

LC01533/SUB A

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2006**

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- COORDINATED HEALTH PLANNING ACT OF  
2006

Introduced By: Senators C Levesque, and Roberts

Date Introduced: February 14, 2006

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 80

4 RHODE ISLAND COORDINATED HEALTH PLANNING ACT OF 2006

5 **23-80-1. Short title.** – This act shall be known as the "Rhode Island Coordinated Health  
6 Planning Act of 2006."

7 **23-80-2. Legislative findings.** – It is hereby found and declared:

8 (a) The vast majority of Rhode Islanders believe that quality, affordable health care  
9 should be available to all in our state;

10 (b) Our current health care crisis effects all facets of Rhode Island's economy, with a  
11 particular burden on small business owners, young people, and those approaching retirement;

12 (c) A majority of Rhode Islanders believe that the state government has a significant role  
13 to play in solving this health care crisis because of the federal government's lack of commitment  
14 to do so;

15 (d) The current state health care infrastructure is fragmented with an array of state  
16 departments and offices carrying out health care planning, along with a myriad of private efforts,  
17 all with a lack of coordination;

18 (e) Because an essential component of health planning is resource allocation, there is a

1 need to professionalize the health services council and revitalize the certificate of need process;

2 (f) Rhode Island's small size makes us the perfect laboratory to create a unified health  
3 care system, planned and coordinated with a functioning public/private partnership, with broad  
4 representation of all of the health care stakeholders; and

5 (g) The general assembly finds that the people of this state have a fundamental interest in  
6 the establishment of a comprehensive strategic health care planning process and the preparation,  
7 maintenance, and implementation of plans to improve the quality, accessibility, portability, and  
8 affordability of health care in Rhode Island; that the continued growth, viability and development  
9 of the health care infrastructure by the private and public sector requires effective planning by the  
10 state; and that state and local plans and programs must be properly coordinated with the planning  
11 requirements and programs of the federal government.

12 **23-80-3. Establishment of statewide health planning program – An assessment. – (a)**

13 The director of the department of health, in consultation with an advisory committee composed of  
14 representatives of health care consumers, providers and payors, is hereby directed to develop an  
15 assessment of the existing state capacity and authority to perform coordinated statewide health  
16 planning. Said assessment shall include a plan for the development and revision of strategic plans  
17 to improve the quality, accessibility, portability and affordability of the state's health care system,  
18 and a study of an expanded role for the department of health in health care planning, including  
19 capital investment expansion and introduction of technology. This assessment shall be submitted  
20 to the joint legislative committee on health care oversight, the house committee on finance, and  
21 the senate committee on finance, on or before April 1, 2007.

22 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 -- COORDINATED HEALTH PLANNING ACT OF  
2006

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- 1           This act would establish an Office of Coordinated Health Planning and a State Health
- 2 Planning Council.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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Presented by