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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Blazejewski, Almeida, Slater, Bennett, and Regunberg

Date Introduced: February 26, 2015

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 12-29 of the General Laws entitled "Domestic Violence Prevention  
2 Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following sections:

3 **12-29-12.1. Domestic violence prevention fund -- Policy.** -- The general assembly finds  
4 and declares that domestic violence is a serious public health concern in the state of Rhode Island,  
5 and that evidence-based domestic violence prevention programs are important tools in decreasing  
6 the continuing toll that domestic violence takes on Rhode Island communities, cities and towns. It  
7 is therefore in the best interest of the state to establish a fund to promote effective programs  
8 working towards the primary prevention of domestic violence in Rhode Island.

9 **12-29-12.2. Domestic violence prevention fund.** -- (a) There is created the domestic  
10 violence prevention fund program, to be administered by the Rhode Island Coalition Against  
11 Domestic Violence.

12 (b) The domestic violence prevention fund program monies shall be used to fund  
13 evidence-based programs with the purpose of primary prevention of domestic violence and dating  
14 violence in the state of Rhode Island.

15 (c) The Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence shall convene a statewide  
16 prevention fund advisory committee comprised of those with knowledge, experience, and/or  
17 expertise in the field of domestic violence and dating violence primary prevention. These  
18 members shall include, but are not limited to, the executive director of the Rhode Island Coalition  
19 Against Domestic Violence or his/her designee; the director of the department of health or his/her

1 designee; the director of the department of human services or his/her designee; the attorney  
2 general or his/her designee; and representatives of organizations providing domestic violence and  
3 dating violence primary prevention services in Rhode Island.

4 (d) The prevention fund advisory committee's responsibilities shall include the following:

5 (1) Develop a plan for distribution of funds;

6 (2) Develop criteria for awarding funds;

7 (3) Issue requests for proposals;

8 (4) Review proposals for the funds and present recommendations to the board of directors  
9 of the Rhode Island coalition against domestic violence;

10 (5) Monitor the expenditure of funds and produce an annual report on the activities of the  
11 domestic violence prevention fund; and

12 (6) Promote the general development of domestic violence primary prevention programs  
13 and activities.

14 (e) Organizations submitting proposals for funds shall not participate in the review of  
15 proposals or expenditures of funds. The Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence shall  
16 not be eligible to submit proposals for the coalition's programs.

17 (f) The Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence may utilize up to ten percent  
18 (10%) of the sums collected for the domestic violence prevention fund for the purpose of  
19 administering the program.

20 SECTION 2. Chapter 15-2 of the General Laws entitled "Marriage Licenses" is hereby  
21 amended by adding thereto the following section:

22 **15-2-9.2. Additional fee for domestic violence prevention fund.** -- (a) For each license  
23 the town or city clerk shall charge and receive an additional fee of forty-six dollars (\$46.00), of  
24 which he or she shall retain two dollars (\$2.00) and shall transmit forty-four dollars (\$44.00) to  
25 the general treasurer for deposit to the credit of the domestic violence prevention fund created by  
26 § 12-29-12.2.

27 (b) Each clerk shall keep an accurate account of all fees charged and received under this  
28 section and shall transmit all sums due to the general treasurer at least monthly in the manner and  
29 with the forms which the general treasurer shall prescribe.

30 (c) The general treasurer shall transmit the balance of the domestic violence prevention  
31 fund to the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence on an monthly basis, to be  
32 distributed by the coalition in accordance with § 12-29-12.2.

33 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on September 1, 2015.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT

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1           This act would create the domestic violence prevention fund program, to be administered  
2 by the Rhode Island coalition against domestic violence. Funding would come from additional  
3 fees for marriage licenses and would be used to promote effective programs to prevent of  
4 domestic violence.

5           This act would take effect on September 1, 2015.

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