

2026 -- H 7951

LC005788

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY WOMEN'S  
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACROSS THE LIFE COURSE

Introduced By: Representatives Alzate, Casimiro, Place, Stewart, McGaw, Furtado,  
Boylan, and Tanzi

Date Introduced: February 27, 2026

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

1           WHEREAS, Women experience distinct reproductive health stages across the life course,  
2 including adolescence, reproductive years, fertility and infertility, pregnancy and postpartum,  
3 perimenopause, menopause, and post-reproductive health; and

4           WHEREAS, These reproductive health stages involve unique medical, psychological,  
5 and social needs that significantly impact women's overall health, workforce participation,  
6 economic stability, and quality of life; and

7           WHEREAS, Many reproductive health conditions remain underdiagnosed, undertreated,  
8 or inadequately understood due to gaps in public awareness, clinical training, research, and access  
9 to specialized care; and

10          WHEREAS, Evidence demonstrates that racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities  
11 exist in the diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes associated with women's reproductive health  
12 conditions; and

13          WHEREAS, Insurance coverage limitations, cost-sharing requirements, and variability in  
14 benefits may create barriers to timely diagnosis, treatment, and management of reproductive  
15 health conditions across the life course; and

16          WHEREAS, A comprehensive review is necessary to evaluate the availability of clinical  
17 services, insurance coverage, education, research, public awareness, and policy supports related  
18 to women's reproductive health across the life course; now, therefore be it

19          RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created

1 consisting of seventeen (17) members: two (2) of whom shall be members of the House of  
2 Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one of whom shall be the Director  
3 of the Department of Health, or designee; one of whom shall be the Health Insurance  
4 Commissioner, or designee; one of whom shall be the President and CEO of Blue Cross Blue  
5 Shield Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be the President and CEO of Neighborhood  
6 Health Plan of Rhode Island, or designee; one of whom shall be a the President and CEO of  
7 Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive  
8 Director of the Latino Policy Institute, or designee; one of whom shall be the Executive Director  
9 of the Women’s Fund of Rhode Island, or designee; and eight (8) of whom shall be appointed by  
10 the Speaker of House, including: one physician specializing in obstetrics and gynecology, one  
11 physician or clinician specializing in reproductive endocrinology or fertility, one clinician  
12 specializing in menopause or midlife women’s health, one public health expert with expertise in  
13 women’s health from an academic institution, one individual with expertise in health disparities  
14 or health equity from a federally qualified health center, two (2) individuals from the public with  
15 lived experience related to reproductive health care or is an advocate for consumer or patient  
16 rights in reproductive health care, and one representative of the Womxn Project.

17 That the purpose of said commission shall be to study and make recommendations  
18 concerning women’s reproductive health across the life course, including, but not limited to:

- 19 • The prevalence and health impacts associated with reproductive life stages,  
20 including general gynecologic health, fertility and infertility, pregnancy and postpartum care,  
21 perimenopause, menopause, and post-reproductive health;
- 22 • The availability of clinical services, specialists, and resources to support women  
23 at each reproductive life stage, including geographic distribution and workforce capacity;
- 24 • The adequacy of public and private insurance coverage, including Medicaid and  
25 commercial insurance, for reproductive health services, treatments, and conditions across the life  
26 course;
- 27 • Racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in diagnosis, treatment, access to  
28 care, and health outcomes related to women’s reproductive health;
- 29 • Public awareness, educational resources, and provider training related to  
30 reproductive health conditions and life stages;
- 31 • Existing research, data collection, and gaps in knowledge related to women’s  
32 reproductive health across the life course; and
- 33 • Legislative, regulatory, and policy measures necessary to improve access to care,  
34 early diagnosis, treatment, insurance coverage, education, public awareness, and health outcomes

1 for women.

2           Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at  
3 the call of Speaker of the House and shall organize and select a chairperson from among the  
4 legislators.

5           Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment.

6           The membership of said commission shall receive no compensation for their services.

7           All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and information,  
8 documentary and otherwise, to said commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or  
9 desirable by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution.

10           The Speaker of the House is hereby authorized and directed to provide suitable quarters  
11 for said commission; and be it further

12           RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
13 House of Representatives on or before March 2, 2027, and said commission shall expire on May  
14 2, 2027.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
HOUSE RESOLUTION  
CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY WOMEN'S  
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACROSS THE LIFE COURSE

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- 1           This resolution would create a seventeen (17) member special legislative commission to
- 2 study women's reproductive health across the life course, and who would report back to the
- 3 House on or before March 2, 2027, and said commission would expire on May 2, 2027.

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