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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2004

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A N A C T

RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GIFT CERTIFICATES

Introduced By: Representatives Gallison, Giannini, Lewiss, Shavers, and Aubin

Date Introduced: January 08, 2004

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 6-13-12 of the General Laws in Chapter 6-13 entitled "Unfair Sales
2 Practices" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **6-13-12. Sales of gift certificates.** -- Any person, firm, or corporation that sells gift
4 certificates for any product or merchandise sold by the person, firm, or corporation, shall be
5 required to record the sales and keep an accurate and complete record of each of these gift
6 certificates for a period of two (2) years from the date of the sale. The record shall include the
7 date of sale, the full value of the certificate, the identification number assigned by the retailer to
8 the certificate, and the state in which the sale of the certificate took place. The retailer shall
9 further be required to give to the purchaser of gift certificates exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00) a
10 written and numbered receipt evidencing the sale of the certificate. It shall be unlawful ~~for any~~
11 ~~restaurant or eating establishment of any kind~~ to charge a service fee of any kind with respect to
12 the redemption of the certificate or to limit the time for the redemption of a gift certificate or to
13 place an expiration date upon the gift certificate. Any person, firm, or corporation that shall
14 violate the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than two hundred
15 dollars (\$200). Due to the unlimited redemption period, the division of taxation shall not escheat
16 the funds paid for those unredeemed gift certificates.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would make unlawful the charging of a service fee for redemption of a gift
2 certificate.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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