

2009 -- S 0169

LC00955

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2009

A N A C T

RELATING TO SPORTS, RACING AND ATHLETICS -- RHODE ISLAND YOUTH SPORTS
OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

Introduced By: Senators Tassoni, McBurney, Ruggiero, and Ciccone

Date Introduced: February 04, 2009

Referred To: Senate Constitutional & Regulatory Issues

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 41 of the General Laws entitled "SPORTS, RACING, AND
2 ATHLETICS" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 12

4 RHODE ISLAND YOUTH SPORTS OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

5 **41-12-1. Legislative findings.** – The Rhode Island general assembly finds that parents
6 lack a proper outlet to share concerns and objections about youth sports. The general assembly
7 further finds that there is a need for increased transparency and direction within youth sports
8 programs in the state of Rhode Island. Therefore, the general assembly finds that a youth sports
9 oversight council is necessary to increase access and improve quality of youth sports programs in
10 the state of Rhode Island.

11 **41-12-2. Composition of council.** – There shall be a youth sports oversight council
12 consisting of seven (7) members. The governor shall appoint members with the advice and
13 consent of the senate. The governor shall give due consideration to appointing members with the
14 following qualifications: one member shall be from northern Rhode Island; one member shall be
15 from South County; one member shall be from the East Bay; one member shall be from
16 Providence. Members of the council shall receive no compensation for their participation. The
17 council shall elect from among the members a chairperson, vice chairperson and any other
18 officers it deems necessary.

1 **41-12-3. Powers and duties of council.** – (a) It shall be the duty of the council to provide
2 oversight and mediation to any youth sports organization in the state of Rhode Island. If any
3 person has a complaint with the actions of coaches, players, parents or officials during any youth
4 sporting event at any town or state field or facility, the person shall file a complaint with the
5 council.

6 (b) The council shall develop and adopt the process that shall be used to review and
7 address complaints. The council shall develop any forms it deems necessary to fulfill its duties.

8 (c) The council shall meet on a quarterly basis, or upon the request of the chair if a
9 meeting is required sooner.

10 (d) The council shall have the authority to establish and collect fines based on the
11 adopted review process. Said fines shall support the administrative costs of the council.

12 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 SPORTS, RACING AND ATHLETICS -- RHODE ISLAND YOUTH SPORTS
OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

- 1 This act would create a state youth sports oversight council to oversee and mediate youth
- 2 sports organizations.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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