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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- CONSENT TO MEDICAL AND SURGICAL
CARE

Introduced By: Senator Matthew L. LaMountain

Date Introduced: January 16, 2026

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 23-4.6 of the General Laws entitled "Consent to Medical and
2 Surgical Care" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **23-4.6-2. Consent to hospice care.**

4 (a) A patient, recommended for hospice services shall have the right to have a caregiver,
5 as defined in § 23-17.27-1, present when hospice services are explained to the patient prior to the
6 patient consenting to hospice services.

7 (b) If practical, the patient's caregiver shall be present whenever any medical decisions are
8 discussed by the hospice healthcare team with the patient.

9 (c) Prior to a patient consenting to hospice services, the patient's caregiver shall be provided
10 with all information regarding the patient's medication and treatment and how entering hospice is
11 anticipated to effect the prescribed medication and treatment.

12 (d) A hospice patient shall have access to visiting nurse care at home and not be excluded
13 from those services because of income or age limitations.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would require that an individual's caregiver be present when healthcare decisions
2 are discussed with the hospice team. It would also prevent a denial of home hospice care because
3 of age or income.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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