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**ARTICLE 14**

RELATING TO HEALTHCARE MARKET STABILITY

SECTION 1. Section 27-18.5-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 27-18.5 entitled "Individual Health Insurance Coverage" is hereby amended to read as follows:

**27-18.5-2. Definitions.**

The following words and phrases as used in this chapter have the following meanings unless a different meaning is required by the context:

(1) "Bona fide association" means, with respect to health insurance coverage offered in this state, an association which:

- (i) Has been actively in existence for at least five (5) years;
- (ii) Has been formed and maintained in good faith for purposes other than obtaining insurance;
- (iii) Does not condition membership in the association on any health status-related factor relating to an individual (including an employee of an employer or a dependent of an employee);
- (iv) Makes health insurance coverage offered through the association available to all members regardless of any health status-related factor relating to the members (or individuals eligible for coverage through a member);
- (v) Does not make health insurance coverage offered through the association available other than in connection with a member of the association;
- (vi) Is composed of persons having a common interest or calling;
- (vii) Has a constitution and bylaws; and
- (viii) Meets any additional requirements that the director may prescribe by regulation;

(2) "COBRA continuation provision" means any of the following:

- (i) Section 4980(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. § 4980B, other than subsection (f)(1) of that section insofar as it relates to pediatric vaccines;
- (ii) Part 6 of subtitle B of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, 29 U.S.C. § 1161 et seq., other than Section 609 of that act, 29 U.S.C. § 1169; or
- (iii) Title XXII of the United States Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300bb-1 et seq.;

(3) "Creditable coverage" has the same meaning as defined in the United States Public Health Service Act, Section 2701(c), 42 U.S.C. § 300gg(c), as added by P.L. 104-191;

1 (4) "Director" means the director of the department of business regulation;

2 (5) "Eligible individual" means an individual:

3 (i) For whom, as of the date on which the individual seeks coverage under this chapter, the  
4 aggregate of the periods of creditable coverage is eighteen (18) or more months and whose most  
5 recent prior creditable coverage was under a group health plan, a governmental plan established or  
6 maintained for its employees by the government of the United States or by any of its agencies or  
7 instrumentalities, or church plan (as defined by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of  
8 1974, 29 U.S.C. § 1001 et seq.);

9 (ii) Who is not eligible for coverage under a group health plan, part A or part B of title  
10 XVIII of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1395c et seq. or 42 U.S.C. § 1395j et seq., or any  
11 state plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq. (or any successor  
12 program), and does not have other health insurance coverage;

13 (iii) With respect to whom the most recent coverage within the coverage period was not  
14 terminated based on a factor described in § 27-18.5-4(b)(relating to nonpayment of premiums or  
15 fraud);

16 (iv) If the individual had been offered the option of continuation coverage under a COBRA  
17 continuation provision, or under chapter 19.1 of this title or under a similar state program of this  
18 state or any other state, who elected the coverage; and

19 (v) Who, if the individual elected COBRA continuation coverage, has exhausted the  
20 continuation coverage under the provision or program;

21 (6) "Group health plan" means an employee welfare benefit plan as defined in section 3(1)  
22 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, 29 U.S.C. § 1002(1), to the extent that  
23 the plan provides medical care and including items and services paid for as medical care to  
24 employees or their dependents as defined under the terms of the plan directly or through insurance,  
25 reimbursement or otherwise;

26 (7) "Health insurance carrier" or "carrier" means any entity subject to the insurance laws  
27 and regulations of this state, or subject to the jurisdiction of the director, that contracts or offers to  
28 contract to provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse any of the costs of health care  
29 services, including, without limitation, an insurance company offering accident and sickness  
30 insurance, a health maintenance organization, a nonprofit hospital, medical or dental service  
31 corporation, or any other entity providing a plan of health insurance or health benefits by which  
32 health care services are paid or financed for an eligible individual or his or her dependents by such  
33 entity on the basis of a periodic premium, paid directly or through an association, trust, or other  
34 intermediary, and issued, renewed, or delivered within or without Rhode Island to cover a natural

1 person who is a resident of this state, including a certificate issued to a natural person which  
2 evidences coverage under a policy or contract issued to a trust or association;

3 (8)(i) "Health insurance coverage" means a policy, contract, certificate, or agreement  
4 offered by a health insurance carrier to provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for or reimburse any of  
5 the costs of health care services. Health insurance coverage include short-term limited duration  
6 policies and any policy that pays on a cost-incurred basis, except as otherwise specifically exempted  
7 by subsections (ii), (iii), (iv), or (v) of this section.

