

2010 -- H 7341

=====
LC00765
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- WOMEN'S CARDIOVASCULAR SCREENING
AND RISK REDUCTION PILOT PROGRAM

Introduced By: Representatives Giannini, E Coderre, Lima, Ruggiero, and Naughton

Date Introduced: February 03, 2010

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 WHEREAS, Heart disease, stroke and other forms of cardiovascular disease are the
2 number one cause of death for women each year; and

3 WHEREAS, Cardiovascular disease kills more women annually than the next five (5)
4 leading causes of death combined, which includes all forms of cancer; and

5 WHEREAS, Despite the statistics, many patients and health care providers alike tend to
6 think of heart disease as a disease that primarily afflicts men; and

7 WHEREAS, In February 2004, the American Heart Association began the vigorous "Go
8 Red for Women" public awareness campaign and a survey conducted in 2007 by the American
9 Heart Association found that forty-three percent (43%) of women are still not aware that heart
10 disease is the leading cause of death among women; and

11 WHEREAS, The WISEWOMEN program, administered by the Centers for Disease
12 Control and Prevention, provides low-income, underinsured, or uninsured women between forty
13 (40) and sixty-four (64) years of age with chronic disease risk factor screening, lifestyle
14 intervention, and referral services in an effort to prevent cardiovascular disease and promote
15 healthy lifestyles; and

16 WHEREAS, WISEWOMEN programs provide standard preventive services, including
17 blood pressure and cholesterol testing and lifestyle programs targeting poor nutrition, physical
18 inactivity, and smoking; and

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island is currently not participating in the WISEWOMEN program
2 due to lack of federal funding; and

3 WHEREAS, The best chance for women in this state to reduce their mortality rates due to
4 cardiovascular disease is through education and prevention.

5 SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby
6 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

7 CHAPTER 84

8 WOMEN'S CARDIOVASCULAR SCREENING AND RISK REDUCTION PILOT PROGRAM

9 **23-84-1. Women's cardiovascular screening and risk reduction pilot program. – (a)**
10 The department of health (hereinafter, "the department") shall develop a cardiovascular disease
11 screening and lifestyle intervention pilot program in Rhode Island's six (6) core cities for low-
12 income, underinsured and uninsured women between forty (40) and sixty-four (64) years of age,
13 inclusive, at risk for heart disease, diabetes and stroke, namely Pawtucket, Providence,
14 Woonsocket, Newport, West Warwick and Central Falls.

15 (b) The department shall develop the program based on the federal WISEWOMEN
16 program administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The pilot program
17 shall employ specified measures to gauge the impact and outcome of the program. These
18 measures shall include the number of women served, the number who receive lifestyle
19 interventions, the number of follow-up visits per woman, an evaluation of the use of progress
20 markers to reduce risk factors, and a research and evaluation component.

21 (c) The department shall prepare an annual report and submit it to the legislature by
22 January 31 of each year. The annual report shall compare the cardiovascular health of women in
23 the pilot program to available data on the cardiovascular health of women nationally. The report
24 shall include a fiscal analysis and a recommendation outlining the benefits and costs of expanding
25 the pilot program throughout the state after the program has been in existence for three (3) years.
26 The pilot program shall expire July 1, 2013.

27 SECTION 2. Appropriation. Sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) each year is hereby
28 appropriated for fiscal years 2011, 2012 and 2013 from the general fund to the director of health
29 for the Women's Cardiovascular Screening and Risk Reduction Pilot Program established
30 pursuant to chapter 23-84 of the State of Rhode Island general laws.

31 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====
LC00765
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- WOMEN'S CARDIOVASCULAR SCREENING
AND RISK REDUCTION PILOT PROGRAM

- 1 This act would establish a women's cardiovascular screening and risk reduction pilot
- 2 program.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC00765
=====