

2014 -- S 2877

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LC005298  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH PRESENT A PLAN FOR AN INTEGRATED PRIMARY CARE AND  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HEALTH PROMOTION PILOT PROGRAM

Introduced By: Senators Miller, Sosnowski, Nesselbush, Ottiano, and Cool Rumsey

Date Introduced: April 09, 2014

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

1           WHEREAS, Over the past two decades, Rhode Island has made strides in increasing  
2 access to healthcare for medical conditions. The Ocean State is recognized nationwide as a leader  
3 for its medical healthcare system, especially for children; and

4           WHEREAS, Like many other states, Rhode Island confronts challenges when it comes to  
5 ensuring that everyone who needs help for mental health and substance use disorders has access  
6 to behavioral health services. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI),  
7 behavioral health services fail to reach as many as 60 percent of those individuals in need. The  
8 costs associated with this gap are substantial and affect the public at large, as well; and

9           WHEREAS, Rhode Island, with no local health departments and limited community  
10 advocacy for behavioral and environmental programs, and with a population of which 20 to 25  
11 percent have no regular source of health care, is confronted by additional challenges in providing  
12 integrated and comprehensive primary care so as to best improve population health outcomes for  
13 all; and

14           WHEREAS, Recognizing the need to strengthen the state's healthcare system to assure  
15 that all Rhode Islanders lead healthy, fulfilling lives, the General Assembly in 2013 passed  
16 S834A and H6288, legislation that established the Special Joint Commission to Study the  
17 Integration of Primary Care and Behavioral Health in Rhode Island. The commission's purpose  
18 was to "make a comprehensive study of the current status of primary care and behavioral health  
19 in Rhode Island; of the available research, data and analyses of the impact of primary care and

1 behavioral health service availability and delivery system architecture on population outcomes;  
2 and of the advisability of creating a Primary Care Trust or other mechanism to fund and otherwise  
3 support a comprehensive integrated primary care and behavioral health system for all Rhode  
4 Islanders"; and

5 WHEREAS, The legislators, medical and behavioral healthcare providers and  
6 practitioners, and insurers who served on the Joint Commission heard expert testimony and  
7 reviewed best practices nationally that pointed to the benefits associated with an integrated  
8 approach to primary care and behavioral health, and with a primary care delivery system  
9 configured to care for the whole population in its service area. The commission members agreed  
10 that there is untapped potential in Rhode Island to explore how integrating behavioral health and  
11 primary care might improve population-based health outcomes, and recommended that a robust  
12 legislative pilot for an integrated, multi-disciplinary primary care, behavioral care and  
13 neighborhood-based health promotion and delivery model be created; and

14 WHEREAS, It is critical that a plan for a successful approach to integrated care include  
15 the contributions of the key stakeholders that would be involved in implementing and supporting  
16 a changed system of healthcare delivery and payment in the state; now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
18 hereby respectfully requests that the Department of Health work with key stakeholders in the state  
19 to develop a plan for an integrated primary care, behavioral care, and health promotion pilot  
20 program at one or more geographic locations; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby respectfully requests that the proposed plan reflect  
22 data produced by and for the Health Care Planning and Accountability Advisory Council, to  
23 identify the state's existing primary and behavioral health care capacities and to target unmet  
24 needs regarding all forms of primary and behavioral health care population outcomes. The plan  
25 should be consistent with the Joint Commission's recommendation that it take place in a specific  
26 geographic location, feature a payment approach that emphasizes value as opposed to volume to  
27 assess the impact of interventions aimed at population-based health outcomes, and be of a scale to  
28 generate sufficient data and other information regarding population outcomes and other impacts  
29 that can support policy decisions; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby respectfully requests that the Department of Health  
31 present a written plan for a pilot program to the General Assembly on or before November 1,  
32 2014; and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
34 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Director of the Department of Health and

1 the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services.

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