

2026 -- H 7002

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S T A T E O F R H O D E I S L A N D

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

**RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE
AND DISCIPLINE**

Introduced By: Representatives Corvese, Noret, J. Brien, and Azzinaro

Date Introduced: January 07, 2026

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 5-37-5.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-37 entitled "Board of
2 Medical Licensure and Discipline" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **5-37-5.1. Unprofessional conduct.**

4 The term "unprofessional conduct" as used in this chapter includes, but is not limited to,
5 the following items or any combination of these items and may be further defined by regulations
6 established by the board with the prior approval of the director:

7 (1) Fraudulent or deceptive procuring or use of a license or limited registration;
8 (2) All advertising of medical business that is intended or has a tendency to deceive the
9 public;

10 (3) Conviction of a felony; conviction of a crime arising out of the practice of medicine;
11 (4) Abandoning a patient;

12 (5) Dependence upon controlled substances, habitual drunkenness, or rendering
13 professional services to a patient while the physician or limited registrant is intoxicated or
14 incapacitated by the use of drugs;

15 (6) Promotion by a physician or limited registrant of the sale of drugs, devices, appliances,
16 or goods or services provided for a patient in a manner as to exploit the patient for the financial
17 gain of the physician or limited registrant;

18 (7) Immoral conduct of a physician or limited registrant in the practice of medicine;

1 society while under disciplinary investigation by any of those authorities or bodies for acts or
2 conduct similar to acts or conduct that would constitute grounds for action as described in this
3 chapter;

4 (22) Multiple adverse judgments, settlements, or awards arising from medical liability
5 claims related to acts or conduct that would constitute grounds for action as described in this
6 chapter;

7 (23) Failing to furnish the board, its chief administrative officer, investigator, or
8 representatives, information legally requested by the board;

9 (24) Violating any provision or provisions of this chapter or the rules and regulations of
10 the board or any rules or regulations promulgated by the director or of an action, stipulation, or
11 agreement of the board;

12 (25) Cheating on or attempting to subvert the licensing examination;

13 (26) Violating any state or federal law or regulation relating to controlled substances;

14 (27) Failing to maintain standards established by peer-review boards, including, but not
15 limited to: standards related to proper utilization of services, use of nonaccepted procedure, and/or
16 quality of care;

17 (28) A pattern of medical malpractice, or willful or gross malpractice on a particular
18 occasion;

19 (29) Agreeing to treat a beneficiary of health insurance under title XVIII of the Social
20 Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1395 et seq., “Medicare Act,” and then charging or collecting from this
21 beneficiary any amount in excess of the amount or amounts permitted pursuant to the Medicare
22 Act;

23 (30) Sexual contact between a physician and patient during the existence of the
24 physician/patient relationship;

25 (31) Knowingly violating the provisions of § 23-4.13-2(d); or

26 (32) Performing a pelvic examination or supervising a pelvic examination performed by
27 an individual practicing under the supervision of a physician on an anesthetized or unconscious
28 female patient without first obtaining the patient’s informed consent to pelvic examination, unless
29 the performance of a pelvic examination is within the scope of the surgical procedure or diagnostic
30 examination to be performed on the patient for which informed consent has otherwise been
31 obtained or in the case of an unconscious patient, the pelvic examination is required for diagnostic
32 purposes and is medically necessary.

33 (33) Failing to submit medical bills to a health insurer, based solely on the reason that the
34 bill may arise from third-party claim or incident, other than a workers' compensation claim pursuant

1 [to chapter 33 of title 28.](#)

2 SECTION 2. Section 27-18-61 of the General Laws in Chapter 27-18 entitled "Accident
3 and Sickness Insurance Policies" is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **27-18-61. Prompt processing of claims.**

5 (a) (1) A healthcare entity or health plan operating in the state shall pay all complete claims
6 for covered healthcare services submitted to the healthcare entity or health plan by a healthcare
7 provider or by a policyholder within forty (40) calendar days following the date of receipt of a
8 complete written claim or within thirty (30) calendar days following the date of receipt of a
9 complete electronic claim. Each health plan shall establish a written standard defining what
10 constitutes a complete claim and shall distribute this standard to all participating providers.

11 (2) [No health care entity or health plan shall deny a claim for payment of any medical bill,](#)
12 [based solely on the reason that the bill may have arisen from a third-party claim or incident, other](#)
13 [than a workers' compensation claim pursuant to chapter 33 of title 28.](#)

14 (b) If the healthcare entity or health plan denies or pends a claim, the healthcare entity or
15 health plan shall have thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the claim to notify in writing the
16 healthcare provider or policyholder of any and all reasons for denying or pending the claim and
17 what, if any, additional information is required to process the claim. No healthcare entity or health
18 plan may limit the time period in which additional information may be submitted to complete a
19 claim.

