

2018 -- H 7670

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- LONG-TERM CARE SERVICE AND FINANCE
REFORM

Introduced By: Representatives Serpa, O'Brien, Lima, Fellela, and Ackerman

Date Introduced: February 15, 2018

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 40-8.9-9 of the General Laws in Chapter 40-8.9 entitled "Medical
2 Assistance - Long-Term Care Service and Finance Reform" is hereby amended to read as
3 follows:

4 **40-8.9-9. Long-term care rebalancing system reform goal.**

5 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of state law, the executive office of health and
6 human services is authorized and directed to apply for, and obtain, any necessary waiver(s),
7 waiver amendment(s), and/or state-plan amendments from the secretary of the United States
8 Department of Health and Human Services, and to promulgate rules necessary to adopt an
9 affirmative plan of program design and implementation that addresses the goal of allocating a
10 minimum of fifty percent (50%) of Medicaid long-term care funding for persons aged sixty-five
11 (65) and over and adults with disabilities, in addition to services for persons with developmental
12 disabilities, to home- and community-based care; provided, further, the executive office shall
13 report annually as part of its budget submission, the percentage distribution between institutional
14 care and home- and community-based care by population and shall report current and projected
15 waiting lists for long-term care and home- and community-based care services. The executive
16 office is further authorized and directed to prioritize investments in home- and community-based
17 care and to maintain the integrity and financial viability of all current long-term-care services
18 while pursuing this goal.

1 (b) The reformed long-term-care system rebalancing goal is person-centered and
2 encourages individual self-determination, family involvement, interagency collaboration, and
3 individual choice through the provision of highly specialized and individually tailored home-
4 based services. Additionally, individuals with severe behavioral, physical, or developmental
5 disabilities must have the opportunity to live safe and healthful lives through access to a wide
6 range of supportive services in an array of community-based settings, regardless of the
7 complexity of their medical condition, the severity of their disability, or the challenges of their
8 behavior. Delivery of services and supports in less costly and less restrictive community settings,
9 will enable children, adolescents, and adults to be able to curtail, delay, or avoid lengthy stays in
10 long-term care institutions, such as behavioral health residential-treatment facilities, long-term-
11 care hospitals, intermediate-care facilities and/or skilled nursing facilities.

12 (c) Pursuant to federal authority procured under § 42-7.2-16, the executive office of
13 health and human services is directed and authorized to adopt a tiered set of criteria to be used to
14 determine eligibility for services. Such criteria shall be developed in collaboration with the state's
15 health and human services departments and, to the extent feasible, any consumer group, advisory
16 board, or other entity designated for such purposes, and shall encompass eligibility
17 determinations for long-term-care services in nursing facilities, hospitals, and intermediate-care
18 facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities, as well as home- and community-based
19 alternatives, and shall provide a common standard of income eligibility for both institutional and
20 home- and community-based care. The executive office is authorized to adopt clinical and/or
21 functional criteria for admission to a nursing facility, hospital, or intermediate-care facility for
22 persons with intellectual disabilities that are more stringent than those employed for access to
23 home- and community-based services. The executive office is also authorized to promulgate rules
24 that define the frequency of re-assessments for services provided for under this section. Levels of
25 care may be applied in accordance with the following:

26 (1) The executive office shall continue to apply the level of care criteria in effect on June
27 30, 2015, for any recipient determined eligible for and receiving Medicaid-funded, long-term
28 services in supports in a nursing facility, hospital, or intermediate-care facility for persons with
29 intellectual disabilities on or before that date, unless:

30 (a) The recipient transitions to home- and community-based services because he or she
31 would no longer meet the level of care criteria in effect on June 30, 2015; or

32 (b) The recipient chooses home- and community-based services over the nursing facility,
33 hospital, or intermediate-care facility for persons with intellectual disabilities. For the purposes of
34 this section, a failed community placement, as defined in regulations promulgated by the

1 executive office, shall be considered a condition of clinical eligibility for the highest level of care.
2 The executive office shall confer with the long-term-care ombudsperson with respect to the
3 determination of a failed placement under the ombudsperson's jurisdiction. Should any Medicaid
4 recipient eligible for a nursing facility, hospital, or intermediate-care facility for persons with
5 intellectual disabilities as of June 30, 2015, receive a determination of a failed community
6 placement, the recipient shall have access to the highest level of care; furthermore, a recipient
7 who has experienced a failed community placement shall be transitioned back into his or her
8 former nursing home, hospital, or intermediate-care facility for persons with intellectual
9 disabilities whenever possible. Additionally, residents shall only be moved from a nursing home,
10 hospital, or intermediate-care facility for persons with intellectual disabilities in a manner
11 consistent with applicable state and federal laws.