8 (ii) "Health insurance coverage" does not include one or more, or any combination of, the  
9 following:

10 (A) Coverage only for accident, or disability income insurance, or any combination of  
11 those;

12 (B) Coverage issued as a supplement to liability insurance;

13 (C) Liability insurance, including general liability insurance and automobile liability  
14 insurance;

15 (D) Workers' compensation or similar insurance;

16 (E) Automobile medical payment insurance;

17 (F) Credit-only insurance;

18 (G) Coverage for on-site medical clinics; AND

19 (H) Other similar insurance coverage, specified in federal regulations issued pursuant to  
20 P.L. 104-191, under which benefits for medical care are secondary or incidental to other insurance  
21 benefits; ~~and~~

22 ~~(I) Short term limited duration insurance;~~

23 (iii) "Health insurance coverage" does not include the following benefits if they are  
24 provided under a separate policy, certificate, or contract of insurance or are not an integral part of  
25 the coverage:

26 (A) Limited scope dental or vision benefits;

27 (B) Benefits for long-term care, nursing home care, home health care, community-based  
28 care, or any combination of these;

29 (C) Any other similar, limited benefits that are specified in federal regulation issued  
30 pursuant to P.L. 104-191;

31 (iv) "Health insurance coverage" does not include the following benefits if the benefits are  
32 provided under a separate policy, certificate, or contract of insurance, there is no coordination  
33 between the provision of the benefits and any exclusion of benefits under any group health plan  
34 maintained by the same plan sponsor, and the benefits are paid with respect to an event without

1 regard to whether benefits are provided with respect to the event under any group health plan  
2 maintained by the same plan sponsor:

3 (A) Coverage only for a specified disease or illness; or

4 (B) Hospital indemnity or other fixed indemnity insurance; and

5 (v) "Health insurance coverage" does not include the following if it is offered as a separate  
6 policy, certificate, or contract of insurance:

7 (A) Medicare supplemental health insurance as defined under section 1882(g)(1) of the  
8 Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1395ss(g)(1);

9 (B) Coverage supplemental to the coverage provided under 10 U.S.C. § 1071 et seq.; and

10 (C) Similar supplemental coverage provided to coverage under a group health plan;

11 (9) "Health status-related factor" means any of the following factors:

12 (i) Health status;

13 (ii) Medical condition, including both physical and mental illnesses;

14 (iii) Claims experience;

15 (iv) Receipt of health care;

16 (v) Medical history;

17 (vi) Genetic information;

18 (vii) Evidence of insurability, including conditions arising out of acts of domestic violence;

19 and

20 (viii) Disability;

21 (10) "Individual market" means the market for health insurance coverage offered to  
22 individuals other than in connection with a group health plan;

23 (11) "Network plan" means health insurance coverage offered by a health insurance carrier  
24 under which the financing and delivery of medical care including items and services paid for as  
25 medical care are provided, in whole or in part, through a defined set of providers under contract  
26 with the carrier;

27 (12) "Preexisting condition" means, with respect to health insurance coverage, a condition  
28 (whether physical or mental), regardless of the cause of the condition, that was present before the  
29 date of enrollment for the coverage, for which medical advice, diagnosis, care, or treatment was  
30 recommended or received within the six (6) month period ending on the enrollment date. Genetic  
31 information shall not be treated as a preexisting condition in the absence of a diagnosis of the  
32 condition related to that information; and

33 (13) "High-risk individuals" means those individuals who do not pass medical underwriting  
34 standards, due to high health care needs or risks;

1 (14) "Wellness health benefit plan" means that health benefit plan offered in the individual  
2 market pursuant to § 27-18.5-8; and

3 (15) "Commissioner" means the health insurance commissioner.

