

2014 -- S 2228 SUBSTITUTE A

LC003506/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- TENTS--GRANDSTANDS--AIR-SUPPORTED
STRUCTURES

Introduced By: Senators Walaska, Paiva Weed, DiPalma, Lynch, and Ciccone

Date Introduced: January 30, 2014

Referred To: Senate Housing & Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-28.19-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-28.19 entitled
2 "Tents-Grandstands-Air-Supported Structures" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-28.19-1. Tents for which license required -- Application and issuance.** – (a) No
4 tent exceeding ~~one hundred twenty square feet (120 sq. ft.)~~ three hundred fifty square feet (350
5 sq. ft.) in area shall be erected, maintained, operated, or used in any city or town in this state
6 except under a license from the licensing authorities of the city or town. The license shall not be
7 issued for a period exceeding thirty (30) days and shall be revocable for cause. Application shall
8 be made on proper form and, when deemed necessary by the licensing authorities, shall include
9 plans drawn to scale, showing exits, aisles, and seating arrangements and details of the structural
10 support of tent, seats, and platforms, etc. No license shall be issued until the provisions of this
11 chapter have been complied with, and approval has been obtained from the building department,
12 the police department, the fire department, and, when tents are to be used for ~~two hundred (200)~~
13 fifty (50) or more persons, from each and every department having jurisdiction over places of
14 assembly.

15 (b) For the purposes of this section, the fire marshal shall have no jurisdiction over tents
16 on the property of one-(1) or two-(2) family private dwellings. Nothing contained in this section
17 shall prohibit the fire marshal from requiring a license for a tent smaller than three hundred fifty
18 square feet (350 sq. ft.) where other sections of the fire code deem it necessary, including, but not

1 limited to, use, occupancy, opening, exposure, an increase in occupancy of a commercial
2 establishment, and any other similar factors.

3 (c) The state fire marshal shall provide training to all assistant deputy fire marshals as
4 defined by § 23-28.2-9 as soon as practicable to ensure the consistent enforcement of the fire
5 safety code pursuant to § 23-28.2-4.

6 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 allow tents on public/commercial property up to three hundred fifty
2 square feet (350 sq. ft.) to be erected, maintained, operated or used in any city/town without
3 obtaining a license unless required by state fire code and exempts tents erected on land of one or
4 two (2) family dwellings from fire marshal jurisdiction. It would further provide that the state fire
5 marshal provide necessary training to all assistant fire marshals to ensure consistent enforcement.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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