LC01372

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Miller, Nesselbush, Perry, and Pichardo

Date Introduced: March 01, 2012

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby 2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter: 3 **CHAPTER 87** 4 TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAM 23-87-1. Legislative findings. - Cigarette smoking presents serious public health 5 concerns to the state and to the citizens of the state. The surgeon general has determined that 6 7 smoking causes lung cancer, heart disease and other serious diseases, and that there are hundreds 8 of thousands of tobacco related deaths in the United States each year. These diseases most often 9 do not appear until many years after the person begins smoking. 10 23-87-2. Tobacco Control Program. – (a) For fiscal years 2013 and 2014, the governor 11 and general assembly shall include at least three million, one hundred thousand dollars 12 (\$3,100,000) in the annual budget for appropriations to the state department of health to 13 implement the tobacco control program and for programs and activities aimed at reducing 14 tobacco use in Rhode Island as recommended by the centers for disease control and prevention, or 15 its successor agency, to prevent and reduce tobacco use, reduce exposure to secondhand smoke, 16 encourage cessation efforts, and identify and eliminate disparities related to tobacco use and its 17 effects among different population groups. 18 (b) Commencing fiscal year 2015 and each fiscal year thereafter, the governor and

general assembly shall include in the annual budget in appropriations an additional five hundred

- 1 thousand (\$500,000) to the amount allocated to the department of health tobacco control program
- 2 in the previous year for the purposes described in subsection (a) of this section until total funding
- 3 for the program has reached the level of funding recommended by the United States centers for
- 4 <u>disease control and prevention, or its successor agency.</u>
- 5 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY

This act would create the Tobacco Control Program designed to help reduce tobacco use in Rhode Island.

This act would take effect upon passage.

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