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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Introduced By: Representatives Ferri, Segal, M Rice, Naughton, and McNamara

Date Introduced: February 11, 2010

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 23-11 of the General Laws entitled "Sexually Transmitted
2 Diseases" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **23-11-20. Expedited partner therapy.** – (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law
4 to the contrary, a physician licensed under chapter 37 of title 5, a physician assistant licensed
5 under chapter 54 of title 5 or a certified registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 34 of
6 title 5 who is authorized to prescribe and dispense prescription drugs, and who diagnoses a
7 sexually transmitted chlamydia or gonorrhea infection in an individual patient, may prescribe
8 prescription drugs to the patient's sexual partner or partners for the treatment of the sexually
9 transmitted chlamydia or gonorrhea infection without an examination of the sexual partner or
10 partners.

11 (b) Neither a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant or certified registered nurse
12 practitioner who, in good faith, prescribes prescription drugs to a patient's sexual partner or
13 partners for the treatment of a sexually transmitted chlamydia or gonorrhea infection in
14 accordance with this section, nor the group or healthcare facility for which they work, shall be
15 subject to civil or criminal liability and shall not be deemed to have engaged in unprofessional
16 conduct.

1 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 - SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

1 This act would permit physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners to prescribe
2 prescription drugs to a patient's sexual partner or partners for the treatment of a sexually
3 transmitted chlamydia or gonorrhea infection, and would limit civil and criminal liability for such
4 acts.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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