

2025 -- H 5256

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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A N A C T

RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES--  
EQUAL PAY FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Introduced By: Representatives Casimiro, Noret, Read, McEntee, Spears, Shanley, and  
Morales

Date Introduced: January 31, 2025

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 27-18 of the General Laws entitled "Accident and Sickness Insurance  
2 Policies" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **27-18-95. Equal pay for healthcare providers.**

4           (a) Whenever any policy of health insurance provides for reimbursement for any service  
5 which is within the lawful scope of practice of a duly licensed and certified nurse practitioner, as  
6 defined in § 5-34-3, including prescribing or dispensing drugs, a primary care or mental health  
7 service, provided by a licensed physician, the insured under the policy is entitled to reimbursement  
8 for such service, whether it is performed by a physician licensed by the board of medical licensure  
9 and discipline or by a duly licensed nurse practitioner, if provided by a licensed physician assistant,  
10 as defined in chapter 54 of title 5 or a certified nurse practitioner, or other licensed healthcare  
11 professionals, as defined in § 27-18-1.1, if the service is within the lawful scope of practice of the  
12 physician assistant or nurse practitioner.

13           (b) The reimbursement of a service described in subsection (a) of this section that is  
14 provided by a licensed physician assistant or a certified nurse practitioner who is in an independent  
15 practice shall be in the same amount as the reimbursement paid under the policy to a licensed  
16 physician performing the service in the area served.

17           (c) As used in this section, "independent practice" means the provision of healthcare  
18 services to patients in a setting in which the licensed physician assistant or the certified nurse

1 practitioner bills insurers for services identified by diagnosis and procedure codes using the  
2 physician assistant's or nurse practitioner's own name and national provider identifier.

3 (d) This section does not apply to group practice health maintenance organizations that are  
4 federally qualified pursuant to Title XIII of the Health Maintenance Organization Act, or other  
5 insurers that employ physicians, licensed physician assistants or certified nurse practitioners to  
6 provide primary care or mental health services and do not compensate such practitioners on a fee-  
7 for-service basis.

8 (e) An insurer may not reduce the reimbursement paid to a licensed physician in order to  
9 comply with this section.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 27-19 of the General Laws entitled "Nonprofit Hospital Service  
11 Corporations" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

12 **27-19-87. Equal pay for healthcare providers.**

13 (a) Whenever any policy of health insurance provides for reimbursement for any service  
14 which is within the lawful scope of practice of a duly licensed and certified nurse practitioner, as  
15 defined in § 5-34-3, including prescribing or dispensing drugs, a primary care or mental health  
16 service, provided by a licensed physician, the insured under the policy is entitled to reimbursement  
17 for such service, whether it is performed by a physician licensed by the board of medical licensure  
18 and discipline or by a duly licensed nurse practitioner, if provided by a licensed physician assistant,  
19 as defined in chapter 54 of title 5 or a certified nurse practitioner, or other licensed healthcare  
20 professionals, as defined in § 27-18-1.1, if the service is within the lawful scope of practice of the  
21 physician assistant or nurse practitioner.

22 (b) The reimbursement of a service described in subsection (a) of this section that is  
23 provided by a licensed physician assistant or a certified nurse practitioner who is in an independent  
24 practice shall be in the same amount as the reimbursement paid under the policy to a licensed  
25 physician performing the service in the area served.

26 (c) As used in this section, "independent practice" means the provision of healthcare  
27 services to patients in a setting in which the licensed physician assistant or the certified nurse  
28 practitioner bills insurers for services identified by diagnosis and procedure codes using the  
29 physician assistant's or nurse practitioner's own name and national provider identifier.

30 (d) This section does not apply to group practice health maintenance organizations that are  
31 federally qualified pursuant to Title XIII of the Health Maintenance Organization Act, or other  
32 insurers that employ physicians, licensed physician assistants or certified nurse practitioners to  
33 provide primary care or mental health services and do not compensate such practitioners on a fee-  
34 for-service basis.

1           (e) An insurer may not reduce the reimbursement paid to a licensed physician in order to  
2 comply with this section.

3           SECTION 3. Chapter 27-20 of the General Laws entitled "Nonprofit Medical Service  
4 Corporations" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

5           **27-20-83. Equal pay for healthcare providers.**

6           (a) Whenever any policy of health insurance provides for reimbursement for any service  
7 which is within the lawful scope of practice of a duly licensed and certified nurse  
8 practitioner, as defined in § 5-34-3, including prescribing or dispensing drugs, a primary care or  
9 mental health service, provided by a licensed physician, the insured under the policy is entitled to  
10 reimbursement for such service, whether it is performed by a physician licensed by the board of  
11 medical licensure and discipline or by a duly licensed nurse practitioner, if provided by a licensed  
12 physician assistant, as defined in chapter 54 of title 5 or a certified nurse practitioner, or other  
13 licensed healthcare professionals, as defined in § 27-18-1.1, if the service is within the lawful scope  
14 of practice of the physician assistant or nurse practitioner.

15           (b) The reimbursement of a service described in subsection (a) of this section that is  
16 provided by a licensed physician assistant or a certified nurse practitioner who is in an independent  
17 practice shall be in the same amount as the reimbursement paid under the policy to a licensed  
18 physician performing the service in the area served.

19           (c) As used in this section, "independent practice" means the provision of healthcare  
20 services to patients in a setting in which the licensed physician assistant or the certified nurse  
21 practitioner bills insurers for services identified by diagnosis and procedure codes using the  
22 physician assistant's or nurse practitioner's own name and national provider identifier.

23           (d) This section does not apply to group practice health maintenance organizations that are  
24 federally qualified pursuant to Title XIII of the Health Maintenance Organization Act, or other  
25 insurers that employ physicians, licensed physician assistants or certified nurse practitioners to  
26 provide primary care or mental health services and do not compensate such practitioners on a fee-  
27 for-service basis.

28           (e) An insurer may not reduce the reimbursement paid to a licensed physician in order to  
29 comply with this section.

30           SECTION 4. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES--  
EQUAL PAY FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

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- 1 This act would provide for equal pay for healthcare providers.
- 2 This act would take effect on January 1, 2026.

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