

2016 -- H 7257

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

A N A C T

RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- SANITATION IN FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

Introduced By: Representatives Lima, Palangio, Maldonado, Fogarty, and Shekarchi

Date Introduced: January 20, 2016

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 21-27 of the General Laws entitled "Sanitation in Food
2 Establishments" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **21-27-12. Outdoor dining -- Dogs permitted. --** (a) A restaurant with an outdoor dining
4 area may allow a patron's dog to accompany the patron in the outdoor dining area during the
5 hours designated by the owner of the restaurant.

6 (b) The owner of a restaurant:

7 (1) Shall determine the location and the amount of space in the outdoor dining area
8 designated for a patron accompanied by a dog;

9 (2) May establish limits on the size and type of dogs and any other limitations relating to
10 dogs that may accompany a patron into the outdoor dining area of a restaurant;

11 (3) May deny entry to the restaurant or eject from the restaurant any patron accompanied
12 by a dog at the discretion of the owner; and

13 (4) Shall place on permanent display a written notice that is in a typeface that is large
14 enough to be easily legible to the average person and that is in a location that is plainly visible to
15 the patrons of the restaurant notifying the patrons of the policy of the restaurant allowing dogs in
16 the outdoor dining area.

17 (c) A patron accompanied by a dog:

18 (1) Shall not allow the dog to travel through an indoor space of a restaurant to enter or
19 exit an outdoor dining area;

- 1 (2) Shall keep the dog on a leash at all times with the patron at the table at which the
2 patron is seated;
- 3 (3) Shall not leave the dog unattended at any time in the restaurant;
- 4 (4) Shall be an adult who is responsible for the behavior of the dog; and
- 5 (5) Shall be liable for any damages caused by the dog to the restaurant or any other
6 patron of the restaurant.
- 7 (d) This section shall not affect the right of an individual to use a service animal as
8 provided by the Rhode Island general laws.

9 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- SANITATION IN FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

- 1 This act would permit dogs in outdoor dining areas of restaurants under certain
2 circumstances. The act would not affect the right of an individual to use a service animal.
3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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