

**2023 -- H 5043 SUBSTITUTE A**

LC000404/SUB A/3

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023**

**A N A C T**

**RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- INSURANCE BENEFITS**

Introduced By: Representatives Hull, Speakman, Morales, Shallcross Smith, O'Brien,  
Fellela, Tanzi, Fogarty, Serpa, and Messier

Date Introduced: January 11, 2023

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 36-12-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 36-12 entitled "Insurance  
2 Benefits" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **36-12-2. Hospital care and surgical-medical service benefits.**

4           (a) Employees of the state of Rhode Island shall receive, in addition to wages, salaries, and  
5 any other remuneration or benefits, hospital care and surgical-medical services, rights, and benefits  
6 purchased by the director of administration pursuant to § 36-12-6, with the specific condition that  
7 the benefits and services provided by the carrier(s) will be substantially equivalent to those set forth  
8 in any collective bargaining agreement(s) executed between the state of Rhode Island and  
9 authorized representatives of the unions representing state employees or the health care coverage  
10 presently being provided.

11           (b) The state will work diligently with leadership of organized labor in order to ensure  
12 competitive, cost effective health care services for all employees of the state who may be eligible  
13 for those benefits.

14           (c) Any new plan must accept pre-existing conditions for those individuals who will be  
15 covered by the new policy.

16           (d) Part-time employees whose work week is less than twenty (20) hours a week may  
17 purchase the benefits set forth above. The employees shall pay the same rate for the benefits as the  
18 group rate paid by the state for the benefits. Payments for the benefits may be deducted in  
19 accordance with the provisions of § 36-12-3.

1           (e) Adjunct faculty members shall be eligible for hospital care and surgical-medical  
2 services, rights and benefits provided for in this section if provided by the terms of a collective  
3 bargaining agreement executed between the State of Rhode Island and authorized union  
4 representatives.

5           (f) For purposes of this section, "adjunct faculty members" shall mean those members at  
6 any state community college, state college or state university, who teach at least fifty percent (50%)  
7 of the faculty load hours worked by regular full-time faculty in any academic semester.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
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1           This act would provide that adjunct faculty members at any state college or university who  
2 teach at least fifty percent (50%) of the hours regularly worked by full-time faculty in an academic  
3 semester would be eligible for the state hospital care and surgical-medical service benefits if  
4 provided by the terms of a collective bargaining agreement.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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