

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017**

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES TO UTILIZE FUNDING FROM SECTION 40-8.9-4 OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL LAWS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE RHODE ISLAND AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER AND TO CONVENE A STAKEHOLDER GROUP ON LONG-TERM CARE REBALANCING REFORM

Introduced By: Senator Maryellen Goodwin

Date Introduced: June 27, 2017

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1           WHEREAS, Rhode Island faces a growing older population that is projected to increase  
2 by approximately 100,000 persons by 2030 and persons age 65 and over will go from 15.8  
3 percent of the population in 2014 to 23.1 percent of the population causing a significant increased  
4 need for aging and long-term services and supports; and

5           WHEREAS, Rhode Island is home to the highest percentage of persons age 85 years and  
6 over, a group with significant long-term care needs; and

7           WHEREAS, There is an urgent need to build the infrastructure to help the state's rapidly  
8 growing older population to maintain their health and remain living at home and in the  
9 community, to provide support services to the many thousands of family caregivers assisting  
10 persons to remain living in the community, and to promote the most efficient use of state  
11 resources including Medicaid funds; and

12           WHEREAS, Rhode Island falls behind the other New England states in percentage of  
13 Medicaid dollars spent for home and community-based services and ranks near the bottom  
14 nationally on funds spent for home and community services versus institutional care for its older  
15 population; and

16           WHEREAS, The state's efforts to rebalance long-term care have had limited impact to  
17 date; and

18           WHEREAS, Consumers and their caregivers seeking information and counseling about

1 supportive care and services need an objective source of information about aging services and  
2 long-term supports and services (LTSS) including options for home and community-based  
3 services and providing such information and referral services should serve as the foundation for a  
4 strong long-term care system; and

5 WHEREAS, Rhode Island ranked 34th in Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)  
6 functions on a recent national Scorecard for LTSS; and

7 WHEREAS, Development of a comprehensive statewide ADRC would promote the  
8 state's long-term system rebalancing goals by diverting persons, when appropriate, from  
9 institutional care to home and community-based services and preventing short-term institutional  
10 stays from becoming permanent through options counseling and screening for eligibility for home  
11 and community-based services; and

12 WHEREAS, The ADRC would be a centrally operated, coordinated system of  
13 information, referral, and options counseling for all persons seeking LTSS in order to enhance  
14 individual choice, foster informed decision-making, support family caregivers, minimize  
15 confusion and duplication, and reduce state costs by spending Medicaid dollars more efficiently;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The ADRC should use a "No Wrong Door" approach to information,  
18 assistance and referral services, including: public education and outreach activities and options  
19 counseling using a multi-media approach; access to a statewide toll-free information number with  
20 language services to assist persons with limited English skills, access to a dedicated website  
21 providing timely access to information about programs and support services; and screening and  
22 navigation tools to guide persons in selecting appropriate care; now, therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
24 hereby respectfully requests the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to provide  
25 \$665,000 in annual funding from available monies as a result of §40-8.9-4 (known as the "Perry-  
26 Sullivan" law) to the Division of Elderly Affairs, working in collaboration with other agencies  
27 within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, to promote developing and  
28 maintaining the ADRC to include a robust interactive website, person/family-centered options  
29 counseling services, and educational programs to assist persons in planning for their long-term  
30 care needs; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby requests the Executive Office of Health and  
32 Human Services to convene a stakeholder group to review recent state initiated reports on long-  
33 term care rebalancing to include the Healthy Aging Initiative, the report of the Aging in  
34 Community Subcommittee of the Long Term Care Coordinating Council, and the Long-Term

1 Services and Supports State Scorecard 2017, to make recommendations for increasing the pace of  
2 reform; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby requests the Executive Office of Health and  
4 Human Services to report to the Senate President and to the Chair of the Senate Committee on  
5 Health and Human Services on the establishment of an ADRC in Rhode Island and to submit  
6 recommendations on long-term care rebalancing efforts on or before March 1, 2018; and be it  
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
9 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health  
10 and Human Services.

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