

2012 -- S 2561

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- ALCOHOLISM

Introduced By: Senators Miller, Jabour, Doyle, Goodwin, and Ruggerio

Date Introduced: February 28, 2012

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 23-1.10 of the General Laws entitled "Alcoholism" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **23-1.10-20. Pilot alternative program established.** – (a) There is hereby created a  
4 program for individuals impaired by substance abuse related issues, as an alternative  
5 treatment/referral service to the emergency room department, to foster their entry into a  
6 continuum of care for treatment and recovery. This pilot program shall be an addition and shall  
7 not alter the comprehensive and coordinated program for the treatment of alcoholics and  
8 intoxicated persons as set forth in section 23-1.10-6.

9 (b) As used in this section, the following words and terms shall have the following  
10 meanings:

11 (1) "Department" means the Rhode Island department of behavioral healthcare,  
12 developmental disabilities and hospitals.

13 (2) "Pilot program" means the program described in this section. The pilot program shall  
14 not be subject to subsections 23-1.10-10(a), (b), (c) and (d).

15 (12) "Substance abuse related issues" means any of the symptoms that are caused by  
16 either active substance use, substance abuse/dependence or a combination of both.

17 (c) No later than December 31, 2012, and subject to approval of the Rhode Island  
18 executive office of health and human services, the department shall present a proposal to the  
19 governor and general assembly to expand existing service(s), that shall result in services

1 described in subsection (a) available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week to  
2 implement the pilot program.

3 (d) Subject to approval from the governor and general assembly and the receipt of  
4 required funds, the director shall commence the implementation of the pilot program.

5 (e) The director may adopt such rules and regulations governing the management of the  
6 pilot program as he/she deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

7 (f) The pilot program shall have a duration of three (3) years, commencing on the date  
8 that the first licensed facility becomes operational.

9 (g) The department shall provide an annual report of its findings and recommendations to  
10 the general assembly and governor no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year beginning in 2014.

11 (h) After three (3) years of operations, the department shall provide an analysis  
12 demonstrating outcomes related to the pilot program to the general assembly and governor.

13 SECTION 2. Transportation options shall be coordinated and developed by a local city/or  
14 town, in conjunction with the department of health, prior to the pilot program implementation.  
15 Funding for alternative transportation is not part of the pilot program.

16 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T  
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- ALCOHOLISM

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1           This act would establish a pilot alternative program, under the authority of the department  
2 of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals, to help those individuals  
3 impaired by substance abuse.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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