4 SECTION 2. Section 35-4-27 of the General Laws in Chapter 35-4 entitled "State Funds"  
5 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 **35-4-27. Indirect cost recoveries on restricted receipt accounts.**

7 Indirect cost recoveries of ten percent (10%) of cash receipts shall be transferred from all  
8 restricted-receipt accounts, to be recorded as general revenues in the general fund. However, there  
9 shall be no transfer from cash receipts with restrictions received exclusively: (1) From contributions  
10 from non-profit charitable organizations; (2) From the assessment of indirect cost-recovery rates  
11 on federal grant funds; or (3) Through transfers from state agencies to the department of  
12 administration for the payment of debt service. These indirect cost recoveries shall be applied to all  
13 accounts, unless prohibited by federal law or regulation, court order, or court settlement. The  
14 following restricted receipt accounts shall not be subject to the provisions of this section:

15 Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
16 Organ Transplant Fund  
17 HIV Care Grant Drug Rebates  
18 Department of Human Services  
19 Veterans' home -- Restricted account  
20 Veterans' home -- Resident benefits  
21 Pharmaceutical Rebates Account  
22 Demand Side Management Grants  
23 Veteran's Cemetery Memorial Fund  
24 Donations -- New Veterans' Home Construction  
25 Department of Health  
26 Pandemic medications and equipment account  
27 Miscellaneous Donations/Grants from Non-Profits  
28 State Loan Repayment Match  
29 Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals  
30 Eleanor Slater non-Medicaid third-party payor account  
31 Hospital Medicare Part D Receipts  
32 RICLAS Group Home Operations  
33 Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
34 Emergency and public communication access account

1 Department of Environmental Management  
2 National heritage revolving fund  
3 Environmental response fund II  
4 Underground storage tanks registration fees  
5 Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission  
6 Historic preservation revolving loan fund  
7 Historic Preservation loan fund -- Interest revenue  
8 Department of Public Safety  
9 Forfeited property -- Retained  
10 Forfeitures -- Federal  
11 Forfeited property -- Gambling  
12 Donation -- Polygraph and Law Enforcement Training  
13 Rhode Island State Firefighter's League Training Account  
14 Fire Academy Training Fees Account  
15 Attorney General  
16 Forfeiture of property  
17 Federal forfeitures  
18 Attorney General multi-state account  
19 Forfeited property -- Gambling  
20 Department of Administration  
21 OER Reconciliation Funding  
22 [Health Insurance Market Integrity Fund](#)  
23 RI Health Benefits Exchange  
24 Information Technology Investment Fund  
25 Restore and replacement -- Insurance coverage  
26 Convention Center Authority rental payments  
27 Investment Receipts -- TANS  
28 OPEB System Restricted Receipt Account  
29 Car Rental Tax/Surcharge-Warwick Share  
30 Executive Office of Commerce  
31 Housing Resources Commission Restricted Account  
32 Department of Revenue  
33 DMV Modernization Project  
34 Jobs Tax Credit Redemption Fund

1           Legislature  
2           Audit of federal assisted programs  
3           Department of Children, Youth and Families  
4           Children's Trust Accounts -- SSI  
5           Military Staff  
6           RI Military Family Relief Fund  
7           RI National Guard Counterdrug Program  
8           Treasury  
9           Admin. Expenses -- State Retirement System  
10          Retirement -- Treasury Investment Options  
11          Defined Contribution -- Administration - RR  
12          Violent Crimes Compensation -- Refunds  
13          Treasury Research Fellowship  
14          Business Regulation  
15          Banking Division Reimbursement Account  
16          Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner Reimbursement Account  
17          Securities Division Reimbursement Account  
18          Commercial Licensing and Racing and Athletics Division Reimbursement Account  
19          Insurance Division Reimbursement Account  
20          Historic Preservation Tax Credit Account  
21          Judiciary  
22          Arbitration Fund Restricted Receipt Account  
23          Third-Party Grants  
24          RI Judiciary Technology Surcharge Account  
25          Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
26          Statewide Student Transportation Services Account  
27          School for the Deaf Fee-for-Service Account  
28          School for the Deaf -- School Breakfast and Lunch Program  
29          Davies Career and Technical School Local Education Aid Account  
30          Davies -- National School Breakfast & Lunch Program  
31          School Construction Services  
32          Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner  
33          Higher Education and Industry Center  
34          Department of Labor and Training

1 Job Development Fund

2 SECTION 3. Chapter 44-30 of the General Laws entitled "Personal Income Tax" is hereby  
3 amended by adding thereto the following sections:

4 **44-30-101. Requirements concerning qualifying health insurance coverage.**

5 (a) Definitions. For purposes of this section:

6 (1) "Applicable individual" has the same meaning as set forth in 26 U.S.C. § 5000A(d).

7 (2) "Minimum essential coverage" has the same meaning as set forth in 26 U.S. C. §  
8 5000A(f).

