

2014 -- H 7472

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LC004308
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- HEALTHCARE FOR
CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN

Introduced By: Representatives Finn, Kazarian, Williams, Ajello, and Blazejewski

Date Introduced: February 12, 2014

Referred To: House Judiciary

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 pregnant women/Rite Start.** -- (a) The
4 director of the department of human services is authorized to amend its title XIX state plan
5 pursuant to title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide Medicaid coverage through expanded
6 family income disregards for pregnant women whose family income levels are between one
7 hundred eighty-five percent (185%) and two hundred fifty percent (250%) of the federal poverty
8 level. The department is further authorized to promulgate any regulations necessary and in accord
9 with title XIX —42 U.S.C. section 1396 et seq.]of the Social Security Act to implement said state
10 plan amendment. The services shall be in accord with title XIX —42 U.S.C. section 1396 et
11 seq.]of the Social Security Act.

12 (b) The director of the department of human services is authorized and directed to
13 establish a payor of last resort program to cover prenatal, delivery and postpartum care. The
14 program shall cover the cost of maternity care for any woman who lacks health insurance
15 coverage for maternity care and who is not eligible for medical assistance under title XIX —42
16 U.S.C. section 1396 et seq.]of the Social Security Act including but not limited to a non-citizen
17 pregnant woman lawfully admitted for permanent residence on or after August 22, 1996, without
18 regard to the availability of federal financial participation, provided such pregnant woman

1 satisfies all other eligibility requirements. The director shall promulgate regulations to implement
2 this program. Such regulations shall include specific eligibility criteria; the scope of services to be
3 covered; procedures for administration and service delivery; referrals for non-covered services;
4 outreach; and public education. Excluded services under this paragraph will include, but not be
5 limited to, ~~induced abortion except to prevent the death of the mother~~ abortion, except when the
6 procedure is necessary to preserve the life of the mother, or in the case of pregnancies resulting
7 from rape or incest.

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

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

- 12 (1) Antepartum and postpartum care;
- 13 (2) Delivery;
- 14 (3) Cesarean section;
- 15 (4) Newborn hospital care;
- 16 (5) Inpatient transportation from one hospital to another when authorized by a medical
17 provider;
- 18 (6) Prescription medications and laboratory tests;

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

28 (f) The department of human services shall provide for extended family planning
29 services for up to twenty-four (24) months postpartum. These services shall be available to
30 women who have been determined eligible for RItE Start or for medical assistance under title XIX
31 —42 U.S.C. section 1396 et seq.]of the social security act.

32 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 provide funding, under the RItE Start Program, for abortions necessary to
- 2 preserve the life of the mother, or in the case of pregnancies as the result of rape or incest.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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