

2026 -- S 2870

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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 -- LEAD POISONING PREVENTION ACT

Introduced By: Senator Melissa A. Murray

Date Introduced: March 04, 2026

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 23-24.6-7 and 23-24.6-21 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-24.6
2 entitled "Lead Poisoning Prevention Act" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-24.6-7. Screening by health care providers.**

4 (a) The department shall promulgate regulations establishing the means by which and the
5 intervals at which children under six (6) years of age shall be screened for lead poisoning. The
6 department is also authorized to require screening for lead poisoning in other high risk groups.

7 (b) Each physician registered or licensed by Rhode Island or any agency of Rhode Island
8 shall screen children under six (6) years of age for lead poisoning at the intervals and using the
9 methods specified in the regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (a). Each licensed, registered
10 or approved health care facility serving children under six (6) years of age, including but not limited
11 to hospitals, clinics, and health maintenance organizations, shall take appropriate steps to ensure
12 that their patients receive screening for lead poisoning at the intervals and using the methods
13 specified in these regulations.

14 (c) All health care programs funded in whole or in part with state money and having child
15 health components shall include, require, and/or provide for screening children under six (6) years
16 of age for lead poisoning at the intervals and using the methods specified in the regulations
17 promulgated under this section.

18 (d) The provisions of this section shall not apply if the parents of the child object to the
19 child undergoing blood lead screening on the grounds that the screening conflicts with their

1 religious tenets and practices.

2 (e) All blood samples taken by physicians or other health care providers licensed in Rhode
3 Island or by licensed, registered, or approved health care facilities in Rhode Island from children
4 under the age of six (6) years for the purpose of screening for blood lead level shall be sent to [either](#)
5 the state laboratory in the department of health [or a clinical laboratory, as defined in chapter 16.2](#)
6 [of this title, that is operated by an entity incorporated in the State of Rhode Island](#), for laboratory
7 analysis.

8 (f) The department shall, at least annually, analyze and summarize all of the lead screening
9 information provided by physicians, health care facilities, and laboratories and provide this
10 information to all other local and state agencies involved with case management and lead hazard
11 reduction. An analysis and summary of the data shall also be made available, at least annually, to
12 the health care community, to the general assembly, and the general public in a format that is easily
13 understandable to non-technical readers.

14 **23-24.6-21. Laboratory testing and reporting requirement certification.**

15 (a) Laboratory analyses of all clinical and environmental media samples collected to
16 demonstrate compliance with this chapter or with regulations promulgated pursuant to this chapter
17 shall only be conducted by a laboratory which has been licensed or certified (as appropriate) by the
18 director pursuant to chapter 16.2 of this title entitled "Laboratories." [Licensed laboratories](#)
19 [performing blood lead analyses taken from children under six \(6\) years of age shall be certified by](#)
20 [the director in accordance with a process approved by the director.](#)

21 (b) All laboratories performing blood lead analyses on samples taken from children under
22 six (6) years of age shall report the results of such analyses to the department in accordance with
23 regulations promulgated by the department.

24 [\(c\) All laboratories performing blood lead analyses on samples taken from children under](#)
25 [six \(6\) years of age shall perform blood lead analyses on children under six \(6\) years of age](#)
26 [regardless of the child or child's parent or guardian's ability to pay for the analysis and at no cost](#)
27 [to the child or child's parent or guardian.](#)

28 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 -- LEAD POISONING PREVENTION ACT

1 This act would require any licensed laboratories performing blood lead analyses taken from
2 children under six (6) years of age be certified by the director in accordance with a process approved
3 by the director. The act would also require said laboratories to perform said blood lead analyses
4 regardless of the child or child's parent or guardian's ability to pay for the analysis and at no cost
5 to the child or child's parent or guardian.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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