9 (3) "Shared Responsibility Payment Penalty" means the penalty imposed pursuant to  
10 subsection (c) of this section.

11 (4) "Taxpayer" means any resident individual, as defined in section 44-30-5 of the general  
12 laws.

13 (b) Requirement to maintain minimum essential coverage. Every applicable individual  
14 must maintain minimum essential coverage for each month beginning after December 31, 2019.

15 (c) Shared Responsibility Payment Penalty imposed for failing to maintain minimum  
16 essential coverage. As of January 1, 2020, every applicable individual required to file a personal  
17 income tax return pursuant to section 44-30-51 of the general laws, shall indicate on the return, in  
18 a manner to be prescribed by the tax administrator, whether and for what period of time during the  
19 relevant tax year the individual and his or her spouse and dependents who are applicable individuals  
20 were covered by minimum essential coverage. If a return submitted pursuant to this subsection  
21 fails to indicate that such coverage was in force or indicates that any applicable individuals did not  
22 have such coverage in force, a Shared Responsibility Payment Penalty shall hereby be assessed as  
23 a tax on the return.

24 (d) Shared Responsibility Payment Penalty calculation. Except as provided in subsection  
25 (e), the Shared Responsibility Payment Penalty imposed shall be equal to a taxpayer's federal  
26 shared responsibility payment for the taxable year under section 5000A of the Internal Revenue  
27 Code of 1986, as amended, and as in effect on the 15th day of December 2017.

28 (e) Exceptions.

29 (1) Penalty cap. The amount of the Shared Responsibility Payment Penalty imposed under  
30 this section shall be determined, if applicable, using the statewide average premium for bronze-  
31 level plans offered through the Rhode Island health benefits exchange rather than the national  
32 average premium for bronze-level plans.

33 (2) Hardship exemption determinations. Determinations as to hardship exemptions shall  
34 be made by the exchange under section 42-157-11 of the general laws.

1 (3) Religious conscience exemption determinations. Determinations as to religious  
2 conscience exemptions shall be made by the exchange under section 42-157-11 of the general laws.

3 (4) Taxpayers with gross income below state filing threshold. No penalty shall be imposed  
4 under this section with respect to any applicable individual for any month during a calendar year if  
5 the taxpayer's household income for the taxable year as described in section 1412(b)(1)(B) of the  
6 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is less than the amount of gross income requiring the  
7 taxpayer to file a return as set forth in section 44-30-51 of the general laws.

8 (5) Out of State Residents. No penalty shall be imposed by this section with respect to any  
9 applicable individual for any month during which the individual is a bona fide resident of another  
10 state.

11 (f) Health Insurance Market Integrity Fund. The tax administrator is authorized to withhold  
12 from any state tax refund due to the taxpayer an amount equal to the calculated Shared  
13 Responsibility Payment Penalty and shall place such amounts in the Health Insurance Market  
14 Integrity Fund created pursuant to section 42-157.1-5 of the general laws.

15 (g) Deficiency. If, upon examination of a taxpayer's return, the tax administrator  
16 determines there is a deficiency because any refund due to the taxpayer is insufficient to satisfy the  
17 Shared Responsibility Penalty or because there was no refund due, the tax administrator may notify  
18 the taxpayer of such deficiency in accordance with section 44-30-81 and interest shall accrue on  
19 such deficiency as set forth in section 44-30-84. All monies collected on said deficiency shall be  
20 placed in the Health Insurance Market Integrity Fund created pursuant to section 42-157.1-5 of the  
21 general laws.

22 (h) Data Sharing.

23 (1) The tax administrator, upon written request from the exchange pursuant to section 42-  
24 157-13 of the general laws, shall disclose to officers, employees, and contractors of the exchange,  
25 the name, age, mailing address, income and penalty amount of any such applicable individual who,  
26 for the applicable year, did not have the minimum essential coverage required by subsection 44-  
27 30-101(b).

28 (2) Definition of applicable year. For purposes of this subsection, the term "applicable  
29 year" means the most recent taxable year for which information is available in the Rhode Island  
30 Department of Revenue's taxpayer data information systems, or, if there is no return filed for such  
31 taxpayer for such year, the prior taxable year.

32 (3) Restriction on use of disclosed information. Taxpayer information disclosed under this  
33 subsection may be used only for the purposes authorized by section 42-157-13 of the general laws.

