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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PUBLIC HEALTH AND WORKPLACE SAFETY  
ACT

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Murray, Felag, Valverde, Kallman, DiMario, Gu,  
Vargas, McKenney, and Urso

Date Introduced: February 07, 2025

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-20.10-6.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-20.10 entitled  
2 "Public Health and Workplace Safety Act" is hereby repealed.

3 ~~**23-20.10-6.1. Pari-mutual facilities:**~~

4 ~~(a) Any pari-mutual facility established under chapter 3.1 or 7 of title 41 or any pari-mutual~~  
5 ~~licensee under chapter 61.2 of title 42 shall provide designated smoking and nonsmoking gaming~~  
6 ~~areas in their facilities.~~

7 ~~(b) The designated nonsmoking gaming area shall be physically separated from any~~  
8 ~~smoking area and shall be required to have separate and distinct ventilation systems so as to prohibit~~  
9 ~~the migration of smoke into the nonsmoking area.~~

10 ~~(c) Except as provided for in paragraph (d), any bar or restaurant located in a pari-mutual~~  
11 ~~facility shall be nonsmoking and be physically separate from any smoking area and shall have a~~  
12 ~~separate ventilation system so as to prohibit the migration of smoke into the restaurant.~~

13 ~~(d) The prohibitions of this chapter shall not apply to any bar which is presently in~~  
14 ~~existence, located in, and not physically separated from a designated smoking area.~~

15 ~~(e) Any licensee of a pari-mutual facility shall promulgate rules and regulations to allow~~  
16 ~~their employees the right to work in a smoke-free environment. These rules shall include, but not~~  
17 ~~be limited to, provisions on the right to opt-out of working in a smoking area and a provision that~~  
18 ~~no adverse impact or action could take place against the employee if they request to opt-out of a~~

1 ~~smoking area. The rules promulgated by the licensee shall be filed with the lottery commission~~  
2 ~~with copies to the general assembly and the department of health no later than March 1, 2005.~~

3 ~~(f) Commencing January 1, 2005, any pari mutual licensee shall file an annual report with~~  
4 ~~the lottery commission with copies to the general assembly and department of health detailing~~  
5 ~~smoke mitigation efforts undertaken by the licensee during the previous year and plans for the~~  
6 ~~upcoming year. The licensee shall be required to monitor air quality with current appropriate~~  
7 ~~technology. A professional HVAC engineer (or other appropriate professional) shall certify the~~  
8 ~~monitoring process and results. The results of the monitoring process shall be included in the annual~~  
9 ~~report.~~

10 ~~(g) Any enactment relating to the provisions of this section on pari mutual facilities or~~  
11 ~~licensees shall be by statute as enacted by the general assembly, provided however that the general~~  
12 ~~assembly may by statute delegate such authority to the cities and towns.~~

13 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 -- PUBLIC HEALTH AND WORKPLACE SAFETY  
ACT

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- 1           This act would repeal the exemption granted to pari mutual facilities and casinos from the
- 2 smoke free workplace requirement contained in the Public Health and Workplace Safety Act.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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