

2021 -- H 6236

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REQUIRE LICENSED NURSING FACILITIES TO REPORT ON THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF RESIDENTS AND STAFF RECEIVING COVID-19 VACCINATIONS DURING THE DECLARED FEDERAL AND STATE HEALTH EMERGENCY (AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER IF COVID-19 OUTBREAKS OCCUR)

Introduced By: Representatives Casimiro, Vella-Wilkinson, Ackerman, Kazarian, Kennedy, Fenton-Fung, and Noret

Date Introduced: April 14, 2021

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

1 WHEREAS, The global COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic has resulted in 2534
2 deaths in Rhode Island and is the leading cause of death in 2020; and

3 WHEREAS, COVID-19 has severely impacted residents and employees of Rhode Island
4 nursing facilities; and

5 WHEREAS, Nursing home residents comprise 56% of all COVID-19 related fatalities in
6 Rhode Island, and

7 WHEREAS, The Federal Drug Administration has authorized three vaccines for
8 emergency use which can significantly reduce COVID-19 infections; and

9 WHEREAS, Vaccination appears to be the best medical prevention method for COVID-
10 19 infections which lead to hospitalization and deaths; and

11 WHEREAS, The state has entered into a partnership with pharmacy companies including
12 CVS and Walgreens to provide Covid-19 vaccinations to all Rhode Island nursing home residents
13 and employees; and

14 WHEREAS, The administration of the COVID-19 vaccine in nursing homes by the
15 Pharmacy Partnership has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of Covid-19 cases and
16 deaths in nursing homes; and

17 WHEREAS, COVID-19 infections can be unknowingly spread by asymptomatic
18 individuals and research has found the proportion of transmission from individuals who never

1 have COVID-19 symptoms was estimated to account for more than half of all transmission; and

2 WHEREAS, It is the interest of the state to monitor the acceptance and administration of
3 COVID-19 vaccinations among nursing home residents and staff to avoid further outbreaks; now,
4 therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the state of Rhode Island hereby
6 directs the Rhode Island Department of Health to require licensed nursing facilities to report on
7 the number and percent of residents and staff receiving COVID-19 vaccinations during the
8 declared federal and state health emergency (and annually thereafter if COVID-19 outbreaks
9 occur); and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
11 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Director Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH,
12 Rhode Island Department of Health.

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