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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- SENSITIVE HEALTHCARE INFORMATION
PRIVACY ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Knight, Boylan, McEntee, Speakman, Donovan, Carson,
Diaz, Cortvriend, Spears, and Kazarian

Date Introduced: January 28, 2026

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 101.1

4 SENSITIVE HEALTHCARE INFORMATION PRIVACY ACT

5 **23-101.1-1. Title.**

6 This chapter may be cited as the "Sensitive Healthcare Information Privacy Act."

7 **23-101.1-2. Definitions.**

8 As used in this chapter:

9 (1) "Affiliate" means a legal entity that shares common branding with another legal entity
10 and controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with another legal entity. For the
11 purposes of this definition, "control" or "controlled" means:

12 (i) Ownership of, or the power to vote, more than fifty percent (50%) of the outstanding
13 shares of any class of voting security of a company;

14 (ii) Control in any manner over the election of a majority of the directors or of individuals
15 exercising similar functions; or

16 (iii) The power to exercise controlling influence over the management of a company.

17 (2) "Authenticate" means to use reasonable means to determine that a request to exercise
18 any of the rights afforded in this chapter is being made by, or on behalf of, the consumer who is

1 entitled to exercise such consumer rights with respect to the consumer health data at issue.

2 (3) "Biometric data" means data that is generated from the measurement or technological
3 processing of an individual's physiological, biological, or behavioral characteristics and that
4 identifies a consumer, whether individually or in combination with other data. Biometric data
5 includes, but is not limited to:

6 (i) Imagery of the iris, retina, fingerprint, face, hand, palm, vein patterns, and voice
7 recordings, from which an identifier template can be extracted; or

8 (ii) Keystroke patterns or rhythms and gait patterns or rhythms that contain identifying
9 information.

10 (4) "Collect" means to buy, rent, access, retain, receive, acquire, infer, derive, or otherwise
11 process consumer health data in any manner, including receiving the data from the individual, either
12 actively or passively, or by observing or tracking the individual's online activity or precise location.

13 (5)(i) "Consent" means an affirmative act that signifies a consumer's freely given, specific,
14 informed, opt-in, voluntary, and unambiguous agreement, which may include written consent
15 provided by electronic means; provided:

16 (A) The request is provided to the consumer in a clear and conspicuous stand-alone
17 disclosure;

18 (B) The request includes a description of the processing purpose for which the consumer's
19 consent is sought and clearly states the specific categories of personal data that the regulated entity
20 intends to collect, process, or transfer; and

21 (C) The request is made available to the consumer in each language in which the regulated
22 entity provides a product or service for which authorization is sought and in a manner reasonably
23 accessible to consumers with disabilities.

24 (ii) "Consent" may not be obtained by:

25 (A) A consumer's acceptance of a general or broad terms of use agreement or a similar
26 document that contains descriptions of personal data processing along with other unrelated
27 information;

28 (B) A consumer hovering over, muting, pausing, or closing a given piece of content;

29 (C) A consumer's agreement obtained through the use of deceptive designs; or

30 (D) Inference from the inaction of a consumer or the consumer's continued use of a service
31 or product provided by the regulated entity.

32 (6) "Consumer" means a natural person who is

33 (i) A Rhode Island resident, or a natural person whose consumer health data is collected
34 while present in Rhode Island; and

1 (ii) Who is acting only in an individual or household context, however identified, including
2 by any unique identifier.

3 (iii) "Consumer" does not include an individual acting in an employment context.

4 (7) "Consumer health data" means:

5 (i)(A) A consumer's gender-affirming care information;

6 (B) A consumer's reproductive or sexual health information; or

7 (ii) Any information that a regulated entity or a small business, or their respective
8 processor, processes to associate or identify a consumer with the data described in subsection (7)(i)
9 of this section that is derived or extrapolated from information that is not consumer health data
10 (such as proxy, derivative, inferred, or emergent data by any means, including algorithms or
11 machine learning).

12 (iii) "Consumer health data" does not include publicly available information, deidentified
13 data, or personal information that is used to engage in public or peer-reviewed scientific, historical,
14 or statistical research in the public interest that adheres to all other applicable ethics and privacy
15 laws and is approved, monitored, and governed by an institutional review board, human subjects
16 research ethics review board, or a similar independent oversight entity that determines that the
17 regulated entity or the small business has implemented reasonable safeguards to mitigate privacy
18 risks associated with research, including any risks associated with reidentification.

19 (8) "Deceptive design" means a user interface designed or manipulated with the effect of
20 subverting or impairing user autonomy, decision making, or choice.

21 (9) "Deidentified data" means data that cannot reasonably be used to infer information
22 about, or otherwise be linked to, an identified or identifiable consumer, or a device linked to such
23 consumer, if the regulated entity or the small business that possesses such data:

24 (i) Takes reasonable measures to ensure that such data cannot be associated with a
25 consumer;

26 (ii) Publicly commits to process such data only in a deidentified fashion and not attempt to
27 reidentify such data; and

28 (iii) Contractually obligates any recipients of such data to satisfy the criteria set forth in
29 this subsection.

