

2010 -- S 2545

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN,
YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Introduced By: Senator Michael J. McCaffrey

Date Introduced: February 11, 2010

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 42-72 of the General Laws entitled "Department of Children,
2 Youth, and Families" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **42-72-5.3. Accreditation.** -- (a) The standards set by the Council on Accreditation
4 (COA) are nationally recognized as best practices for protecting and providing services to abused
5 and neglected children.

6 (b) Achieving and maintaining these standards requires a solid commitment from the
7 legislative, executive and judicial branches of government;

8 (c) It is the intent of the general assembly to provide the resources for the department of
9 children, youth and families to meet, achieve and sustain accreditation by the Council on
10 Accreditation (COA);

11 (d) Upon the appropriation of sufficient funds and resources by the general assembly, the
12 department of children, youth and families shall initiate the process for seeking (COA)
13 accreditation no later than July 1, 2011 and shall submit an accreditation plan to the governor, the
14 speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the chairperson of the house
15 committee on health, education and welfare, the chairperson of the senate committee on health
16 and human services, the chairpersons of the finance committees of the house and senate, and to
17 the chairperson of the judiciary committee of the house and senate no later than July 1, 2012. Said
18 plan shall at a minimum include the following:

1 (i) Inputs, including updating staffing requirements, a timetable for achieving those
2 requirements, and any additional costs associated with achieving accreditation;

3 (ii) Outcomes, including an assessment based on statistical and other evidence, of the
4 impact of accreditation on the number of abused and neglected children, the nature of their abuse,
5 and relationships between such children and their families.

6 (e) The general assembly shall appropriate sufficient funds for expenses associated with
7 achieving initial (COA) accreditation and subsequent re-accreditation with said funds being
8 placed in a restricted receipt account to be used solely for this purpose.

9 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 - DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN,
YOUTH AND FAMILIES

1 This act would provide that upon appropriation of sufficient funds and resources by the
2 general assembly the department of children, youth and families initiate the process for seeking
3 (COA) council and accreditation standard by July 1, 2011 and submit an accreditation plan by
4 July 1, 2012.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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