

2020 -- H 7137

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LC002982
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT

Introduced By: Representatives Williams, Alzate, McEntee, Knight, and Vella-
Wilkinson

Date Introduced: January 16, 2020

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42-72.1-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-72.1 entitled
2 "Licensing and Monitoring of Child Placing Agencies, Child Caring Agencies, Foster and
3 Adoptive Homes, and Children's Behavioral Health Programs" is hereby amended to read as
4 follows:

5 **42-72.1-5. General licensing provisions.**

6 The following general licensing provisions shall apply:

7 (1) A license issued under this chapter is not transferable and applies only to the licensee
8 and the location stated in the application and remains the property of the department. A license
9 shall be publicly displayed. A license shall be valid for one year from the date of issue and upon
10 continuing compliance with the regulations. A license issued to a foster parent, and/or a license
11 issued to a program for mental health services for "seriously emotionally disturbed children" as
12 defined in § 42-72-5(b)(24) shall be valid for two (2) years from the date of issue.

13 (2) Every license application issued pursuant to § 42-72.1-4 shall be accompanied by a
14 nonrefundable application fee paid to the State of Rhode Island as follows:

15 (a) Adoption and foster care child placing agency license -- one thousand dollars
16 (\$1,000);

17 (b) [Deleted by P.L. 2019, ch. 88, art. 4, § 21].

18 (c) [Deleted by P.L. 2019, ch. 88, art. 4, § 21].

19 (d) [Deleted by P.L. 2019, ch. 88, art. 4, § 21].

1 (3) All fees collected by the state pursuant to subsection (2) of this section shall be
2 deposited by the general treasurer as general revenues.

3 (4) A licensee shall comply with applicable state fire and health safety standards.

4 (5) The department may grant a provisional license to an applicant, excluding any foster
5 parent applicant, who is not able to demonstrate compliance with all of the regulations because
6 the program or residence is not in full operation; however, the applicant must meet all regulations
7 that can be met in the opinion of the administrator before the program is fully operational. The
8 provisional license shall be granted for a limited period not to exceed six (6) months and shall be
9 subject to review every three (3) months.

10 (6)The department may grant a probationary license to a licensee who is temporarily
11 unable to comply with a rule or rules when the noncompliance does not present an immediate
12 threat to the health and well-being of the children, and when the licensee has obtained a plan
13 approved by the administrator to correct the areas of noncompliance within the probationary
14 period. A probationary license shall be issued for up to twelve (12) months; it may be extended
15 for an additional six (6) months at the discretion of the administrator. A probationary license that
16 states the conditions of probation may be issued by the administrator at any time for due cause.
17 Any prior existing license is invalidated when a probationary license is issued. When the
18 probationary license expires, the administrator may reinstate the original license to the end of its
19 term, issue a new license or revoke the license.

20 (7) The administrator will establish criteria and procedure for granting variances as part
21 of the regulations.

22 (8) The above exceptions (probationary and provisional licensing and variances) do not
23 apply to and shall not be deemed to constitute any variance from state fire and health safety
24 standards. However, if a request for a variance of fire inspection deficiencies has been submitted
25 to the fire safety code board of appeal and review, DCYF may grant a provisional license to
26 terminate no later than thirty (30) days following the board's decision on said variance.

27 (9) [Deleted by P.L. 2019, ch. 88, art. 4, § 21].

28 (10) All persons granted a foster care license shall be required to undertake ongoing
29 training to promote their sensitivity to their foster child's culture. The department shall
30 promulgate rules and regulations setting forth the requirements of this training.

31 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT

1 This act would require all foster parents to undergo sensitivity training regarding the
2 culture of their foster child.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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