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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 HUMAN SERVICES -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE -- LONG-TERM CARE
SERVICE AND FINANCE REFORM -- ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY MEDICAID
RATES

Introduced By: Senators Dimitri, Thompson, and Famiglietti

Date Introduced: March 05, 2026

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 40-8.9 of the General Laws entitled "Medical Assistance — Long-
2 Term Care Service and Finance Reform" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following
3 section:

4 **40-8.9-10. Assisted living community Medicaid rates -- Annual cost-of-living**
5 **adjustment.**

6 (a) Beginning July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the executive office of health and
7 human services (EOHHS) shall apply an automatic cost-of-living adjustment ("COLA") to the
8 Medicaid reimbursement rates paid for assisted living services provided pursuant to this chapter.

9 (b) The annual COLA shall be equal to the percentage increase, if any, in the Consumer
10 Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), Northeast Region for the most recently completed
11 calendar year, as published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

12 (c) The COLA adjustment shall be applied uniformly across all Medicaid-assisted living
13 rate tiers including, but not limited to, acuity-based or service-level rate categories.

14 (d) The COLA required under this section shall be applied automatically and shall not be
15 subject to annual appropriation approval, rate rebasing, or discretionary adjustment by the
16 executive branch, except as otherwise expressly provided by law.

17 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the general assembly from
18 authorizing additional rate increases or rate restructuring beyond the COLA provided in this

1 [section.](#)

2 [\(f\) The EOHHS shall promulgate any rules and regulations necessary to implement this](#)
3 [section, including alignment with federal Medicaid requirements and state plan amendments, if](#)
4 [required.](#)

5 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage and shall apply to Medicaid assisted
6 living rates effective July 1, 2026.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE -- LONG-TERM CARE
SERVICE AND FINANCE REFORM -- ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY MEDICAID
RATES

1 This act would require the executive office of health and human services (EOHHS) to apply
2 an automatic cost-of-living adjustment (“COLA”) to the Medicaid reimbursement rates paid for
3 assisted living services provided pursuant to this chapter.

4 This act would take effect upon passage and would apply to Medicaid assisted living rates
5 effective July 1, 2026.

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