30 (10) "Gender-affirming care information" means personal information relating to seeking
31 or obtaining past, present, or future gender-affirming care-related services. "Gender-affirming care
32 information" includes, but is not limited to:

33 (i) Precise location information that could reasonably indicate a consumer's attempt to
34 acquire or receive gender-affirming care-related services;

1 (ii) Efforts to research or obtain gender-affirming care-related services; or
2 (iii) Any gender-affirming care information that is derived, extrapolated, or inferred,
3 including from information that is not consumer health data, such as proxy, derivative, inferred,
4 emergent, or algorithmic data.

5 (11) "Gender-affirming care-related services" means health services or products relating to
6 the treatment of gender dysphoria and gender incongruence that support and affirm an individual's
7 gender identity including, but not limited to:

8 (i) Gender-affirming healthcare services as defined in § 23-101-2;

9 (ii) Individual health conditions, status, or diagnoses;

10 (iii) Psychological, behavioral, and medical interventions;

11 (iv) Surgeries or procedures;

12 (v) Use or purchase of medication including, but not limited to, medications for the
13 purposes of gender-affirming hormone therapy;

14 (vi) Bodily functions, vital signs, symptoms, or measurements of the information described
15 in this subsection;

16 (vii) Diagnoses or diagnostic testing, treatment, or medication; and

17 (viii) Medical or nonmedical services related to and/or provided in conjunction with the
18 treatment of gender dysphoria and gender incongruence including, but not limited to, associated
19 diagnostics, counseling, supplies, and follow-up services.

20 (12) "Geofence" means technology that uses global positioning coordinates, cell tower
21 connectivity, cellular data, radio frequency identification, Wifi data, and/or any other form of
22 spatial or location detection to establish a virtual boundary around a specific physical location, or
23 to locate a consumer within a virtual boundary. For purposes of this definition, "geofence" means
24 a virtual boundary that is two thousand feet (2,000') or less from the perimeter of the physical
25 location.

26 (13) "Homepage" means the introductory page of an internet website and any internet
27 webpage where personal information is collected. In the case of an online service, such as a mobile
28 application, homepage means the application's platform page or download page, and a link within
29 the application, such as from the application configuration, "about," "information," or settings page.

30 (14) "Person" means, where applicable, natural persons, corporations, trusts,
31 unincorporated associations, and partnerships. "Person" does not include government agencies,
32 tribal nations, or contracted service providers when processing consumer health data on behalf of
33 a government agency.

34 (15) "Personal information" means information that identifies or is reasonably capable of

1 being associated or linked, directly or indirectly, with a particular consumer. "Personal
2 information" includes, but is not limited to, data associated with a persistent unique identifier, such
3 as a cookie ID, an IP address, a device identifier, or any other form of persistent unique identifier.
4 "Personal information" does not include publicly available information or deidentified data.

5 (16) "Precise location information" means information derived from technology including,
6 but not limited to, global positioning system level latitude and longitude coordinates or other
7 mechanisms, that directly identifies the specific location of an individual with precision and
8 accuracy within a radius of one thousand seven hundred fifty feet (1,750'). "Precise location
9 information" does not include the content of communications, or any data generated by or
10 connected to advanced utility metering infrastructure systems or equipment for use by a utility.

11 (17) "Process" or "processing" means any operation or set of operations performed on
12 consumer health data.

13 (18) "Processor" means a person that processes consumer health data on behalf of a
14 regulated entity or a small business.

15 (19) "Publicly available information" means information that:

16 (i) Is made available through federal, state, or municipal government records or widely
17 distributed media;

18 (ii) Is released in a disclosure to the general public as required by federal, state, or local
19 law; or

20 (iii) A regulated entity or a small business has a reasonable basis to believe a consumer has
21 made available in such a way that the consumer no longer maintains a reasonable expectation of
22 privacy in the information. Provided, "publicly available information" does not include any
23 biometric data collected about a consumer by a business without the consumer's consent or publicly
24 available information combined or intermixed with personal information.

25 (20) "Regulated entity" means any legal entity that:

26 (i) Provides gender-affirming care-related services or reproductive or sexual health-related
27 services in Rhode Island, or produces or provides gender-affirming care-related services or
28 reproductive or sexual health-related services that are targeted to consumers in Rhode Island;

29 (ii) Alone or jointly with others, determines the purpose and means of collecting,
30 processing, sharing, or selling of consumer health data; and

31 (iii) Collects consumer health data directly from consumers. "Regulated entity" does not
32 mean government agencies, tribal nations, or contracted service providers when processing
33 consumer health data on behalf of the government agency.

