

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 211

Approved May 13, 2013

WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Health's Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Program is expected to shut down this fall due to the elimination of its federal funding; and

WHEREAS, Providence was awarded \$3.1 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for fiscal years 2011 through 2014, providing employment for over 50 workers, including city staff, lead inspectors, and 15 contracting firms with an average of at least two employees each, but without the Health Department's data surveillance and analysis, Providence may be unable to demonstrate continued need for this funding; and

WHEREAS, There is no safe level of lead exposure for children, and lead poisoning is known to cause serious, permanent problems ranging from behavioral issues to academic challenges to severe cognitive disabilities; and

WHEREAS, One in five children eligible to enter kindergarten in Providence in 2013 has a history of lead poisoning, and Providence children have historically borne the brunt of Rhode Island's lead poisoning burden; and

WHEREAS, Lead poisoning causes significant and preventable financial costs to taxpayers, including an extra \$17 million for special education services in Rhode Island in 2012 alone; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council; Mayor of Providence, Providence Department of Planning and Development, Providence Law Department, Providence Department of Inspection and Standards, and other City officials are actively engaged in efforts to protect local children from lead poisoning, including the Providence Lead Hazard Reduction Program and the Providence Lead Compliance Initiative; and

WHEREAS, The Health Department's Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Program collects local lead poisoning statistics, which are made available to the public, and coordinates statewide lead poisoning prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, The work of the Health Department's Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Program is critically necessary to ensure that lead poisoned children in Providence and throughout Rhode Island receive immediate help.

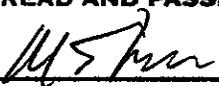
NOW, THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED, That the City Council respectfully urges the Rhode Island House of Representatives to support House Bill 5810 to authorize the allocation of at least \$600,000 to the Health Department's Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, a copy of this resolution be delivered to House Speaker Gordon Fox, Senate President M. Teresa Paiva Weed, House Finance Committee Chair Helio Melo, Senate Finance Committee Chair Daniel DaPonte, the bill's co-sponsors, and all Providence representatives and senators.

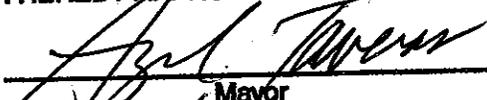
IN CITY COUNCIL

MAY 02 2013

READ AND PASSED

  
PRES.  
  
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

  
Mayor  
Date: 5/13/13

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - LEAD POISONING PREVENTION ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Handy, Williams, Silva, Slater, and Hearn

Date Introduced: February 28, 2013

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 23-24.6-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-24.6 entitled "Lead  
2    Poisoning Prevention Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           23-24.6-5. Environmental lead program. -- (a) There is established within the  
4    department of health an environmental lead program which shall be responsible for creating a  
5    coordinated and comprehensive program for lead poisoning prevention, including screening and  
6    detection, education, lead hazard reduction, and enforcement. The program shall exercise any and  
7    all authorities of the department which may be necessary and appropriate, including but not  
8    limited to promulgating and enforcing regulations, which regulations shall set forth a general  
9    framework for actions to be taken in response to childhood lead poisoning at different blood lead  
10   levels.

11           (b) The department shall develop an educational program regarding environmental lead  
12    exposures and lead poisoning.

13           (c) The department shall promulgate regulations for acceptable environmental lead levels  
14    in dwellings, where a child under the age of six (6) years with environmental intervention blood  
15    lead level or greater resides, and in buildings or properties frequently used by children under the  
16    age of six (6) years, including standards for lead on painted surfaces and surface coatings,  
17    drinking water, household dusts, and soil.

18           (d) The environmental lead program shall be federally funded. However, to the extent  
19    federal funds are not available or insufficient to fund the environmental lead program, the state of

1 Rhode Island shall appropriate no less than six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) per fiscal  
2 year to the department of health for the support and maintenance of the environmental lead  
3 program.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

LC01732

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T  
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - LEAD POISONING PREVENTION ACT

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1           This act would provide that in the event of insufficient federal funds for the  
2 environmental lead program, the state of Rhode Island shall appropriate no less than six hundred  
3 thousand dollars (\$600,000) for support and maintenance of the environmental lead program.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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