34 (4) Privacy and Security. The exchange and the tax administrator shall develop a detailed

1 set of data privacy and data security safeguards to govern the conveyance of data between their  
2 agencies under this section. With respect to information disclosed by the tax administrator to the  
3 exchange pursuant to this subsection, the exchange its officers, employees and contractors shall be  
4 subject to R.I. Gen. Laws subsection 44-30-95(c).

5 (i) Application of Federal law. The Shared Responsibility Payment Penalty shall be  
6 assessed and collected as set forth in this chapter and, where applicable, consistent with regulations  
7 promulgated by the federal government, the exchange and/or the tax administrator. Any federal  
8 regulation implementing section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and in  
9 effect on the 15th day of December 2017, shall apply as though incorporated into the Rhode Island  
10 Code of Regulations. Federal guidance interpreting these federal regulations shall similarly apply.  
11 Except as provided in subsections (j) and (k), all references to federal law shall be construed as  
12 references to federal law as in effect on December 15, 2017, including applicable regulations and  
13 administrative guidance that were in effect as of that date.

14 (j) Unavailability of Federal premium tax credits. For any taxable year in which federal  
15 premium tax credits available pursuant to 26 U.S.C. section 36B become unavailable due to the  
16 federal government repealing that section or failing to fund the premium tax credits, the Shared  
17 Responsibility Payment Penalty under this section shall not be enforced.

18 (k) Imposition of Federal shared responsibility payment. For any taxable year in which a  
19 federal penalty under section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is imposed on a taxpayer  
20 in an amount comparable to the Shared Responsibility Payment Penalty assessed under this section,  
21 the state penalty shall not be enforced.

22 (m) Agency Coordination. Where applicable, the tax administrator shall implement this  
23 section in consultation with the office of the health insurance commissioner, the office of  
24 management and budget, the executive office of health and human services, and the Rhode Island  
25 health benefits exchange.

26 **44-30-102. Reporting Requirement for Applicable Entities providing Minimum**  
27 **Essential Coverage.**

28 (a) Findings.

29 (1) Ensuring the health of insurance markets is a responsibility reserved for states under  
30 the McCarran-Ferguson Act and other federal law.

31 (2) There is substantial evidence that being uninsured causes health problems and  
32 unnecessary deaths.

33 (3) The Shared Responsibility Payment Penalty imposed by subsection 44-30-101(c) of the  
34 general laws is necessary to protect the health and welfare of the state's residents.

1           (4) The reporting requirement provided for in this section is necessary for the successful  
2 implementation of the Shared Responsibility Payment Penalty imposed by subsection 44-30-101(c)  
3 of the general laws. This requirement provides the only widespread source of third-party reporting  
4 to help taxpayers and the tax administrator verify whether an applicable individual maintains  
5 minimum essential coverage. There is compelling evidence that third-party reporting is crucial for  
6 ensuring compliance with tax provisions.

7           (5) The Shared Responsibility Payment Penalty imposed by subsection 44-30-101(c) of  
8 the general laws, and therefore the reporting requirement in this section, is necessary to ensure a  
9 stable and well-functioning health insurance market. There is compelling evidence that, without  
10 an effective Shared Responsibility Payment Penalty in place for those who go without coverage,  
11 there would be substantial instability in health insurance markets, including higher prices and the  
12 possibility of areas without any insurance available.

13           (6) The Shared Responsibility Payment Penalty imposed by subsection 44-30-101(c) of the  
14 general laws, and therefore the reporting requirement in this section, is also necessary to foster  
15 economic stability and growth in the state.

16           (7) The reporting requirement in this section has been narrowly tailored to support  
17 compliance with the Shared Responsibility Payment Penalty imposed by subsection 44-30-101(c)  
18 of the general laws, while imposing only an incidental burden on reporting entities. In particular,  
19 the information that must be reported is limited to the information that must already be reported  
20 under a similar federal reporting requirement under section 6055 of the Internal Revenue Code of  
21 1986. In addition, this section provides that its reporting requirement may be satisfied by providing  
22 the same information that is currently reported under such federal requirement.

23           (b) Definitions. For purposes of this section:

24           (1) “Applicable entity” means:

25           (i) An employer or other sponsor of an employment-based health plan that offers  
26 employment-based minimum essential coverage to any resident of Rhode Island.

27           (ii) The Rhode Island Medicaid single state agency providing Medicaid or Children’s  
28 Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage.

