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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 BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- SHOWS AND EXHIBITIONS

Introduced By: Representatives Donovan, and Speakman

Date Introduced: January 22, 2020

Referred To: House Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 5-22 of the General Laws entitled "Shows and Exhibitions" is  
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **5-22-1.2. Live entertainment -- Town of Bristol.**

4 The town council of the town of Bristol is authorized to license, regulate, or prohibit "live  
5 entertainment" in the town of Bristol, including, but not limited to, live performances of music or  
6 sound by individuals, bands, musicians, disc jockeys, dancing, or karaoke, with or without  
7 charge, provided that "incidental entertainment" be permitted as of right, and no license shall be  
8 required. "Incidental entertainment" means background music provided at a restaurant, bar,  
9 nightclub, supper club, or similar establishment, limited to the following format:

10 (1) Live music performance limited to no more than a maximum of three (3) acoustic  
11 instruments that shall not be amplified by any means, electronic or otherwise; or

12 (2) Prerecorded music or streamed music played over a permanently installed sound  
13 system. If a bar or restaurant includes incidental entertainment, it cannot charge a cover charge;  
14 shall not allow dancing by patrons of the establishment; cannot employ flashing, laser, or strobe  
15 lights; and the maximum volume, irrespective of the format, is limited solely to the boundaries of  
16 the premises at all times, and shall permit audible conversation among patrons of the  
17 establishment.

1 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 BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- SHOWS AND EXHIBITIONS

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- 1 This act would authorize the town of Bristol to regulate live entertainment.
- 2 This act would take effect upon passage.

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