

2019 -- H 5539

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
DEVELOP STATEWIDE SEPSIS PROTOCOLS**

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Solomon, Vella-Wilkinson, Shanley, and
Bennett

Date Introduced: February 27, 2019

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

1 WHEREAS, According to a 2018 study from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid
2 Services, Rhode Island ranks fourth lowest in the United States for properly treating sepsis, a life-
3 threatening reaction to infection that kills more than 200,000 people yearly across the country;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Sepsis is a complication that occurs when a person's body has an extreme
6 response to an infection. It can cause damage to organs in the body and can be life-threatening if
7 not treated. If sepsis becomes severe enough or develops into septic shock, the chances of dying
8 from sepsis increase significantly; and

9 WHEREAS, Sepsis most commonly occurs in patients with chronic conditions or those
10 who are very young or very old; however, it can also occur in otherwise healthy children; and

11 WHEREAS, Sepsis is the most common cause of death in hospitalized children in both
12 Rhode Island and the rest of the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, More than 75,000 children develop sepsis each year across the country and
14 more than 3 million die around the world; and

15 WHEREAS, Under Rhode Island General Law, the Department of Health "shall take
16 cognizance of the interests of life and health among the peoples of the state" and shall "do all in
17 its power to ascertain the causes and the best means for the prevention and control of diseases or
18 conditions detrimental to the public health"; and

19 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that utilizing best practice guidelines that reveal early

1 identification of sepsis and early appropriate care can greatly reduce the risk of death from sepsis;
2 now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
4 Providence Plantations hereby respectfully requests the Rhode Island Department of Health to
5 develop statewide evidence-based Sepsis Protocols for the early diagnosis and treatment of
6 sepsis; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and herby is authorized and directed to
8 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Director of the Rhode Island Department of
9 Health.

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