29           (iii) Carriers licensed or otherwise authorized by the Rhode Island office of the health  
30 insurance commissioner to offer health coverage providing coverage that is not described in  
31 subparagraphs (i) or (ii).

32           (2) “Minimum essential coverage” has the meaning given such term by section 44-30-  
33 101(a)(2) of the general laws.

34           (c) For purposes of administering the Shared Responsibility Payment Penalty to individuals

1 who do not maintain minimum essential coverage under subsection 44-30-101(b) of the general  
2 laws, every applicable entity that provides minimum essential coverage to an individual during a  
3 calendar year shall, at such time as the tax administrator may prescribe, file a form in a manner  
4 prescribed by the tax administrator.

5 (d) Form and manner of return.

6 (1) A return, in such form as the tax administrator may prescribe, contains the following  
7 information:

8 (i) the name, address and TIN of the primary insured and the name and TIN of each other  
9 individual obtaining coverage under the policy;

10 (ii) the dates during which such individual was covered under minimum essential coverage  
11 during the calendar year, and

12 (iii) such other information as the tax administrator may require.

13 (2) Sufficiency of information submitted for federal reporting. Notwithstanding the  
14 requirements of paragraph (1), a return shall not fail to be a return described in this section if it  
15 includes the information contained in a return described in section 6055 of the Internal Revenue  
16 Code of 1986, as that section is in effect and interpreted on the 15th day of December 2017.

17 (e) Statements to be furnished to individuals with respect to whom information is reported.

18 (1) Any applicable entity providing a return under the requirements of this section shall  
19 also provide to each individual whose name is included in such return a written statement  
20 containing the name, address and contact information of the person required to provide the return  
21 to the tax administrator and the information included in the return with respect to the individuals  
22 listed thereupon. Such written statement must be provided on or before January 31 of the year  
23 following the calendar year for which the return was required to be made or by such date as may  
24 be determined by the tax administrator.

25 (2) Sufficiency of federal statement. Notwithstanding the requirements of paragraph (1),  
26 the requirements of this subsection (e) may be satisfied by a written statement provided to an  
27 individual under section 6055 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as that section is in effect and  
28 interpreted on the 15th day of December 2017.

29 (f) Reporting responsibility.

30 (1) Coverage provided by governmental units. In the case of coverage provided by an  
31 applicable entity that is any governmental unit or any agency or instrumentality thereof, the officer  
32 or employee who enters into the agreement to provide such coverage (or the person appropriately  
33 designated for purposes of this section) shall be responsible for the returns and statements required  
34 by this section.

1           (2) Delegation. An applicable entity may contract with third-party service providers,  
2 including insurance carriers, to provide the returns and statements required by this section.

3           SECTION 4. Chapter 42-157 of the General Laws entitled "Rhode Island Health Benefit  
4 Exchange" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

5           **42-157-11. Exemptions from the shared responsibility payment penalty.**

6           (a) Establishment of program. The exchange shall establish a program for determining  
7 whether to grant a certification that an individual is entitled to an exemption from the Shared  
8 Responsibility Payment Penalty set forth in section 44-30-101(c) of the general laws by reason of  
9 religious conscience or hardship.

10           (b) Eligibility determinations. The exchange shall make determinations as to whether to  
11 grant a certification described in subsection (a). The exchange shall notify the individual and the  
12 tax administrator for the Rhode Island Department of Revenue of any such determination in such  
13 a time and manner as the exchange, in consultation with the tax administrator, shall prescribe. In  
14 notifying the tax administrator, the exchange shall adhere to the data privacy and data security  
15 standards adopted in accordance with section 44-30-101(i)(4) of the general laws and 45 C.F.R.  
16 155.260. The exchange shall only be required to notify the tax administrator to the extent that the  
17 exchange determines such disclosure is permitted under 45 C.F.R. 155.260.

18           (c) Appeals. Any person aggrieved by the exchange's determination of eligibility for an  
19 exemption under this section has the right to an appeal in accordance with the procedures contained  
20 within chapter 35 of title 42.

21           **42-157-12. Special enrollment period for qualified individuals assessed a shared**  
22 **responsibility payment penalty.**

23           (a) Definitions. The following definition shall apply for purposes of this section:

24           (1) "Special enrollment period" means a period during which a qualified individual who is  
25 assessed a penalty in accordance with section 44-30-101 may enroll in a qualified health plan  
26 through the exchange outside of the annual open enrollment period.

