

2013 -- S 0662

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, and Walaska

Date Introduced: March 06, 2013

Referred To: Senate Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42-7.3-3.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-7.3 entitled
2 "Department of Public Safety" is hereby repealed.

3 ~~42-7.3-3.1. Workers' compensation investigations unit -- Powers and duties of~~
4 ~~investigators. -- (a) There is established a workers' compensation investigations unit, the purpose~~
5 ~~of which shall be to prevent and detect fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in the expenditure of~~
6 ~~public funds, relating to any and all state programs and operations by agencies, bureaus,~~
7 ~~divisions, sections, departments, offices, commissions, institutions and activities of the State of~~
8 ~~Rhode Island, including those districts, authorities, or political subdivisions created by the general~~
9 ~~assembly or the governor.~~

10 ~~(b) The workers' compensation investigations unit shall be under the jurisdiction of the~~
11 ~~commissioner of public safety/superintendent of the state police, and shall consist of a director~~
12 ~~and investigators, who shall be selected and who shall be specially trained to prevent and~~
13 ~~investigate instances of fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in the expenditure of public funds.~~

14 ~~(c) The director shall be a member of the Rhode Island state police with at least the rank~~
15 ~~of sergeant, and shall remain on the personnel rolls of the Rhode Island state police, with the~~
16 ~~same salary and benefits schedule, and shall retain all powers of a member of the Rhode Island~~
17 ~~state police of that rank. The director, with the approval of the superintendent, shall have the~~
18 ~~authority to appoint, the investigators and staff of the office.~~

1 ~~(d) The director and the investigators shall have the following powers:~~

2 ~~(1) To arrest independently or in conjunction with state or federal law enforcement~~
3 ~~agencies;~~

4 ~~(2) To apply for and execute search warrants; and~~

5 ~~(3) To serve civil and criminal process.~~

6 ~~(e) No person shall be appointed as an investigator in the office unless he or she has~~
7 ~~successfully completed the basic course of instruction for police officers at the Providence Police~~
8 ~~Training Academy, the Rhode Island Municipal Police Training Academy, or the Rhode Island~~
9 ~~State Police Training Academy, and has at least three (3) years of active law enforcement~~
10 ~~experience, or has served as a member of the United States Marshal's Service or as a special agent~~
11 ~~of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a criminal law enforcement agency of the United States~~
12 ~~Department of Justice, the United States Department of State, the United States Department of the~~
13 ~~Treasury or the United States Postal Inspection Service and has at least three (3) years of active~~
14 ~~law enforcement experience, or has been certified as a police officer by the duly constituted state~~
15 ~~commission on police officer standards and training of another state, and has at least three (3)~~
16 ~~years of active law enforcement experience. Prior to the appointment of any qualified individual,~~
17 ~~a background examination shall be conducted utilizing federal, state and local law enforcement~~
18 ~~agencies, bureau of criminal identification, national crime information center, and any and all~~
19 ~~relevant records existing within the federal and state court systems.~~

20 ~~(f) The director and investigators shall be indemnified to the extent provided under~~
21 ~~section 9-31-12 for acts committed within the scope of their employment.~~

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 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
SAFETY

- 1 This act would dissolve the workers' compensation investigation unit as it relates to the
- 2 Rhode Island State Police.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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