

2017 -- S 0973

=====  
LC002894  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

—————  
A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND HEALTH  
BENEFIT EXCHANGE

Introduced By: Senators Picard, and Pearson

Date Introduced: June 21, 2017

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 42-157 of the General Laws entitled "Rhode Island Health Benefit  
2 Exchange" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **42-157-5.1. Small business health options program (SHOP) innovation waiver.**

4 (a) As small business owners and sole proprietors are the life blood of this state's  
5 economy, a recent change in the Federal Affordable Care Act effective on January 1, 2016, has  
6 caused irreparable harm to the economic well-being of small business owners and sole proprietors  
7 by requiring them to secure health insurance coverage on the individual market as opposed to  
8 securing health insurance coverage on the small group market.

9 (b) In an effort to reduce and/or eliminate the irreparable economic harm, the director of  
10 the department of administration, with assistance from the commissioner of health insurance,  
11 shall seek a waiver under Section 1332 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L.  
12 No. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L.  
13 No. 111-152, for the purpose of allowing businesses classified as self-employed and sole  
14 proprietors to purchase insurance in the small group market through the Health Source RI for  
15 Employers SHOP program and not be forced to the individual market.

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

=====  
LC002894  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND HEALTH  
BENEFIT EXCHANGE

\*\*\*

1           This act would authorize the Rhode Island health benefit exchange to seek a waiver under  
2 the Affordable Care Act to allow qualified small business owners and sole proprietors to purchase  
3 qualified health benefit plans offered by the exchange and not be forced into the individual  
4 market.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC002894  
=====