20 (c) Any claim that is resubmitted by a healthcare provider or policyholder shall be treated
21 by the healthcare entity or health plan pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

22 (d) A healthcare entity or health plan that fails to reimburse the healthcare provider or
23 policyholder after receipt by the healthcare entity or health plan of a complete claim within the
24 required timeframes shall pay to the healthcare provider or the policyholder who submitted the
25 claim, in addition to any reimbursement for healthcare services provided, interest which shall
26 accrue at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum commencing on the thirty-first (31st) day
27 after receipt of a complete electronic claim or on the forty-first (41st) day after receipt of a complete
28 written claim, and ending on the date the payment is issued to the healthcare provider or the
29 policyholder.

30 (e) Exceptions to the requirements of this section are as follows:

31 (1) No healthcare entity or health plan operating in the state shall be in violation of this
32 section for a claim submitted by a healthcare provider or policyholder if:

33 (i) Failure to comply is caused by a directive from a court or federal or state agency;
34 (ii) The healthcare entity or health plan is in liquidation or rehabilitation or is operating in

1 compliance with a court-ordered plan of rehabilitation; or
2 (iii) The healthcare entity or health plan's compliance is rendered impossible due to matters
3 beyond its control that are not caused by it.

4 (2) No healthcare entity or health plan operating in the state shall be in violation of this
5 section for any claim: (i) Initially submitted more than ninety (90) days after the service is rendered,
6 or (ii) Resubmitted more than ninety (90) days after the date the healthcare provider received the
7 notice provided for in subsection (b) of this section; provided, this exception shall not apply in the
8 event compliance is rendered impossible due to matters beyond the control of the healthcare
9 provider and were not caused by the healthcare provider.

10 (3) No healthcare entity or health plan operating in the state shall be in violation of this
11 section while the claim is pending due to a fraud investigation by a state or federal agency.

12 (4) No healthcare entity or health plan operating in the state shall be obligated under this
13 section to pay interest to any healthcare provider or policyholder for any claim if the director of
14 business regulation finds that the entity or plan is in substantial compliance with this section. A
15 healthcare entity or health plan seeking such a finding from the director shall submit any
16 documentation that the director shall require. A healthcare entity or health plan that is found to be
17 in substantial compliance with this section shall thereafter submit any documentation that the
18 director may require on an annual basis for the director to assess ongoing compliance with this
19 section.

20 (5) A healthcare entity or health plan may petition the director for a waiver of the provision
21 of this section for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days in the event the healthcare entity or health
22 plan is converting or substantially modifying its claims processing systems.

23 (f) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

24 (1) "Claim" means: (i) A bill or invoice for covered services; (ii) A line item of service; or
25 (iii) All services for one patient or subscriber within a bill or invoice.

26 (2) "Date of receipt" means the date the healthcare entity or health plan receives the claim
27 whether via electronic submission or as a paper claim.

28 (3) "Healthcare entity" means a licensed insurance company or nonprofit hospital or
29 medical or dental service corporation or plan or health maintenance organization, or a contractor
30 as described in § 23-17.13-2(2) [repealed], that operates a health plan.

31 (4) "Healthcare provider" means an individual clinician, either in practice independently
32 or in a group, who provides healthcare services, and otherwise referred to as a non-institutional
33 provider.

34 (5) "Healthcare services" include, but are not limited to, medical, mental health, substance

1 abuse, dental, and any other services covered under the terms of the specific health plan.

2 (6) "Health plan" means a plan operated by a healthcare entity that provides for the delivery

3 of healthcare services to persons enrolled in those plans through:

4 (i) Arrangements with selected providers to furnish healthcare services; and/or

5 (ii) Financial incentive for persons enrolled in the plan to use the participating providers

6 and procedures provided for by the health plan.

7 (7) "Policyholder" means a person covered under a health plan or a representative

8 designated by that person.

9 (8) "Substantial compliance" means that the healthcare entity or health plan is processing

10 and paying ninety-five percent (95%) or more of all claims within the time frame provided for in

11 subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

12 (g) Any provision in a contract between a healthcare entity or a health plan and a healthcare

13 provider that is inconsistent with this section shall be void and of no force and effect.

