

2026 -- H 7588

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LC004405

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S T A T E O F R H O D E I S L A N D

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

**RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- THUNDERMIST FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY
PROGRAM**

Introduced By: Representatives Fogarty, Carson, Kazarian, Handy, Hull, Donovan, Voas,
Tanzi, Speakman, and Alzate

Date Introduced: February 06, 2026

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** Legislative Findings and Purpose.

2 (1) The Thundermist Family Medicine Residency Program is a critical component in
3 addressing the healthcare needs of Rhode Island residents, particularly in underserved and rural
4 areas; and

5 (2) Family medicine residency programs play a vital role in training the next generation of
6 primary care physicians, who are essential for improving health outcomes and reducing healthcare
7 disparities; and

8 (3) The demand for primary care services continues to grow in Rhode Island, necessitating
9 increased investment in family medicine training programs to ensure an adequate workforce; and

10 (4) Other healthcare institutions in Rhode Island, such as Landmark Medical Center,
11 receive state funding to support their missions, underscoring the importance of equitable state
12 investment in healthcare initiatives; and

13 (5) Funding for the Thundermist Family Medicine Residency Program will enhance the
14 program's capacity to recruit and retain highly qualified medical residents, expand training
15 opportunities, and improve access to care for Rhode Island residents.

16 **SECTION 2.** Title 40 of the General Laws entitled "HUMAN SERVICES" is hereby
17 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

18 [CHAPTER 8.16](#)

THUNDERMIST FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

40-8.16-1. Appropriation of funds.

3 (a) For the fiscal year 2027 and every fiscal year thereafter, the State of Rhode Island shall
4 appropriate the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to the Thundermist family
5 medicine residency program for the purpose of supporting its operational and educational activities,
6 including, but not limited to:

- (1) Recruitment and retention of residents and faculty;
- (2) Development and implementation of innovative curriculum focused on primary care
community health;
- (3) Expansion of clinical training sites in underserved and rural areas;
- (4) Acquisition of necessary equipment and resources to enhance training and patient care;
- (5) Support for administrative functions and program evaluation.

13 (b) The funds appropriated under this section shall be administered by the department of
14 health in collaboration with the Thundermist health center.

40-8.16-2. Reporting requirements.

16 (a) The Thundermist family medicine residency program shall submit an annual report to
17 the general assembly and the department of health, detailing the use of state funds, program
18 outcomes, and its impact on addressing the primary care needs of Rhode Island residents.

19 (b) The report shall include:

20 (1) Number of residents trained and their subsequent practice locations (as applicable);

21 (2) Summary of program activities and curriculum enhancements;

22 (3) Financial statement detailing the use of state funds; and

23 (4) Evaluation of the program's impact on healthcare access and outcomes in Rhode Island.

40-8.16-3. Severability.

25 If any provision of this chapter or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is
26 held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this chapter, which
27 can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of
28 this chapter are declared to be severable.

29 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- THUNDERMIST FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY
PROGRAM

- 1 This act would appropriate the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to fund
- 2 the Thundermist family medicine residency program during fiscal year 2027 and every fiscal year
- 3 thereafter.
- 4 This act would take effect on July 1, 2026.

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