12 (2) Any Medicaid recipient eligible for the highest level of care who voluntarily leaves a
13 nursing home, hospital, or intermediate-care facility for persons with intellectual disabilities shall
14 not be subject to any wait list for home- and community-based services.

15 (3) No nursing home, hospital, or intermediate-care facility for persons with intellectual
16 disabilities shall be denied payment for services rendered to a Medicaid recipient on the grounds
17 that the recipient does not meet level of care criteria unless and until the executive office has:

18 (i) Performed an individual assessment of the recipient at issue and provided written
19 notice to the nursing home, hospital, or intermediate-care facility for persons with intellectual
20 disabilities that the recipient does not meet level of care criteria; and

21 (ii) The recipient has either appealed that level of care determination and been
22 unsuccessful, or any appeal period available to the recipient regarding that level of care
23 determination has expired.

24 (d) The executive office is further authorized to consolidate all home- and community-
25 based services currently provided pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1396n into a single system of home-
26 and community-based services that include options for consumer direction and shared living. The
27 resulting single home- and community-based services system shall replace and supersede all 42
28 U.S.C. § 1396n programs when fully implemented. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the resulting
29 single program home- and community-based services system shall include the continued funding
30 of assisted-living services at any assisted-living facility financed by the Rhode Island housing and
31 mortgage finance corporation prior to January 1, 2006, and shall be in accordance with chapter
32 66.8 of title 42 of the general laws as long as assisted-living services are a covered Medicaid
33 benefit.

34 (e) The executive office is authorized to promulgate rules that permit certain optional

1 services including, but not limited to, homemaker services, home modifications, respite, and
2 physical therapy evaluations to be offered to persons at risk for Medicaid-funded, long-term care
3 subject to availability of state-appropriated funding for these purposes.

4 (f) To promote the expansion of home- and community-based service capacity, the
5 executive office is authorized to pursue payment methodology reforms that increase access to
6 homemaker, personal care (home health aide), assisted living, adult supportive-care homes, and
7 adult day services, as follows:

8 (1) Development of revised or new Medicaid certification standards that increase access
9 to service specialization and scheduling accommodations by using payment strategies designed to
10 achieve specific quality and health outcomes.

11 (2) Development of Medicaid certification standards for state-authorized providers of
12 adult-day services, excluding such providers of services authorized under § 40.1-24-1(3), assisted
13 living, and adult supportive care (as defined under chapter 17.24 of title 23) that establish for
14 each, an acuity-based, tiered service and payment methodology tied to: licensure authority; level
15 of beneficiary needs; the scope of services and supports provided; and specific quality and
16 outcome measures.

17 The standards for adult-day services for persons eligible for Medicaid-funded, long-term
18 services may differ from those who do not meet the clinical/functional criteria set forth in § 40-
19 8.10-3.

20 (3) As the state's Medicaid program seeks to assist more beneficiaries requiring long-term
21 services and supports in home- and community-based settings, the demand for home care workers
22 has increased, and wages for these workers has not kept pace with neighboring states, leading to
23 high turnover and vacancy rates in the state's home-care industry, the executive office shall
24 institute a one-time increase in the base-payment rates for home-care service providers to
25 promote increased access to and an adequate supply of highly trained home health care
26 professionals, in amount to be determined by the appropriations process, for the purpose of
27 raising wages for personal care attendants and home health aides to be implemented by such
28 providers.

29 (4) A prospective base adjustment, effective not later than July 1, 2018, of six percent
30 (6%) of the current base rate for home care providers, home nursing care providers, and hospice
31 providers contracted with the executive office of health and human services and its subordinate
32 agencies to deliver Medicaid fee-for-service personal care attendant services.

33 (5) A prospective base adjustment, effective not later than July 1, 2018, of forty percent
34 (40%) of the current base rate for home care providers, home nursing care providers, and hospice

1 providers contracted with the executive office of health and human services and its subordinate
2 agencies to deliver Medicaid fee-for-service skilled nursing and therapeutic services and hospice
3 care.