14 SECTION 3. Section 27-19-52 of the General Laws in Chapter 27-19 entitled "Nonprofit

15 Hospital Service Corporations" is hereby amended to read as follows:

16 **27-19-52. Prompt processing of claims.**

17 (a) A healthcare entity or health plan operating in the state shall pay all complete claims

18 for covered healthcare services submitted to the healthcare entity or health plan by a healthcare

19 provider or by a policyholder within forty (40) calendar days following the date of receipt of a

20 complete written claim or within thirty (30) calendar days following the date of receipt of a

21 complete electronic claim. Each health plan shall establish a written standard defining what

22 constitutes a complete claim and shall distribute this standard to all participating providers.

23 (2) No health care entity or health plan shall deny a claim for payment of any medical bill,

24 based solely on the reason that the bill may have arisen from a third-party claim or incident, other

25 than a workers' compensation claim pursuant to chapter 33 of title 28.

26 (b) If the healthcare entity or health plan denies or pends a claim, the healthcare entity or

27 health plan shall have thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the claim to notify in writing the

28 healthcare provider or policyholder of any and all reasons for denying or pending the claim and

29 what, if any, additional information is required to process the claim. No healthcare entity or health

30 plan may limit the time period in which additional information may be submitted to complete a

31 claim.

32 (c) Any claim that is resubmitted by a healthcare provider or policyholder shall be treated

33 by the healthcare entity or health plan pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

34 (d) A healthcare entity or health plan that fails to reimburse the healthcare provider or

1 policyholder after receipt by the healthcare entity or health plan of a complete claim within the
2 required timeframes shall pay to the healthcare provider or the policyholder who submitted the
3 claim, in addition to any reimbursement for healthcare services provided, interest that shall accrue
4 at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum commencing on the thirty-first (31st) day after receipt
5 of a complete electronic claim or on the forty-first (41st) day after receipt of a complete written
6 claim, and ending on the date the payment is issued to the healthcare provider or the policyholder.

7 (e) Exceptions to the requirements of this section are as follows:

8 (1) No healthcare entity or health plan operating in the state shall be in violation of this
9 section for a claim submitted by a healthcare provider or policyholder if:

10 (i) Failure to comply is caused by a directive from a court or federal or state agency;

11 (ii) The healthcare provider or health plan is in liquidation or rehabilitation or is operating
12 in compliance with a court-ordered plan of rehabilitation; or

13 (iii) The healthcare entity or health plan's compliance is rendered impossible due to matters
14 beyond its control that are not caused by it.

15 (2) No healthcare entity or health plan operating in the state shall be in violation of this
16 section for any claim: (i) Initially submitted more than ninety (90) days after the service is rendered,
17 or (ii) Resubmitted more than ninety (90) days after the date the healthcare provider received the
18 notice provided for in § 27-18-61(b); provided, this exception shall not apply in the event
19 compliance is rendered impossible due to matters beyond the control of the healthcare provider and
20 were not caused by the healthcare provider.

21 (3) No healthcare entity or health plan operating in the state shall be in violation of this
22 section while the claim is pending due to a fraud investigation by a state or federal agency.

23 (4) No healthcare entity or health plan operating in the state shall be obligated under this
24 section to pay interest to any healthcare provider or policyholder for any claim if the director of the
25 department of business regulation finds that the entity or plan is in substantial compliance with this
26 section. A healthcare entity or health plan seeking such a finding from the director shall submit any
27 documentation that the director shall require. A healthcare entity or health plan that is found to be
28 in substantial compliance with this section shall after this submit any documentation that the
29 director may require on an annual basis for the director to assess ongoing compliance with this
30 section.

31 (5) A healthcare entity or health plan may petition the director for a waiver of the provision
32 of this section for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days in the event the healthcare entity or health
33 plan is converting or substantially modifying its claims processing systems.

34 (f) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) “Claim” means:

(i) A bill or invoice for covered services;

(ii) A line item of service; or

(iii) All services for one patient or subscriber within a bill or invoice.

(2) "Date of receipt" means the date the healthcare entity or health plan receives the claim

whether via electronic submission or has a paper claim.

(3) "Healthcare entity" means a licensed insurance company or nonprofit hospital or medical service corporation or plan or health maintenance organization, or a contractor described in § 23-17.13-2(2), that operates a health plan.

(4) "Healthcare provider" means an individual clinician, either in practice independently or as part of a group, who provides healthcare services, and referred to as a non-institutional provider.

(5) "Healthcare services" include, but are not limited to, medical, mental health, substance dental, and any other services covered under the terms of the specific health plan.

(6) "Health plan" means a plan operated by a healthcare entity that provides for the delivery of healthcare services to persons enrolled in those plans through:

(i) Arrangements with selected providers to furnish healthcare services; and/or

(ii) Financial incentive for persons enrolled in the plan to use the participating providers procedures provided for by the health plan.

