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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - RESIDENTIAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT  
PROGRAM

Introduced By: Representative Anastasia P. Williams

Date Introduced: October 26, 2020

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 95

4 RESIDENTIAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT PROGRAM

5 **23-95-1. Short title.**

6 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Residential Security Equipment  
7 Program".

8 **23-95-2. Purpose of program.**

9 The purpose of the residential security equipment program is to provide or assist in the  
10 acquisition of residential security equipment for use by state residents to enhance individual and  
11 public safety.

12 **23-95-3. Design of program.**

13 The director of the department of administration shall design a program to implement the  
14 provisions of this chapter. The program design shall at a minimum include, but not be limited to,  
15 the following criteria:

16 (1) Designation of a state agency to contract with manufacturers, distributors and/or  
17 wholesalers of residential security equipment for the purchase and acquisition of the equipment on  
18 the most favorable terms available;

1           (2) Identification of appropriate residential security equipment for acquisition, distribution  
2 and use by residents to enhance individual and public safety to include, but not be limited to:

3           (i) Video doorbell cameras;

4           (ii) Flood spot lights; and

5           (iii) Motion detector lights and security cameras.

6           (3) Application for funds, grants or donations from public and private sources;

7           (4) Creation of an application process for sale and/or distribution of residential security  
8 equipment; and

9           (5) An audit function.

10           **23-95-4. Distribution of security equipment.**

11           (a) Upon application by a person representing a family or household whose total income is  
12 below the federal poverty guidelines, the director of the department of administration or designee  
13 shall provide the applicant with up to five hundred dollars (\$500) in residential security equipment  
14 at no charge to the applicant.

15           (b) Upon application by a person representing a family or household whose total income  
16 is above the federal poverty guidelines, but below one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the federal  
17 poverty guidelines, the director of administration or designee shall provide the applicant with up to  
18 five hundred dollars (\$500) in residential security equipment at one half (1/2) the actual negotiated  
19 cost of the equipment.

20           (c) Upon application by a person representing a family or household whose total income is  
21 in excess of one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the federal poverty guidelines, the director of  
22 administration or designee shall provide residential security equipment to the applicant at the actual  
23 negotiated cost for the equipment.

24           (d) The obligation of the director of administration or designee pursuant to subsections (a)  
25 and (b) of this section shall terminate annually upon distribution of equipment equal to funds  
26 appropriated and acquired to administer the program.

27           **23-95-5. Appropriation.**

28           The general assembly shall appropriate the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars  
29 (\$250,000) annually commencing July 1, 2021 to implement and administer the provisions of this  
30 chapter.

31           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - RESIDENTIAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT  
PROGRAM

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1           This act would create the Residential Security Equipment Program. Residential security  
2 equipment would be provided free or subsidized for residents below the poverty level or up to one  
3 hundred fifty percent (150%) of the poverty level. Residents above one hundred fifty percent  
4 (150%) of the poverty level would purchase equipment at the negotiated discount. The program  
5 would be administered by the department of administration with an annual appropriation of two  
6 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to fund the program.

7           This act would take effect on July 1, 2021.

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