

2026 -- S 2853

LC004975

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- LICENSING OF HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

Introduced By: Senators Murray, Valverde, Gu, Urso, DiMario, Mack, Euer, Lauria,  
Ujifusa, and Vargas

Date Introduced: March 04, 2026

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-17-26 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-17 entitled "Licensing  
2 of Healthcare Facilities" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-17-26. Emergency health care.**

4 (a) Every healthcare facility that has an emergency medical-care unit, including  
5 freestanding emergency-care facilities, shall provide to every person prompt, life-saving, medical-  
6 care treatment in an emergency, and a sexual-assault examination for victims of sexual assault,  
7 without discrimination on account of economic status or source of payment, and without delaying  
8 treatment for the purpose of a prior discussion of the source of payment unless the delay can be  
9 imposed without material risk to the health of the person.

10 (b) Every healthcare facility as provided in subsection (a) of this section that provides  
11 emergency treatment to a victim of sexual assault shall promptly provide:

12 (1) Medically and factually accurate and objective written information prepared by the  
13 director of the department of health about emergency contraception;

14 (2) Information about the availability of emergency contraception; and

15 (3) Upon request by the victim, emergency contraception.

16 ~~(b)~~(c) Violations of this section shall be reported to the director of the state department of  
17 health who shall investigate the violations as the director deems appropriate.

18 (d) The director of the department of health may promulgate rules, regulations, and/or  
19 guidance to carry out the provisions of this section.

1 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 hospital emergency rooms and free-standing emergency care
- 2 facilities to offer and provide pregnancy prevention medication to victims of sexual assault.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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