(7) "Policyholder" means a person covered under a health plan or a representative appointed by that person.

(8) "Substantial compliance" means that the healthcare entity or health plan is processing 95% or more of all claims within the time frame provided for in § 51(a) and (b).

(g) Any provision in a contract between a healthcare entity or a health plan and a healthcare provider that is inconsistent with this section shall be void and of no force and effect.

SECTION 4. Section 27-20-47 of the General Laws in Chapter 27-20 entitled "Nonprofit
1 Service Corporations" is hereby amended to read as follows:

27-20-47. Prompt processing of claims.

(a)(1) A healthcare entity or health plan operating in the state shall pay all complete claims for healthcare services submitted to the healthcare entity or health plan by a healthcare provider or by a policyholder within forty (40) calendar days following the date of receipt of a complete written claim or within thirty (30) calendar days following the date of receipt of a complete electronic claim. Each health plan shall establish a written standard defining what constitutes a complete claim and shall distribute the standard to all participating providers.

1 (2) No health care entity or health plan shall deny a claim for payment of any medical bill,
2 based solely on the reason that the bill may have arisen from a third-party claim or incident, other
3 than a workers' compensation claim pursuant to chapter 33 of title 28.

4 (b) If the healthcare entity or health plan denies or pends a claim, the healthcare entity or
5 health plan shall have thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the claim to notify in writing the
6 healthcare provider or policyholder of any and all reasons for denying or pending the claim and
7 what, if any, additional information is required to process the claim. No healthcare entity or health
8 plan may limit the time period in which additional information may be submitted to complete a
9 claim.

10 (c) Any claim that is resubmitted by a healthcare provider or policyholder shall be treated
11 by the healthcare entity or health plan pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

12 (d) A healthcare entity or health plan which fails to reimburse the healthcare provider or
13 policyholder after receipt by the healthcare entity or health plan of a complete claim within the
14 required timeframes shall pay to the healthcare provider or the policyholder who submitted the
15 claim, in addition to any reimbursement for healthcare services provided, interest that shall accrue
16 at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum commencing on the thirty-first (31st) day after receipt
17 of a complete electronic claim or on the forty-first (41st) day after receipt of a complete written
18 claim, and ending on the date the payment is issued to the healthcare provider or the policyholder.

19 (e) Exceptions to the requirements of this section are as follows:

20 (1) No healthcare entity or health plan operating in the state shall be in violation of this
21 section for a claim submitted by a healthcare provider or policyholder if:

22 (i) Failure to comply is caused by a directive from a court or federal or state agency;
23 (ii) The healthcare entity or health plan is in liquidation or rehabilitation or is operating in
24 compliance with a court-ordered plan of rehabilitation; or
25 (iii) The healthcare entity or health plan's compliance is rendered impossible due to matters
26 beyond its control that are not caused by it.

27 (2) No healthcare entity or health plan operating in the state shall be in violation of this
28 section for any claim: (i) Initially submitted more than ninety (90) days after the service is rendered,
29 or (ii) Resubmitted more than ninety (90) days after the date the healthcare provider received the
30 notice provided for in § 27-18-61(b); provided, this exception shall not apply in the event
31 compliance is rendered impossible due to matters beyond the control of the healthcare provider and
32 were not caused by the healthcare provider.

33 (3) No healthcare entity or health plan operating in the state shall be in violation of this
34 section while the claim is pending due to a fraud investigation by a state or federal agency.

9 (5) A healthcare entity or health plan may petition the director for a waiver of the provision
10 of this section for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days in the event the healthcare entity or health
11 plan is converting or substantially modifying its claims processing systems.

12 (f) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

13 (1) "Claim" means: (i) A bill or invoice for covered services; (ii) A line item of service; or

14 (iii) All services for one patient or subscriber within a bill or invoice.

15 (2) "Date of receipt" means the date the healthcare entity or health plan receives the claim
16 whether via electronic submission or has a paper claim.

17 (3) "Healthcare entity" means a licensed insurance company or nonprofit hospital or
18 medical or dental service corporation or plan or health maintenance organization, or a contractor
19 as described in § 23-17.13-2(2), that operates a health plan.

20 (4) "Healthcare provider" means an individual clinician, either in practice independently
21 or in a group, who provides healthcare services, and referred to as a non-institutional provider.

22 (5) "Healthcare services" include, but are not limited to, medical, mental health, substance
23 abuse, dental, and any other services covered under the terms of the specific health plan.

24 (6) "Health plan" means a plan operated by a healthcare entity that provides for the delivery
25 of healthcare services to persons enrolled in the plan through:

26 (i) Arrangements with selected providers to furnish healthcare services; and/or

27 (ii) Financial incentive for persons enrolled in the plan to use the participating providers
28 and procedures provided for by the health plan.

