

2026 -- S 2871

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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 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- HEALTH CARE FOR  
CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN

Introduced By: Senators Murray, Thompson, Valverde, Gu, Urso, DiMario, Mack, Euer,  
Gallo, and Lauria

Date Introduced: March 04, 2026

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 42-12.3-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-12.3 entitled "Health  
2 Care for Children and Pregnant Women" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **42-12.3-3. Medical assistance expansion for pregnancy/Rite Start.**

4           (a) The secretary of the executive office of health and human services is authorized to  
5 amend its Title XIX state plan pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide Medicaid  
6 coverage and to amend its Title XXI state plan pursuant to Title XXI of the Social Security Act to  
7 provide medical assistance coverage through expanded family income disregards for pregnant  
8 persons whose family income levels are between one hundred eighty-five percent (185%) and two  
9 hundred fifty percent (250%) of the federal poverty level. The department is further authorized to  
10 promulgate any regulations necessary and in accord with Title XIX [42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.] and  
11 Title XXI [42 U.S.C. § 1397aa et seq.] of the Social Security Act necessary in order to implement  
12 said state plan amendment. The services provided shall be in accord with Title XIX [42 U.S.C. §  
13 1396 et seq.] and Title XXI [42 U.S.C. § 1397aa et seq.] of the Social Security Act.

14           (b) The secretary of health and human services is authorized and directed to establish a  
15 payor of last resort program to cover prenatal, delivery, and postpartum care. The program shall  
16 cover the cost of maternity care for any person who lacks health insurance coverage for maternity  
17 care and who is not eligible for medical assistance under Title XIX [42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.] and  
18 Title XXI [42 U.S.C. § 1397aa et seq.] of the Social Security Act including, but not limited to, a

1 noncitizen pregnant person lawfully admitted for permanent residence on or after August 22, 1996,  
2 without regard to the availability of federal financial participation, provided such pregnant person  
3 satisfies all other eligibility requirements. The secretary shall promulgate regulations to implement  
4 this program. Such regulations shall include specific eligibility criteria; the scope of services to be  
5 covered; procedures for administration and service delivery; referrals for non-covered services;  
6 outreach; and public education.

7 (c) The secretary of health and human services may enter into cooperative agreements with  
8 the department of health and/or other state agencies to provide services to individuals eligible for  
9 services under subsections (a) and (b) above.

10 (d) The following services shall be provided through the program:

11 (1) Ante-partum and postpartum care;

12 (2) Delivery;

13 (3) Cesarean section;

14 (4) Newborn hospital care;

15 (5) Inpatient transportation from one hospital to another when authorized by a medical  
16 provider; and

17 (6) Prescription medications and laboratory tests.

18 (e) The secretary of health and human services shall provide enhanced services, as  
19 appropriate, to pregnant persons as defined in subsections (a) and (b), as well as to other pregnant  
20 persons eligible for medical assistance. These services shall include: care coordination; nutrition  
21 and social service counseling; high-risk obstetrical care; childbirth and parenting preparation  
22 programs; smoking cessation programs; outpatient counseling for drug-alcohol use; interpreter  
23 services; mental health services; and home visitation. The provision of enhanced services is subject  
24 to available appropriations. In the event that appropriations are not adequate for the provision of  
25 these services, the executive office has the authority to limit the amount, scope, and duration of  
26 these enhanced services.

27 (f) The executive office of health and human services shall provide for extended family  
28 planning services for up to twenty-four (24) months postpartum. These services shall be available  
29 to persons who have been determined eligible for RIte Start or for medical assistance under Title  
30 XIX [42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.] or Title XXI [42 U.S.C. § 1397aa et seq.] of the Social Security  
31 Act.

32 (g) Effective October 1, 2022, individuals eligible for RIte Start pursuant to this section or  
33 for medical assistance under Title XIX or Title XXI of the Social Security Act while pregnant  
34 (including during a period of retroactive eligibility), are eligible for full Medicaid benefits through

1 the last day of the month in which their twelve-month (12) postpartum period ends. This benefit  
2 will be provided to eligible Rhode Island residents without regard to the availability of federal  
3 financial participation. The executive office of health and human services is directed to ensure that  
4 federal financial participation is used to the maximum extent allowable to provide coverage  
5 pursuant to this section, and that state-only funds will be used only if federal financial participation  
6 is not available.

7 (h) Any person eligible for services under subsections (a) and (b) of this section, or  
8 otherwise eligible for medical assistance under Title XIX [42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.] and Title XXI  
9 [42 U.S.C. § 1397aa et seq.] of the Social Security Act, shall also be entitled to services for any  
10 termination of pregnancy permitted under § 23-4.13-2; provided, however, that no federal funds  
11 shall be used to pay for such services, except as authorized under federal law.

12 (i) The executive office of health and human services shall provide for self-measured blood  
13 pressure monitoring services for pregnant and postpartum persons as medically necessary. These  
14 services shall be available to persons who have been determined eligible for RIte Start or for  
15 medical assistance under Title XIX or Title XXI of the Social Security Act. Coverage for self-  
16 measured blood pressure monitoring shall include the provision of validated home blood pressure  
17 monitors, and reimbursement of health care provider and other staff time used for patient training,  
18 transmission of blood pressure data, interpretation of blood pressure readings and reporting, and  
19 the delivery of co-interventions, including educational materials or classes, behavioral change  
20 management, and medication management. This benefit will be provided to eligible Rhode Island  
21 residents without regard to the availability of federal financial participation. The executive office  
22 of health and human services is directed to ensure that federal financial participation is used to the  
23 maximum extent allowable to provide coverage pursuant to this section, and that state-only funds  
24 will be used only if federal financial participation is not available.

25 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 bill would require the executive office of health and human services to provide self-  
2 measured blood pressure monitoring for eligible pregnant and postpartum individuals, covering  
3 home monitors, training, data transmission, and co-interventions, with state funds if federal aid is  
4 unavailable.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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