

2017 -- H 6033

LC002326

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND HEALTH
BENEFIT EXCHANGE

Introduced By: Representatives Ruggiero, Serpa, McKiernan, Phillips, and Casimiro

Date Introduced: March 30, 2017

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 42-157 of the General Laws entitled "Rhode Island Health Benefit
2 Exchange" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **42-157-5.1. Small business health options program (SHOP) innovation waiver.**

4 (a) As small business owners and sole proprietors are the life blood of this state's
5 economy, a recent change in the Federal Affordable Care Act effective on January 1, 2016, has
6 caused irreparable harm to the economic well-being of small business owners and sole proprietors
7 by requiring them to secure health insurance coverage on the individual market as opposed to
8 securing health insurance coverage on the small group market.

9 (b) In an effort to reduce and/or eliminate the irreparable economic harm, the director of
10 the department of administration, with assistance from the commissioner of health insurance,
11 shall seek a waiver under Section 1332 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L.
12 No. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L.
13 No. 111-152, for the purpose of waiving the federal requirement to establish an Internet-based
14 small business health options program (SHOP) and permitting qualified employers to purchase
15 qualified health benefit plans offered by the Rhode Island health benefit exchange directly from a
16 registered carrier.

1 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 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND HEALTH
BENEFIT EXCHANGE

1 This act would authorize the Rhode Island health benefit exchange to seek a waiver under
2 the Affordable Care Act to allow qualified small business owners and sole proprietors to purchase
3 qualified health benefit plans offered by the exchange directly from a registered carrier.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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