(7) "Policyholder" means a person covered under a health plan or a representative designated by that person.

31 (8) "Substantial compliance" means that the healthcare entity or health plan is processing
32 and paying ninety-five percent (95%) or more of all claims within the time frame provided for in §
33 27-18-61(a) and (b).

34 (g) Any provision in a contract between a healthcare entity or a health plan and a healthcare

1 provider that is inconsistent with this section shall be void and of no force and effect.

2 SECTION 5. Section 27-41-64 of the General Laws in Chapter 27-41 entitled "Health
3 Maintenance Organizations" is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **27-41-64. Prompt processing of claims.**

5 (a)(1) A healthcare entity or health plan operating in the state shall pay all complete claims
6 for covered healthcare services submitted to the healthcare entity or health plan by a healthcare
7 provider or by a policyholder within forty (40) calendar days following the date of receipt of a
8 complete written claim or within thirty (30) calendar days following the date of receipt of a
9 complete electronic claim. Each health plan shall establish a written standard defining what
10 constitutes a complete claim and shall distribute this standard to all participating providers.

11 (2) No health care entity or health plan shall deny a claim for payment of any medical bill,
12 based solely on the reason that the bill may have arisen from a third-party claim or incident, other
13 than a workers' compensation claim pursuant to chapter 33 of title 28.

14 (b) If the healthcare entity or health plan denies or pends a claim, the healthcare entity or
15 health plan shall have thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the claim to notify in writing the
16 healthcare provider or policyholder of any and all reasons for denying or pending the claim and
17 what, if any, additional information is required to process the claim. No healthcare entity or health
18 plan may limit the time period in which additional information may be submitted to complete a
19 claim.

20 (c) Any claim that is resubmitted by a healthcare provider or policyholder shall be treated
21 by the healthcare entity or health plan pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

22 (d) A healthcare entity or health plan that fails to reimburse the healthcare provider or
23 policyholder after receipt by the healthcare entity or health plan of a complete claim within the
24 required timeframes shall pay to the healthcare provider or the policyholder who submitted the
25 claim, in addition to any reimbursement for healthcare services provided, interest that shall accrue
26 at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum commencing on the thirty-first (31st) day after receipt
27 of a complete electronic claim or on the forty-first (41st) day after receipt of a complete written
28 claim, and ending on the date the payment is issued to the healthcare provider or the policyholder.

29 (e) Exceptions to the requirements of this section are as follows:

30 (1) No healthcare entity or health plan operating in the state shall be in violation of this
31 section for a claim submitted by a healthcare provider or policyholder if:

32 (i) Failure to comply is caused by a directive from a court or federal or state agency;
33 (ii) The healthcare entity or health plan is in liquidation or rehabilitation or is operating in
34 compliance with a court-ordered plan of rehabilitation; or

(3) No healthcare entity or health plan operating in the state shall be in violation of this section while the claim is pending due to a fraud investigation by a state or federal agency.

18 (5) A healthcare entity or health plan may petition the director for a waiver of the provision
19 of this section for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days in the event the healthcare entity or health
20 plan is converting or substantially modifying its claims processing systems.

21 (f) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Claim" means: (i) A bill or invoice for covered services; (ii) A line item of service; or
(iii) All services for one patient or subscriber within a bill or invoice.

24 (2) "Date of receipt" means the date the healthcare entity or health plan receives the claim
25 whether via electronic submission or as a paper claim.

(3) "Healthcare entity" means a licensed insurance company or nonprofit hospital or medical or dental service corporation or plan or health maintenance organization, or a contractor as described in § 23-17.13-2(2) [repealed] that operates a health plan.

29 (4) "Healthcare provider" means an individual clinician, either in practice independently
30 or in a group, who provides healthcare services, and is referred to as a non-institutional provider.

(5) "Healthcare services" include, but are not limited to, medical, mental health, substance abuse, dental, and any other services covered under the terms of the specific health plan.

33 (6) "Health plan" means a plan operated by a healthcare entity that provides for the delivery
34 of healthcare services to persons enrolled in the plan through:

4 (7) "Policyholder" means a person covered under a health plan or a representative
5 designated by that person.

9 (g) Any provision in a contract between a healthcare entity or a health plan and a healthcare
10 provider that is inconsistent with this section shall be void and of no force and effect.

11 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon passage.

LC003564

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE
AND DISCIPLINE

- 1 This act would prohibit healthcare providers and health plans from denying the payment
- 2 of a medical bill, solely because the bill may have arisen from a third-party claim.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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