

2024 -- H 7736

LC005289

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- ALCOHOLISM

Introduced By: Representatives Boylan, Edwards, McGaw, Speakman, Ackerman,  
Cotter, Donovan, Potter, Kislak, and Fogarty

Date Introduced: February 28, 2024

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-1.10-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-1.10 entitled

2 "Alcoholism" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-1.10-4. Duties of department.**

4 The department shall:

5 (1) Develop, encourage, and foster statewide, regional, and local plans and programs for  
6 the prevention of alcoholism and treatment of alcoholics and intoxicated persons in cooperation  
7 with public and private agencies, organizations, and individuals and provide technical assistance  
8 and consultation services for these purposes;

9 (2) Coordinate the efforts and enlist the assistance of all public and private agencies,  
10 organizations, and individuals interested in prevention of alcoholism and treatment of alcoholics  
11 and intoxicated persons;

12 (3) Cooperate with the department of corrections and board of parole in establishing and  
13 conducting programs to provide treatment for alcoholics and intoxicated persons in or on parole  
14 from penal institutions;

15 (4) Cooperate with the board of regents for elementary and secondary education, board of  
16 governors for higher education, schools, police departments, courts, and other public and private  
17 agencies, organizations, and individuals in establishing programs for the prevention of alcoholism  
18 and treatment of alcoholics and intoxicated persons, and preparing curriculum materials for use at  
19 all levels of school education;

- 1 (5) Prepare, publish, evaluate, and disseminate educational material dealing with the nature  
2 and effects of alcohol;
- 3 (6) Develop and implement, as an integral part of treatment programs, an educational  
4 program for use in the treatment of alcoholics and intoxicated persons, which program shall include  
5 the dissemination of information concerning the nature and effects of alcohol;
- 6 (7) Organize and foster training programs for all persons engaged in treatment of alcoholics  
7 and intoxicated persons;
- 8 (8) Sponsor and encourage research into the causes and nature of alcoholism and treatment  
9 of alcoholics and intoxicated persons, and serve as a clearing house for information relating to  
10 alcoholism;
- 11 (9) Specify uniform methods for keeping statistical information by public and private  
12 agencies, organizations, and individuals, and collect and make available relevant statistical  
13 information, including number of persons treated, frequency of admission and readmission, and  
14 frequency and duration of treatment;
- 15 (10) Advise the governor in the preparation of a comprehensive plan for treatment of  
16 alcoholics and intoxicated persons;
- 17 (11) Review all state health, welfare, and treatment plans to be submitted for federal  
18 funding under federal legislation, and advise the governor on provisions to be included relating to  
19 alcoholism and intoxicated persons;
- 20 (12) Assist in the development of, and cooperate with, alcohol education and treatment  
21 programs for employees of state and local governments and businesses and industries in the state;
- 22 (13) Utilize the support and assistance of interested persons in the community, particularly  
23 recovered alcoholics, to encourage alcoholics to voluntarily undergo treatment;
- 24 (14) Cooperate with the department of transportation and related agencies both state and  
25 local in establishing and conducting programs designed to deal with the problem of persons  
26 operating motor vehicles while intoxicated;
- 27 (15) Encourage general hospitals and other appropriate health facilities to admit without  
28 discrimination alcoholics and intoxicated persons and to provide them with adequate and  
29 appropriate treatment;
- 30 (16) Encourage all health and disability insurance programs to include alcoholism as a  
31 covered illness;
- 32 (17) Submit to the governor an annual report covering the activities of the department; and
- 33 (18) Establish alcohol and substance abuse prevention programs for students in  
34 kindergarten through grade twelve (12), in accordance with § 35-4-18. The director shall make an

1 annual report to the governor and the general assembly on the administration of the program and  
2 shall submit to the governor and the general assembly the results of an independent evaluation of  
3 the alcohol and substance abuse prevention program established in accordance with this section.

4 This evaluation shall address the following areas:

- 5 (i) Program development;
- 6 (ii) Implementation;
- 7 (iii) Impact; ~~and~~
- 8 (iv) Recommendations for future needs; and

9 (19) The department, shall coordinate with the Rhode Island department of health and any  
10 other appropriate public or private agencies, organizations, or individuals to propose revisions and  
11 updates to this chapter. This shall include, but not be limited to, updates or revisions to statutory  
12 language, definitions, and evidence-based best practices. The department shall report the proposed  
13 revisions and updates, described in this subsection, to the general assembly and members of the  
14 senate committee on health & human services and the house committee on health, education and  
15 welfare on or before January 1, 2025.

16 SECTION 2. Section 23-10.1-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-10.1 entitled  
17 "Emergency Commitment for Drug Intoxication" is hereby amended to read as follows:

18 **23-10.1-3. General powers and duties.**

19 (a) The department is charged with the execution of the laws relating to the emergency  
20 admission and custody of drug intoxicated individuals.

21 (b) The department may adopt rules and regulations that it may deem necessary to carry  
22 out the provisions of this chapter to insure the safety and promote the welfare of individuals  
23 committed to its custody pursuant to this chapter.

24 (c) The department, shall coordinate with the Rhode Island department of health and any  
25 other appropriate public or private agencies, organizations, or individuals to propose revisions and  
26 updates to this chapter. This shall include, but not be limited to, updates or revisions to statutory  
27 language, definitions, and evidence-based best practices. The department shall report the proposed  
28 revisions and updates, described in this subsection, to the general assembly and members of the  
29 senate committee on health & human services and the house committee on health, education and  
30 welfare on or before January 1, 2025.

31 SECTION 3. 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 -- ALCOHOLISM

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1           This act would require the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities  
2   and hospitals to coordinate with the department of health to propose revisions to sections of the  
3   general laws relating to alcoholism and emergency commitment for drug intoxication, including  
4   updates and revisions of statutory language and evidence-based best practices.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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