

2018 -- S 2024

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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A N A C T

RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- THE GOOD SAMARITAN OVERDOSE  
PREVENTION ACT OF 2016

Introduced By: Senators Felag, DiPalma, Lombardi, and Nesselbush

Date Introduced: January 11, 2018

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 21-28.9-4 and 21-28.9-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 21-28.9  
2 entitled "The Good Samaritan Overdose Prevention Act of 2016" are hereby amended to read as  
3 follows:

4 **21-28.9-4. Emergency overdose care -- Immunity from legal repercussions.**

5 (a) Any person who, in good faith, without malice and in the absence of evidence of an  
6 intent to defraud, seeks medical assistance for someone experiencing a drug or alcohol overdose  
7 or other drug- or alcohol-related medical emergency shall not be charged or prosecuted for any  
8 crime related to the possession of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia, possession or  
9 transportation of alcohol by an underage person, or the operation of a drug-involved premises, if  
10 the evidence for the charge was gained as a result of the seeking of medical assistance.

11 (b) A person who experiences a drug or alcohol overdose or other drug- or alcohol-  
12 related medical emergency and is in need of medical assistance shall not be charged or prosecuted  
13 for any crime related to the possession of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia, possession  
14 or transportation of alcohol by an underage person, or the operation of a drug-involved premises,  
15 if the evidence for the charge was gained as a result of the overdose and the need for medical  
16 assistance.

17 (c) The act of providing first aid or other medical assistance to someone who is  
18 experiencing a drug or alcohol overdose or other drug- or alcohol-related medical emergency may

1 be used as a mitigating factor in a criminal prosecution pursuant to the controlled substances act.

2 (d) The immunity related to the possession of a controlled substance or drug  
3 paraphernalia, [possession or transportation of alcohol by an underage person](#), or the operation of a  
4 drug-involved premises afforded under this section shall also extend to a violation of probation  
5 and/or parole on those grounds.

6 **21-28.9-5. Law enforcement reports.**

7 In the first week of January, 2017, and each year thereafter, the attorney general shall, in  
8 cooperation with local law enforcement agencies and the state police, submit to the general  
9 assembly a report summarizing the impact of this chapter on law enforcement. The report shall  
10 include any incidents in which a law enforcement agency was barred, due to the immunity  
11 provisions of § 21-28.9-4, from charging or prosecuting a person under chapters 28 and 28.5 of  
12 this title, [and under §3-8-9 or §3-8-10](#), who would have otherwise been so charged or prosecuted,  
13 and indicating whether the person was charged with, or prosecuted for, any other criminal offense  
14 resulting from the agency's response to the request for medical assistance.

15 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 add alcohol and alcohol-related overdoses and possession or
- 2   transportation of alcohol by an underage person, to the Good Samaritan Overdose Prevention Act.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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