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## 2019 RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC LAWS

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## 2019 RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC LAWS

**2019 R.I. Pub. Laws ch. 015, 016.** An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations—Arbitration—Continuance of Contractual Provisions. This Act was amended so that while parties are engaged in negotiations or dispute resolution, all terms and conditions in the most recent collective bargaining agreement remain in effect.

**2019 R.I. Pub. Laws ch. 027.** An Act Relating to Health and Safety—The Reproductive Privacy Act. This Act prohibits any state agency or state political subdivision from restricting an individual from continuing or terminating an individual's pregnancy prior to fetal viability, or interfering with an individual's decision to continue or terminate the individual's pregnancy after fetal viability when necessary to preserve the health or life of that individual.

**2019 R.I. Pub. Laws ch. 047, 078.** An Act Relating to Commercial Law—Deceptive Trade Practices. This Act prohibits all retail establishments offering goods or services for sale to discriminate against a prospective customer by requiring the use of credit for purchase of said goods or services. All retail establishments must accept legal tender currency when offered as payment. This Act does not apply to online purchases or sales made over the internet.

**2019 R.I. Pub. Laws ch. 049, 075.** An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles—Rhode Island Uniform Commercial Driver's License Act. This Act was amended to list criteria for the commercial driver's license skills test and to state that an individual who successfully completes one portion of the test, but fails another portion, need not retake the segments of the test the individual already passed if the applicant retakes the exam.

**2019 R.I. Pub. Laws ch. 063, 068.** An Act Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure—Courts—Domestic Assault. This Act was amended to require police officers to notify domestic assault victims, in writing and verbally, that they can seek a restraining order from a court if they had been in “substantive dating or engagement” relationship with their attacker sometime in the past year; the appropriate court for adult victims is state district court, the appropriate court for victims under the age of eighteen is family court. The Act originally required officers to state the relationship between the attacker and the victim needed to be within the past six months.

**2019 R.I. Pub. Laws ch. 082, 083.** An Act Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure—Procedure Generally—Causes of Action. This Act extends the statute of limitations for sexual abuse claims from seven years following the alleged act to thirty-five years, with the time limit being tolled for a child until the child reaches eighteen years of age. Furthermore, the statute of limitations for all claims brought against a non-perpetrator defendant for negligent supervision of a person that sexually abused a minor or for causing or contributing to childhood sexual abuse by another through wrongful conduct, neglect or default in supervision, hiring, employment, training, monitoring, or failure to report and/or concealment of the sexual abuse is also extended to up to thirty-five years following the act or acts alleged to have caused such injuries.

**2019 R.I. Pub. Laws ch. 105, 154.** An Act Relating to Food and Drugs—Uniform Controlled Substances Act. This Act was amended to prohibit medical practitioners from prescribing more than twenty doses of any opiate to a minor. Furthermore, the Act requires that a practitioner discuss the risks associated with opiate use and the reasons why the prescription is necessary with the parents or guardians of the minor patient prior to prescribing the opiate for treatment. The practitioner must document this discussion with the parents or guardians in the minor patient’s medical record.

**2019 R.I. Pub. Laws ch. 107, 142.** An Act Relating to Health and Safety—Abuse in Health Care Facilities. This Act was

amended to include physician assistants and probation officers to the list of individuals who must, within twenty-four hours, issue a report to the director of the Department of Health if they have cause to believe that a patient or resident in a facility has been abused, mistreated, or neglected. The amendment also adds the name of the victim's caregiver and any medical treatment being received that is immediately required to the list of information that reporters must provide to the Department of Health when issuing a report.

**2019 R.I. Pub. Laws ch. 113, 124.** An Act Relating to Probate Practice and Procedure—Supported Decision-Making Act. This Act proclaims that all adults are presumed to be capable of managing their affairs and to have legal capacity. Furthermore, the manner in which an adult communicates with others cannot be grounds for deciding that the adult is incapable of managing his or her affairs.

**2019 R.I. Pub. Laws ch. 121, 149.** An Act Relating to Insurance—Life Insurance Policies and Reserves. This Act was amended so that no life insurance company that does business in Rhode Island can deny the application of an individual seeking coverage for any life insurance policy solely on the basis that the applicant has a prescription to carry or possess the drug naloxone.

**2019 R.I. Pub. Laws ch. 176, 254.** An Act Relating to Education—Curriculum. This Act was amended so that specific information about how mixing opioids and alcohol can cause accidental death is included in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's substance-abuse and suicide prevention programs.

**2019 R.I. Pub. Laws ch. 180, 242.** An Act Relating to Animals and Animal Husbandry—Seizure of Animals Being Cruelly Treated. This Act allows the Rhode Island state veterinarian, the general/special agent of the RI Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RISPCA), or any duly sworn and authorized state or municipal law enforcement officer to lawfully take possession of any animal found abandoned, neglected, or "hazardously accumulated," or, in the opinion of that veterinarian, agent, or officer, aged, maimed, disabled, lame, sick, diseased,

injured, cruelly treated, or unfit to perform the labor it is performing. The Act requires that the individual that takes possession of the animal leave notice of the seizure on the property where the animal was seized within twenty-four hours and the animal's owner can petition the district court for return of the animal.

**2019 R.I. Pub. Laws ch. 185, 256.** An Act Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure—Procedure Generally. This Act was amended so that in all actions brought for personal injuries, the fact that the danger or defect was open and obvious will not serve as a bar on recovery. Instead, just as when the person injured may not have been in the exercise of due care, the damages shall be diminished by the finder of fact in proportion to the amount of negligence attributable to the person injured, or the owner of the property or the person having control over the property. The “open and obvious” amendment only applies to personal injuries that occur after the passage of the Act.

**2019 R.I. Pub. Laws ch. 190, 241.** An Act Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure—Procedure Generally. This Act, known as the “Uniform Interstate Depositions and Discovery Act,” establishes the procedure by which litigants in other states may seek a subpoena within Rhode Island. To obtain a subpoena under the Act, a party must submit the subpoena to a clerk of the superior court in which discovery is sought to be conducted in this state, or a lawyer who is a member in good standing of the bar of this state. These subpoenas must be served in compliance with the Rhode Island Superior Court Rules of Civil Procedure.

**2019 R.I. Pub. Laws ch. 204, 268.** An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations—Noncompetition Agreement Act. This Act makes a noncompetition agreement unenforceable against certain workers, including undergraduate or graduate students who participate in an internship or short-term employment with an employer, employees age eighteen or younger, or employees who make less than 250% of the federal poverty level.