4 (6) A prospective base adjustment, effective not later than July 1, 2018, of one and two
5 tenths percent (1.2%), retroactive to January 1, 2018, of the current base rate for home care
6 providers, home nursing care providers, and hospice providers contracted with the executive
7 office of health and human services, its subordinate agencies and contractors to deliver Medicaid
8 personal care attendant, skilled nursing and therapeutic services and hospice care for the purposes
9 of compliance with §§ 28-57-5, 28-57-6, 28-57-10 and 28-57-14.

10 (7) On the first of July in each year, beginning on July 1, 2019, the executive office of
11 health and human services will initiate an annual inflation increase to the base rate by a
12 percentage amount equal to the change in cost inflation by the rate as determined by the United
13 States Department of Labor Consumer Price Index card rate for medical care in New England and
14 for compliance with all federal and state laws, regulations, and rules, and all national
15 accreditation program requirements.

16 (g) The executive office shall implement a long-term-care options counseling program to
17 provide individuals, or their representatives, or both, with long-term-care consultations that shall
18 include, at a minimum, information about: long-term-care options, sources, and methods of both
19 public and private payment for long-term-care services and an assessment of an individual's
20 functional capabilities and opportunities for maximizing independence. Each individual admitted
21 to, or seeking admission to, a long-term-care facility, regardless of the payment source, shall be
22 informed by the facility of the availability of the long-term-care options counseling program and
23 shall be provided with long-term-care options consultation if they so request. Each individual
24 who applies for Medicaid long-term-care services shall be provided with a long-term-care
25 consultation.

26 (h) The executive office is also authorized, subject to availability of appropriation of
27 funding, and federal, Medicaid-matching funds, to pay for certain services and supports necessary
28 to transition or divert beneficiaries from institutional or restrictive settings and optimize their
29 health and safety when receiving care in a home or the community. The secretary is authorized to
30 obtain any state plan or waiver authorities required to maximize the federal funds available to
31 support expanded access to such home- and community-transition and stabilization services;
32 provided, however, payments shall not exceed an annual or per-person amount.

33 (i) To ensure persons with long-term-care needs who remain living at home have
34 adequate resources to deal with housing maintenance and unanticipated housing-related costs, the

1 secretary is authorized to develop higher resource eligibility limits for persons or obtain any state
2 plan or waiver authorities necessary to change the financial eligibility criteria for long-term
3 services and supports to enable beneficiaries receiving home and community waiver services to
4 have the resources to continue living in their own homes or rental units or other home-based
5 settings.

6 (j) The executive office shall implement, no later than January 1, 2016, the following
7 home- and community-based service and payment reforms:

8 (1) Community-based, supportive-living program established in § 40-8.13-12;

9 (2) Adult day services level of need criteria and acuity-based, tiered-payment
10 methodology; and

11 (3) Payment reforms that encourage home- and community-based providers to provide
12 the specialized services and accommodations beneficiaries need to avoid or delay institutional
13 care.

14 (k) The secretary is authorized to seek any Medicaid section 1115 waiver or state-plan
15 amendments and take any administrative actions necessary to ensure timely adoption of any new
16 or amended rules, regulations, policies, or procedures and any system enhancements or changes,
17 for which appropriations have been authorized, that are necessary to facilitate implementation of
18 the requirements of this section by the dates established. The secretary shall reserve the discretion
19 to exercise the authority established under §§ 42-7.2-5(6)(v) and 42-7.2-6.1, in consultation with
20 the governor, to meet the legislative directives established herein.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- LONG-TERM CARE SERVICE AND FINANCE
REFORM

1 This act would provide for a Medicaid home care base rate adjustment of six percent
2 (6%) in parity with Medicaid base rates in neighboring states for services delivered by skilled
3 nursing and therapeutic professionals, licensed nurse assistants and homemakers, and forty
4 percent (40%) for Medicaid-contracted home care providers and hospice care providers to allow
5 them to compete for direct care workers leaving Rhode Island to work in nearby Massachusetts
6 and Connecticut at higher wages and comply with the state's paid sick and safe leave laws with
7 annual inflation increases on July 1, 2019, and every July 1 thereafter.

8 This act would take effect upon passage.

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