

Pbn.com: "Recovery high school legislation awaits signature"

By Richard Asinof

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Recovery high school legislation awaits signature

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PROVIDENCE – Legislation to open Rhode Island’s first recovery high school – where students who have substance abuse problems can attend – was one of a flurry of health care bills enacted by the General Assembly at the end of the session.

The legislation will be transmitted to Gov. Lincoln D. Chafee in the next few days, which he is expected to sign, according to Ian Lang, chief strategy officer of The Providence Center, in a statement issued on July 6.

The legislation was sponsored by Rep. Frank G. Ferri, D-Warwick, and Sen. John J. Tassoni Jr., D-Smithfield.

“The overwhelming vote to address the problem of addiction for Rhode Island children is gratifying. We look forward to seeing the first Recovery High School in Rhode Island open its doors in the near future,” said Dale K. Klatzker, president and CEO of The Providence Center.

The recovery high school in Rhode Island, which is based on a national model, will be the 25th one operating in nine states across the nation.

In addition, the General Assembly passed legislation to require health insurance coverage for treatment of autism and a pilot program to screen at-risk women in urban communities for cardiovascular disease.

But the General Assembly concluded its session without enacting the enabling legislation to create a R.I. Health Insurance Benefits Exchange, one of the key features of the state’s health care reform efforts.

Its failure was blamed on pro-life language added to the Senate version of the bill, according to House Speaker Gordon D. Fox. Senate President M. Teresa Paiva Weed said that the issue would be addressed during the legislature’s special session in October.