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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

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A N A C T

RELATING TO DELINQUENT AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN -- TREATMENT OF
JUVENILES FOR CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY

Introduced By: Senators Burke, Tikoian, Britto, LaMountain, and McKenney

Date Introduced: March 30, 2023

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

(Judiciary)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 14-5-8 of the General Laws in Chapter 14-5 entitled "Treatment of
2 Juveniles for Chemical Dependency" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **14-5-8. ~~Possession of one ounce (1 oz.) or less of marijuana~~ Possession of two ounce (2**
4 **oz.) or less of marijuana.**

5 Notwithstanding any public, special, or general law to the contrary, possession of ~~one~~
6 ~~ounce~~ two ounces (+ 2 oz.) or less of marijuana, as defined in § 21-28-1.02, by a child under
7 seventeen (17) years of age and who is not exempted from penalties pursuant to chapter 28.6 of
8 title 21, shall constitute a ~~status~~ wayward offense pursuant to § 14-1-3(11)(vii) and forfeiture of the
9 marijuana. The family court may order a substance-abuse assessment and, if recommended,
10 substance-abuse treatment. The parents or legal guardian of any child under seventeen (17) years
11 of age shall be notified of the offense.

12 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 DELINQUENT AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN -- TREATMENT OF
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1 This act would amend the penalty provision for possession of one ounce or less of
2 marijuana by a juvenile so as to conform to current statutory penalties for possession of marijuana
3 offenses promulgated in The Rhode Island cannabis act allowing for possession up to two (2)
4 ounces of marijuana.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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