) "Employee" means a person who is employed by an employer in consideration for
17 direct or indirect monetary wages or profit and a person who volunteers his or her services for a
18 nonprofit entity.

1 (5) "Employer" means a person, business, partnership, association, corporation, including
2 a municipal corporation, trust or nonprofit entity that employs the services of one or more
3 individual persons.

4 (6) "Enclosed area" means all space between a floor and ceiling that is enclosed on all
5 sides by solid walls or windows (exclusive of doorways) that extend from the floor to the ceiling.

6 (7) "Health care facility" means an office or institution providing care or treatment of
7 diseases, whether physical, mental, emotional, or other medical, physiological or psychological
8 conditions, including, but not limited to, hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals or other clinics,
9 including weight control clinics, nursing homes, homes for the aging or chronically ill,
10 laboratories, and offices of surgeons, chiropractors, physical therapists, physicians, dentists, and
11 all specialists within these professions. This definition shall include all waiting rooms, hallways,
12 private rooms, semi-private rooms, and wards within health care facilities.

13 (8) "Place of employment" means an area under the control of a public or private
14 employer that employees normally frequent during the course of employment, including, but not
15 limited to, work areas, employees lounges, restrooms, conference rooms, meeting rooms,
16 classrooms, employee cafeterias, and hallways. Vehicles owned by a public or private employer
17 are covered under this definition provided that the vehicle is used by more than one person. A
18 private residence is not a "place of employment" unless it is used as a child care, adult day care,
19 or health care facility.

20 (9) "Public place" means an enclosed area to which the public is invited or in which the
21 public is permitted, including, but not limited to, banks, bars, educational facilities, health care
22 facilities, laundromats, public transportation facilities, reception areas, restaurants, retail food
23 production and marketing establishments, retail service establishments, retail stores, shopping
24 malls, sports arenas, the state house, theaters and waiting rooms. A private residence is not a
25 "public place" unless it is used as a child care, adult day care, or health care facility.

26 (10) "Restaurant" means an eating establishment, including, but not limited to, coffee
27 shops, cafeterias, and private and public school cafeterias, that gives or offers for sale food to the
28 public, guests, or employees, as well as kitchens and catering facilities in which food is prepared
29 on the premises for serving elsewhere. The term "restaurant" shall include a bar area within the
30 restaurant.

31 (11) "Retail tobacco store" means a retail store utilized primarily for the sale of tobacco
32 [or electronic cigarette](#) products and accessories in which the total annual revenues generated by
33 the sale of other products are no greater than twenty-five percent (25%) of the total revenue for
34 the establishment. The division of taxation shall be responsible for the determination under this

1 section and shall promulgate any rules or forms necessary for the implementation of this section.

2 (12) "Service line" means an indoor line in which one or more persons are waiting for or
3 receiving service of any kind, whether or not the service involves the exchange of money.

4 (13) "Shopping mall" means an enclosed public walkway or hall area that serves to
5 connect retail or professional establishments.

6 (14) "Smoking" or "smoke" means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or
7 heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, weed, plant, other tobacco product or plant product or other
8 combustible substance in any manner or in any form intended for inhalation in any manner or
9 form. "Smoking" or "smoke" also includes the use of electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars,
10 electronic pipes, or other similar products that rely on vaporization or aerosolization; provided,
11 however, that smoking shall not include burning during a religious ceremony.

12 (15) (a) "Smoking bar" means an establishment whose business is primarily devoted to
13 the serving of tobacco products for consumption on the premises, in which the annual revenues
14 generated by tobacco sales are greater than fifty percent (50%) of the total revenue for the
15 establishment and the serving of food or alcohol is only incidental to the consumption of such
16 tobacco products. Effective July 1, 2015, all existing establishments and establishments that open
17 thereafter must demonstrate quarterly, for a period of one year and annually thereafter, that the
18 annual revenue generated from the serving of tobacco products is greater than fifty percent (50%)
19 of the total revenue for the establishment, and the serving of food, alcohol, or beverages is only
20 incidental to the consumption of such tobacco products. Every owner of a smoking bar shall
21 register no later than January 1 of each year with the division of taxation and shall provide, at a
22 minimum, the owner's name and address and the name and address of the smoking bar. The
23 division of taxation in the department of administration shall be responsible for the determination
24 under this section and shall promulgate any rules or forms necessary for the implementation of
25 this section. The division of taxation in the department of administration shall be responsible for
26 the determination under this section and shall promulgate any rules or forms necessary for the
27 implementation of this section.

28 (b) Smoking bars shall only allow consumption of food and beverages sold by the
29 establishment on the premises and the establishment shall have public access only from the street.

30 (c) Any smoking bar, as defined herein, is required to provide a proper ventilation system
31 that will prevent the migration of smoke into the street.

32 (16) "Sports arena" means sports pavilions, stadiums, (indoor or outdoor) organized
33 sports fields, gymnasiums, health spas, boxing arenas, swimming pools, roller and ice rinks,
34 bowling alleys, and other similar places where members of the general public assemble to engage

1 in physical exercise, participate in athletic competition, or witness sports or other events.

2 (17) "Legislature" means the general assembly of the state of Rhode Island.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - PUBLIC HEALTH AND WORKPLACE SAFETY
ACT

- 1 This act would change the definition "smoking" and "retail tobacco store" to include
- 2 electronic smoking and devices.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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