

2026 -- H 7277

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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**

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**A N   A C T**

**RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES**

Introduced By: Representatives Stewart, Donovan, Boylan, Hopkins, Cotter, Caldwell, Fogarty, Cruz, Giraldo, and Place

Date Introduced: January 23, 2026

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1        SECTION 1. Chapter 27-18 of the General Laws entitled "Accident and Sickness Insurance  
2        Policies" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3        **27-18-96. Licensed certified lactation counselor.**

4        (a) As used in this section, "licensed certified lactation counselor" means a trained  
5        professional who holds a licensure and certification by the department of health in accordance with  
6        chapter 13.8 of title 23. Licensed certified lactation counselors provide services in assessment,  
7        evaluation, problem identification, treatment, education, and consultation to provide lactation care  
8        and services to childbearing families, and infant children from birth to twelve (12) months old  
9        within the scope of practice pursuant to the provisions of § 23-13.8-9.

10        (b) Every individual or group health insurance contract, or every individual or group  
11        hospital or medical expense insurance policy, plan, or group policy delivered, issued for delivery,  
12        or renewed in this state on or after January 1, 2027, shall provide coverage for the services of  
13        lactation counselors in accordance with each health insurers' respective principles and mechanisms  
14        of reimbursement, credentialing, and contracting, if the services are within the lactation counselors'  
15        area of professional competence pursuant to the provisions of chapter 13.8 of title 23 ("lactation  
16        counselor practice act of 2024"), and are currently reimbursed when rendered by any other health  
17        care provider. No insurer or hospital or medical service corporation may require supervision,  
18        signature, or referral by any other health care provider as a condition of reimbursement, except  
19        when those requirements are also applicable to other categories of health care providers. No insurer

1     or hospital or medical service corporation or patient may be required to pay for duplicate services  
2     actually rendered by both a licensed certified lactation counselor and any other health care provider.

3         (c) Every individual or group health insurance contract, or every individual or group  
4     hospital or medical expense insurance policy, plan, or group policy delivered, issued for delivery,  
5     or renewed in this state that is required to cover licensed certified lactation counselor services  
6     defined in subsection (a) of this section, shall report utilization and cost information related to  
7     licensed certified lactation counselor services to the office of the health insurance commissioner on  
8     or before July 1, 2027 and each July 1 thereafter. The office of the health insurance commissioner  
9     shall define the utilization and cost information required to be reported.

10         (d) This section shall not apply to insurance coverage providing benefits for:

11             (1) Hospital confinement indemnity;  
12             (2) Disability income;  
13             (3) Accident only;  
14             (4) Long-term care;  
15             (5) Medicare supplement;  
16             (6) Limited benefit health;  
17             (7) Specified disease indemnity;  
18             (8) Sickness or bodily injury or death by accident or both; and  
19             (9) Other limited benefit policies.

20             SECTION 2. Chapter 27-19 of the General Laws entitled "Nonprofit Hospital Service  
21     Corporations" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

22             **27-19-88. Licensed certified lactation counselor.**

23             (a) As used in this section, "licensed certified lactation counselor" means a trained  
24     professional who holds a licensure and certification by the department of health in accordance with  
25     chapter 13.8 of title 23. Licensed certified lactation counselors provide services in assessment,  
26     evaluation, problem identification, treatment, education, and consultation to provide lactation care  
27     and services to childbearing families, and infant children from birth to twelve (12) months old  
28     within the scope of practice pursuant to the provisions of § 23-13.8-9.

29             (b) Every individual or group health insurance contract, or every individual or group  
30     hospital or medical expense insurance policy, plan, or group policy delivered, issued for delivery,  
31     or renewed in this state on or after January 1, 2027, shall provide coverage for the services of  
32     lactation counselors in accordance with each health insurers' respective principles and mechanisms  
33     of reimbursement, credentialing, and contracting, if the services are within the lactation counselors'  
34     area of professional competence pursuant to the provisions of chapter 13.8 of title 23 ("lactation

1       counselor practice act of 2024"), and are currently reimbursed when rendered by any other health  
2       care provider. No insurer or hospital or medical service corporation may require supervision,  
3       signature, or referral by any other health care provider as a condition of reimbursement, except  
4       when those requirements are also applicable to other categories of health care providers. No insurer  
5       or hospital or medical service corporation or patient may be required to pay for duplicate services  
6       actually rendered by both a licensed certified lactation counselor and any other health care provider.

7               (c) Every individual or group health insurance contract, or every individual or group  
8       hospital or medical expense insurance policy, plan, or group policy delivered, issued for delivery,  
9       or renewed in this state that is required to cover licensed certified lactation counselor services  
10       defined in subsection (a) of this section, shall report utilization and cost information related to  
11       licensed certified lactation counselor services to the office of the health insurance commissioner on  
12       or before July 1, 2027 and each July 1 thereafter. The office of the health insurance commissioner  
13       shall define the utilization and cost information required to be reported.

14               (d) This section shall not apply to insurance coverage providing benefits for:

15               (1) Hospital confinement indemnity;  
16               (2) Disability income;  
17               (3) Accident only;  
18               (4) Long-term care;  
19               (5) Medicare supplement;  
20               (6) Limited benefit health;  
21               (7) Specified disease indemnity;  
22               (8) Sickness or bodily injury or death by accident or both; and  
23               (9) Other limited benefit policies.

