

2026 -- H 8389

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LC006231
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Fogarty, Carson, Tanzi, Caldwell, McEntee, Lima, Hull,
McGaw, Spears, and Dawson
Date Introduced: April 01, 2026

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The general assembly hereby finds and declares that:
- 2 (1) Rhode Island faces an ongoing and worsening projected shortage of physicians and
- 3 healthcare professionals, particularly in primary care and underserved communities;
- 4 (2) Establishing a medical school at the University of Rhode Island would strengthen the
- 5 state's healthcare workforce pipeline, improve access to care, and support long-term economic
- 6 development; and
- 7 (3) An initial state investment is necessary to support leadership recruitment, faculty hiring,
- 8 accreditation planning, and curriculum development for such medical school.
- 9 SECTION 2. Chapter 16-32 of the General Laws entitled "University of Rhode Island [See
- 10 Title 16 Chapter 97 — The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended by adding
- 11 thereto the following section:
- 12 **16-32-43. University of Rhode Island medical school -- Establishment and funding.**
- 13 [\(a\) For fiscal year 2027, the sum of five million dollars \(\\$5,000,000\) is hereby appropriated](#)
- 14 [from general revenues to the University of Rhode Island for the purpose of initiating the](#)
- 15 [establishment of a medical school.](#)
- 16 [\(b\) Funds appropriated pursuant to subsection \(a\) of this section shall be used for operating](#)
- 17 [expenses and salaries related to, including, but not limited to:](#)
- 18 [\(1\) Hiring a founding dean and senior leadership;](#)
- 19 [\(2\) Recruitment of core faculty and administrative staff;](#)

1 (3) Accreditation preparation and compliance activities; and
2 (4) Curriculum planning and institutional development.
3 (c) It is the intent of the general assembly that the fiscal year 2027 appropriation represents
4 the first phase of a multi-year state investment to support the development of a medical school at
5 the University of Rhode Island.
6 (d) Subject to future appropriations, the general assembly anticipates additional funding in
7 the following amounts:
8 (1) Fiscal year 2028: Seven million dollars (\$7,000,000); and
9 (2) Fiscal year 2029: Eight million dollars (\$8,000,000).
10 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring any future general assembly to
11 appropriate such funds.
12 (f) The University of Rhode Island shall submit a report to the governor and the general
13 assembly no later than January 1, 2028, detailing:
14 (1) The use of funds appropriated under this section;
15 (2) Progress toward accreditation and institutional readiness;
16 (3) Faculty and leadership hiring progress; and
17 (4) A projected timeline and budget for subsequent phases of development.
18 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

- 1 This act would establish the framework to create a medical school at the University of
2 Rhode Island and provide an initial appropriation of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) as the first
3 phase of a multi-year investment for the development of a medical school.
4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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