27           (b) In the case of a qualified individual who is assessed a shared responsibility payment in  
28 accordance with section 44-30-101 of the general laws and who is not enrolled in a qualified health  
29 plan, the exchange must provide a special enrollment period consistent with this section and the  
30 Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), as amended by the  
31 Federal Care and Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152), and any amendments to, or  
32 regulations or guidance issued under, those acts.

33           (c) Effective Date. The exchange must ensure that coverage is effective for a qualified  
34 individual who is eligible for a special enrollment period under this section on the first day of the

1 month after the qualified individual completes enrollment in a qualified health plan through the  
2 exchange.

3 (d) Availability and length of special enrollment period. A qualified individual has sixty  
4 (60) days from the date he or she is assessed a penalty in accordance with section 44-30-101 of the  
5 general laws to complete enrollment in a qualified health plan through the exchange. The date of  
6 assessment shall be determined in accordance with section 44-30-82 of the general laws.

7 **42-157-13. Outreach to Rhode Island residents and individuals assessed a shared**  
8 **responsibility payment penalty.**

9 Outreach. The exchange, in consultation with the Office of the Health Insurance  
10 Commissioner and the Division of Taxation, is authorized to engage in coordinated outreach efforts  
11 to educate Rhode Island residents about the importance of health insurance coverage, their  
12 responsibilities to maintain minimum essential coverage as defined in section 44-30-101 of the  
13 general laws, the penalties for failure to maintain such coverage, and information on the services  
14 available through the exchange.

15 **42-157-14. Regulatory authority.**

16 (a) Regulatory Authority. The exchange may promulgate regulations as necessary to carry  
17 out the purposes of this chapter.

18 SECTION 5. Sections 42-157.1-1 and 42-157.1-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-157.1  
19 entitled "Rhode Island Market Stability and Reinsurance Act" are hereby amended to read as  
20 follows:

21 **42-157.1-1. Short title and purpose.**

22 (a) This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Rhode Island Market Stability  
23 and Reinsurance Act."

24 (b) The purpose of this chapter is to authorize the director to create the Rhode Island  
25 reinsurance program to stabilize health insurance rates and premiums in the individual market and  
26 provide greater financial certainty to consumers of health insurance in this state.

27 ~~(c) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as obligating the state to appropriate funds or~~  
28 ~~make payments to carriers.~~

29 **42-157.1-5. Establishment of program fund.**

30 (a) ~~A fund shall be~~ The Health Insurance Market Integrity Fund is hereby established to  
31 provide funding for the operation and administration of the program in carrying out the purposes  
32 of the program under this chapter.

33 (b) The director is authorized to administer the fund.

34 (c) The fund shall consist of:

1 (1) Any pass-through funds received from the federal government under a waiver approved  
2 under 42 U.S.C. § 18052;

3 (2) Any funds designated by the federal government to provide reinsurance to carriers that  
4 offer individual health benefit plans in the state;

5 (3) Any funds designated by the state to provide reinsurance to carriers that offer individual  
6 health benefit plans in the state; and

7 (4) Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the fund.

8 ~~(d) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as obligating the state to appropriate funds  
9 or make payments to carriers.~~

10 (d) A restricted receipt account shall be established for the fund which may be used for the  
11 purposes set forth in this section and shall be exempt from the indirect cost recovery provisions of  
12 section 35-4-27 of the general laws.

13 (e) Monies in the fund shall be used to provide reinsurance to health insurance carriers as  
14 set forth in this chapter and its implementing regulations, and to support the personnel costs,  
15 operating costs and capital expenditures of the exchange and the division of taxation that are  
16 necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter, sections 44-30-101 through 44-30-102 and  
17 sections 42-157-11 through 42-157-14 of the general laws.

18 (f) Any excess monies remaining in the fund, not including any monies received from the  
19 federal government pursuant to paragraphs (1) or (2) and after making the payments required by  
20 subsection (f), may be used for preventative health care programs for vulnerable populations in  
21 consultation with the executive office of health and human services.

22 **42-157.1-7. Program contingent on federal waiver and appropriation of state funding.**

23 If the state innovation waiver request in § 42-157.1-6 is not approved, the director shall not  
24 implement the program or provide reinsurance payments to eligible carriers.

25 SECTION 6. This article shall take effect upon passage.