24       SECTION 3. Chapter 27-20 of the General Laws entitled "Nonprofit Medical Service  
25       Corporations" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

26       **27-20-84. Licensed certified lactation counselor.**

27               (a) As used in this section, "licensed certified lactation counselor" means a trained  
28       professional who holds a licensure and certification by the department of health in accordance with  
29       chapter 13.8 of title 23. Licensed certified lactation counselors provide services in assessment,  
30       evaluation, problem identification, treatment, education, and consultation to provide lactation care  
31       and services to childbearing families, and infant children from birth to twelve (12) months old  
32       within the scope of practice pursuant to the provisions of § 23-13.8-9.

33               (b) Every individual or group health insurance contract, or every individual or group  
34       hospital or medical expense insurance policy, plan, or group policy delivered, issued for delivery,

1     or renewed in this state on or after January 1, 2027, shall provide coverage for the services of  
2     lactation counselors in accordance with each health insurers' respective principles and mechanisms  
3     of reimbursement, credentialing, and contracting, if the services are within the lactation counselors'  
4     area of professional competence pursuant to the provisions of chapter 13.8 of title 23 ("lactation  
5     counselor practice act of 2024"), and are currently reimbursed when rendered by any other health  
6     care provider. No insurer or hospital or medical service corporation may require supervision,  
7     signature, or referral by any other health care provider as a condition of reimbursement, except  
8     when those requirements are also applicable to other categories of health care providers. No insurer  
9     or hospital or medical service corporation or patient may be required to pay for duplicate services  
10    actually rendered by both a licensed certified lactation counselor and any other health care provider.

11            (c) Every individual or group health insurance contract, or every individual or group  
12    hospital or medical expense insurance policy, plan, or group policy delivered, issued for delivery,  
13    or renewed in this state that is required to cover licensed certified lactation counselor services  
14    defined in subsection (a) of this section, shall report utilization and cost information related to  
15    licensed certified lactation counselor services to the office of the health insurance commissioner on  
16    or before July 1, 2027 and each July 1 thereafter. The office of the health insurance commissioner  
17    shall define the utilization and cost information required to be reported.

18            (d) This section shall not apply to insurance coverage providing benefits for:

19            (1) Hospital confinement indemnity;

20            (2) Disability income;

21            (3) Accident only;

22            (4) Long-term care;

23            (5) Medicare supplement;

24            (6) Limited benefit health;

25            (7) Specified disease indemnity;

26            (8) Sickness or bodily injury or death by accident or both; and

27            (9) Other limited benefit policies.

28        SECTION 4. Chapter 27-41 of the General Laws entitled "Health Maintenance  
29    Organizations" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

30            **27-41-101. Licensed certified lactation counselor.**

31            (a) As used in this section, "licensed certified lactation counselor" means a trained  
32    professional who holds a licensure and certification by the department of health in accordance with  
33    chapter 13.8 of title 23. Licensed certified lactation counselors provide services in assessment,  
34    evaluation, problem identification, treatment, education, and consultation to provide lactation care

1 and services to childbearing families, and infant children from birth to twelve (12) months old  
2 within the scope of practice pursuant to the provisions of § 23-13.8-9.

3 (b) Every individual or group health insurance contract, or every individual or group  
4 hospital or medical expense insurance policy, plan, or group policy delivered, issued for delivery,  
5 or renewed in this state on or after January 1, 2027, shall provide coverage for the services of  
6 lactation counselors in accordance with each health insurers' respective principles and mechanisms  
7 of reimbursement, credentialing, and contracting, if the services are within the lactation counselors'  
8 area of professional competence pursuant to the provisions of chapter 13.8 of title 23 ("lactation  
9 counselor practice act of 2024"), and are currently reimbursed when rendered by any other health  
10 care provider. No insurer or hospital or medical service corporation may require supervision,  
11 signature, or referral by any other health care provider as a condition of reimbursement, except  
12 when those requirements are also applicable to other categories of health care providers. No insurer  
13 or hospital or medical service corporation or patient may be required to pay for duplicate services  
14 actually rendered by both a licensed certified lactation counselor and any other health care provider.

15 (c) Every individual or group health insurance contract, or every individual or group  
16 hospital or medical expense insurance policy, plan, or group policy delivered, issued for delivery,  
17 or renewed in this state that is required to cover licensed certified lactation counselor services  
18 defined in subsection (a) of this section, shall report utilization and cost information related to  
19 licensed certified lactation counselor services to the office of the health insurance commissioner on  
20 or before July 1, 2027 and each July 1 thereafter. The office of the health insurance commissioner  
21 shall define the utilization and cost information required to be reported.

22 (d) This section shall not apply to insurance coverage providing benefits for:

23 (1) Hospital confinement indemnity;  
24 (2) Disability income;  
25 (3) Accident only;  
26 (4) Long-term care;  
27 (5) Medicare supplement;  
28 (6) Limited benefit health;  
29 (7) Specified disease indemnity;  
30 (8) Sickness or bodily injury or death by accident or both; and  
31 (9) Other limited benefit policies.

32 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES

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- 1        This act would require health insurance policies to cover licensed certified lactation
- 2        counselor services for childbearing families. It would also prohibit requiring supervision or
- 3        duplicate payments for services and mandates annual reporting.
- 4        This act would take effect on January 1, 2027.

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