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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: Senators Goodwin, Nesselbush, Crowley, and Morgan

Date Introduced: March 11, 2015

Referred To: Senate 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 section:

3 **12-29-12. Domestic violence prevention fund - policy.** – (a) 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 toward the primary prevention of domestic violence in Rhode Island.

9 (b) Domestic violence prevention fund:

10 (1) There is created the domestic violence prevention fund program, to be administered  
11 by the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

12 (2) 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 (3) The Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence shall convene a statewide  
16 prevention fund advisory committee comprised of those with knowledge, experience, training  
17 and/or expertise in the field of prevention of domestic violence and dating violence. The  
18 committee members shall include, but are not limited to, the executive director of the Rhode  
19 Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence or his/her designee; the director of the department of

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

4 (c) The committee shall be responsible for implementation of programs to prevent  
5 domestic and dating abuse and shall:

6 (1) Develop a plan and budget for distribution of funds;

7 (2) Develop criteria for awarding and distributing funds received to develop plans and  
8 programs for the prevention of domestic and dating violence;

9 (3) Issue requests for proposals to providers, organizations, firms, or entities that will  
10 provide services to the committee;

11 (4) Review proposals for the funds and present recommendations to the board of directors  
12 of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence;

13 (5) Monitor and account for the expenditure of funds and produce an annual report on the  
14 activities of the domestic violence prevention fund. Annual reports shall be submitted to the  
15 senate and house finance committees of the general assembly for review on or before February 28  
16 of each year; and

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

19 (d) Organizations submitting proposals for funds shall not participate in the review of  
20 proposals or expenditure of funds. The Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence shall  
21 not be eligible to submit proposals for the committee's programs nor shall it be eligible to receive  
22 any funds from the committee except as hereinafter provided.

23 (e) The Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence may utilize up to ten percent  
24 (10%) of the sums collected for the domestic violence prevention fund for the purpose of  
25 administering the program and it shall also be required to submit an annual report detailing the  
26 expenditure of funds to the senate and house finance committees on or before February 28 of each  
27 year.

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

30 **15-2-9.2. Additional fee for domestic violence prevention fund.** – (a) For each  
31 marriage license issued by any town or city clerk, there shall be an additional fee of forty-six  
32 dollars (\$46.00), of which he/she shall retain two dollars (\$2.00) for administrative costs. The  
33 balance of forty-four dollars (\$44.00) shall be transmitted to the general treasurer of the state of  
34 Rhode Island who shall deposit said funds to the credit and for the use of the domestic violence

1 prevention fund as created by §12-29-12.

2 (b) Each town and city clerk shall maintain and account for all fees charged and received  
3 under this section and shall be responsible for transmitting all sums due to the general treasurer  
4 on a monthly basis and in a manner and on forms prescribed and adopted by the general treasurer.  
5 Each town or city clerk shall submit annual reports to the house and senate finance committees  
6 detailing the collection and disbursement of funds collected on or before February 28 of each  
7 year.

8 (c) The general treasurer shall transmit the funds received from the town and city clerks  
9 to the Rhode Island coalition against domestic violence on a monthly basis. The coalition shall  
10 then use the funds in accordance with the provisions of § 12-29-12.

11 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 establish a domestic violence prevention fund which would be financed  
2 by an additional fee on marriage licenses and would have as its primary purpose, the prevention  
3 of domestic and dating violence.

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

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