

2022 -- H 7792

LC005109

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH -- RHODE ISLAND TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAM

Introduced By: Representative Jacquelyn M. Baginski

Date Introduced: March 03, 2022

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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

3 **23-1-59. Tobacco control program.**

4 (a) Purpose. To prevent tobacco related diseases and diminish tobacco use, the department
5 of health shall implement a tobacco control program that incorporates strategies aligned with the
6 federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Best Practices for Comprehensive
7 Tobacco Control Programs, such as health education, enforcement, and intervention and behavioral
8 change programs at the state level, in the community, in schools, and other non-school settings.

9 (b) Progress reducing tobacco use. The department shall conduct statewide surveillance of
10 tobacco related behaviors, knowledge, attitudes, and periodically evaluate the progress of the
11 department's tobacco control programs, in reducing tobacco use. Benchmark rates could include:
12 the adult smoking prevalence rate from the 2020 benchmark rate of thirteen and a half percent
13 (13.5%), youth tobacco use rate from the 2019 benchmark rate of thirty-three and one-third percent
14 (33.3%) and youth e-cigarette rate from the 2019 thirty and one-tenth percent (30.1%);

15 (c) Information campaign. The department shall conduct an ongoing public awareness of
16 tobacco related diseases program, by developing an information campaign using a variety of media
17 approaches. Any media campaign funded under the tobacco control program shall stress the
18 importance of both preventing the initiation of tobacco use and quitting tobacco use and shall be

1 based on professional market research and surveys, necessary to determine the most effective
2 method of diminishing tobacco use among specified target population and/or demonstrated
3 effectiveness campaigns used in other states;

4 (d) Program grant. The department shall award and administer grants for projects directed
5 at preventing and reducing the use of tobacco and tobacco related diseases. The purpose of the grant
6 program is to conduct health education and promotion activities and tobacco cessation and
7 enforcement programs, designed to reduce the number of people beginning to use tobacco,
8 continuing to use tobacco, or developing tobacco related diseases. In awarding grants, the
9 department shall select a variety of projects and grantees, consider the current availability of similar
10 services and the need to target resources to programs serving populations at high risk of starting
11 tobacco use or developing tobacco related diseases.

12 (e) Evaluation. This department shall evaluate and assess efficacy for each component of
13 the Rhode Island tobacco control program. This evaluation shall be submitted annually to the
14 general assembly and the director of the department of health.

15 (f)(1) Appropriation. Commencing with fiscal years beginning on and after July 1, 2022,
16 an amount equal to the greater of:

17 (i) Five percent (5%) of the total revenues collected annually from chapter 20 of title 44
18 the ("cigarette and other tobacco products tax") and chapter 20.2 of title 44 the ("little cigar tax");
19 or

20 (ii) Four million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$4,750,000), with incremental
21 increases over time to meet the Centers for Disease Control recommended funding level for tobacco
22 control and prevention in Rhode Island;

23 (2) The amounts referenced in this section shall be directed to the department of health to
24 fund tobacco control initiatives and implement evidence-based tobacco control programs that align
25 with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Best Practices for Comprehensive
26 Tobacco Control Programs and that include the goals of preventing youth initiation of tobacco
27 usage, reducing exposure to secondhand smoke, promotion of cessation. The funding shall be spent
28 in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Best Practices for
29 Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs.

30 SECTION 2. 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 -- DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH -- RHODE
ISLAND TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAM

1 This act would establish a tobacco control program to fund tobacco control initiatives and
2 implement evidence-based programs that align with the federal Centers for Disease Control and
3 best practices.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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