

**2026 -- S 2118**

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026**

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**A N A C T**

**RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PRIMARY CARE TRAINING SITES PROGRAM**

Introduced By: Senators Lauria, DiMario, Murray, Valverde, Kallman, Ujifusa, Pearson, Zurier, Urso, and Euer

Date Introduced: January 16, 2026

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1        SECTION 1. Sections 23-17.30-2, 23-17.30-4 and 23-17.30-5 of the General Laws in  
2 Chapter 23-17.30 entitled "Primary Care Training Sites Program" are hereby amended to read as  
3 follows:

4        **23-17.30-2. Definitions.**

5        As used in this chapter, the following words and phrases are construed as follows:

6        (1) "Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care" or "AAAHC" means an  
7 organization that provides ambulatory health care accreditation.

8        ~~(1)~~(2) "Director" means the director of the department of health.

9        ~~(2)~~(3) "Grant" means a sum awarded pursuant to a contract executed pursuant to § 23-  
10 17.30-4.

11        ~~(3)~~(4) "National Committee for Quality Assurance" or "NCQA" means the nonprofit  
12 organization headquartered in the District of Columbia working to improve healthcare quality  
13 through the administration of evidence-based standards, measures, programs, and accreditation.

14        ~~(4)~~(5) "Office" means the office of primary care training established pursuant to the  
15 provisions of § 23-17.30-3.

16        (6) "Office of health insurance commissioner" or "OHIC" means the state agency with the  
17 authority to designate patient-centered medical home (PCMH), in accordance with agencies  
18 regulations.

19        ~~(5)~~(7) "Patient-centered medical home" or "PCMH" means a model of health care that puts

1 patients at the forefront of care by providing team-based healthcare delivery led by a healthcare  
2 provider to render comprehensive and continuous medical care to patients with a goal to obtain  
3 maximal health outcomes.

4 ~~(6)~~(8) “Primary care” means day-to-day health care provided by a healthcare professional.  
5 Typically, the healthcare professional acts as the first contact and principal point of continuing care  
6 for patients within a healthcare system, and coordinates other specialist care that the patient may  
7 require.

8 ~~(7)~~(9) “Primary care site” means a site, location, or medical practice that serves as the  
9 patient’s entry point into the healthcare system and acts as the continuing focal point for all required  
10 healthcare services.

11 **23-17.30-4. Contracts.**

12 In compliance with the provisions of § 42-11-11, the director shall have the authority to  
13 enter into contracts, subject to appropriation, for medical education to be conducted at primary care  
14 practice sites. Any contract entered into shall not exceed ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000) per  
15 primary care site contract recipient, per calendar year and shall contain, at a minimum, the  
16 following terms, conditions, and provisions:

17 (1) The primary care site shall serve as an enhanced interdisciplinary clinical training site;  
18 (2) The primary care site shall have achieved and shall maintain NCQA PCMH distinction;  
19 or have achieved and maintained NCQA case management accreditation, or be recognized as a  
20 PCMH by the office of the health insurance commissioner, or other appropriate entity, such as the  
21 joint commission on AAAHC, as determined by the department of health.

22 (3) The primary care site shall provide integrated behavioral health services;  
23 (4) The primary care site shall provide an agreed curriculum of training for physicians,  
24 nurse practitioners, and physician assistants; and

25 (5) Training shall include ~~a minimum of up to~~ five (5) hours didactic training and shall  
26 introduce the trainees to the concept of PCMH and how the principles of the model have been  
27 operationalized in the primary care delivery setting.

28 **23-17.30-5. Rules and regulations.**

29 The director ~~shall~~ may promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of  
30 this chapter.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PRIMARY CARE TRAINING SITES PROGRAM

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- 1        This act would allow the office of health insurance commissioner (OHIC) as the state
- 2        agency that has the authority to designate patient-centered medical home (PCMH) care to obtain
- 3        maximal health outcomes. The primary care site would have achieved and maintain NCQA, PCMH
- 4        distinction or approval of the joint commission on AAAHC, as determined by the department of
- 5        health.
- 6        This act would take effect upon passage.

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