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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - DEPARTMENTS OF STATE  
GOVERNMENT

Introduced By: Senator Ryan W. Pearson

Date Introduced: May 02, 2013

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 42-6 of the General Laws entitled "Departments of State  
2 Government" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **42-6-15. Information sharing among departments; Confidentiality of information. --**

4 (a) Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, and subject to the confidentiality  
5 requirements of this section, the directors of the several departments specified in section 42-6-2  
6 shall be empowered and authorized to enter into memoranda of understanding to share  
7 information among themselves for the effective administration and function of their departments  
8 including, but not limited to, program integrity efforts. Such information shall include  
9 information identifying an individual, including, but not limited to, any record, report, or other  
10 information for the purposes of satisfying a request from another department in order to prevent  
11 or detect waste or fraud, or performing or enforcing any of such departments' requirements or  
12 obligations under the Rhode Island general laws. The information received by any department  
13 pursuant hereto pertaining to an individual shall be held confidential and shall not be open to  
14 public inspection, nor shall it be subject to disclosure pursuant to title 38, chapter 2. Nothing  
15 herein shall prohibit the disclosure of statistics and/or statistical data that does not disclose the  
16 identity of individuals.

17 (b) Any information identifying an individual shared under this section, shall be held  
18 confidential by the director of the receiving department and its employees, agents, and

1 representatives, and shall not be published or be subject to public inspection in any manner,  
2 including pursuant to title 38, chapter 2. Any department director, employee, agent, or  
3 representative guilty of violating the provisions of this section may be punished by a fine of not  
4 more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), imprisonment for not more than five (5) years, or both.

5 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 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - DEPARTMENTS OF STATE  
GOVERNMENT

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1           This act would permit department directors to enter memoranda of understanding  
2 providing for the sharing of information among each other that would improve the effective  
3 administration and function of their departments.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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