34 (21) "Reproductive or sexual health information" means personal information relating to

1 seeking or obtaining past, present, or future reproductive or sexual health-related services.
2 "Reproductive or sexual health information" includes, but is not limited to:
3 (i) Precise location information that could reasonably indicate a consumer's attempt to
4 acquire or receive reproductive or sexual health-related services;
5 (ii) Efforts to research or obtain reproductive or sexual health-related services; or
6 (iii) Any reproductive or sexual health information that is derived, extrapolated, or inferred,
7 including from nonhealth information (such as proxy, derivative, inferred, emergent, or algorithmic
8 data).
9 (22) "Reproductive or sexual health-related services" means health services or products
10 that support or relate to a consumer's reproductive system or sexual well-being including, but not
11 limited to, services or products relating to:
12 (i) Reproductive healthcare services as defined in § 23-101-2;
13 (ii) Individual health conditions, status, or diagnoses;
14 (iii) Psychological, behavioral, and medical interventions;
15 (iv) Surgeries or procedures including, but not limited to, abortions;
16 (iv) Use or purchase of medication including, but not limited to, medications for the
17 purposes of abortion;
18 (v) Bodily functions, vital signs, symptoms, or measurements of the information described
19 in this subsection;
20 (vi) Diagnoses or diagnostic testing, treatment, or medication; and
21 (vii) Medical or nonmedical services related to or provided in conjunction with pregnancy,
22 contraception, assisted reproduction, pregnancy loss management, or the termination of a
23 pregnancy including, but not limited to, associated diagnostics, counseling, supplies, and follow-
24 up services.
25 (23) "Sell" or "sale" means the sharing of consumer health data in exchange for monetary
26 or other valuable consideration.
27 (24)(i) "Share" or "sharing" means to release, disclose, disseminate, divulge, make
28 available, provide access to, license, or otherwise communicate orally, in writing, or by electronic
29 or other means, consumer health data by a regulated entity or a small business to a third party or
30 affiliate. "Share" includes "sell."
31 (ii) The term "share" or "sharing" does not include:
32 (A) The disclosure of consumer health data by a regulated entity or a small business to a
33 processor when such sharing is to provide goods or services in a manner consistent with the purpose
34 for which the consumer health data was collected and disclosed to the consumer;

1 (B) The disclosure of consumer health data to a third party with whom the consumer has a
2 direct relationship when:

3 (I) The disclosure is for purposes of providing a product or service requested by the
4 consumer;

5 (II) The regulated entity or the small business maintains control and ownership of the data;
6 and

7 (III) The third party uses the consumer health data only at direction from the regulated
8 entity or the small business and consistent with the purpose for which it was collected and consented
9 to by the consumer; or

10 (C) The disclosure or transfer of consumer health data to a third party as an asset that is
11 part of a merger, acquisition, bankruptcy, or other transaction in which the third party assumes
12 control of all or part of the regulated entity's or the small business's assets and complies with the
13 requirements and obligations in this chapter, but only if the regulated entity or small business, in a
14 reasonable time before the disclosure, provides the affected consumer with both of the following:

15 (I) A notice describing the transfer, including the name of the entity receiving the
16 individual's consumer health data and the applicable privacy policies of the entity; and

17 (II) A reasonable opportunity to withdraw previously provided consent related to the
18 individual's consumer health data and request the deletion of the individual's consumer health data;

19 (D) The disclosure is of publicly available information.

20 (25) "Small business" means a regulated entity that satisfies one or both of the following
21 thresholds:

22 (i) Collects, processes, sells, or shares consumer health data of fewer than one hundred
23 thousand (100,000) consumers during a calendar year; or

24 (ii) Derives less than fifty percent (50%) of gross revenue from the collection, processing,
25 selling, or sharing of consumer health data, and controls, processes, sells, or shares consumer health
26 data of fewer than twenty-five thousand (25,000) consumers.

27 (26) "Third party" means an entity other than a consumer, regulated entity, processor, small
28 business, or affiliate of the regulated entity or the small business.

29 **23-101.1-3. Consumer health data privacy policy.**

30 (a)(1) A regulated entity, by January 1, 2027, and a small business, by April 1, 2027, shall
31 maintain a consumer health data privacy policy that clearly and conspicuously discloses:

32 (i) The categories of consumer health data collected and the purpose for which the data is
33 collected, including how the data will be used;

34 (ii) The categories of sources from which the consumer health data is collected;

1 (iii) The categories of consumer health data that is shared;
2 (iv) A list of the categories of third parties and specific affiliates with whom the regulated
3 entity or the small business shares the consumer health data; and
4 (v) How a consumer can exercise the rights provided in §23-101.1- 5.
5 (b) A regulated entity and a small business shall prominently publish a link to its consumer

6 health data privacy policy on its homepage.
7 (c) A regulated entity or a small business may not collect, use, or share additional categories
8 of consumer health data not disclosed in the consumer health data privacy policy without first
9 disclosing the additional categories and obtaining the consumer's affirmative consent prior to the
10 collection, use, or sharing of such consumer health data.

11 (d) A regulated entity or a small business may not collect, use, or share consumer health
12 data for additional purposes not disclosed in the consumer health data privacy policy without first
13 disclosing the additional purposes and obtaining the consumer's affirmative consent prior to the
14 collection, use, or sharing of such consumer health data.

15 (e) It is a violation of this chapter for a regulated entity or a small business to contract with
16 a processor to process consumer health data in a manner that is inconsistent with the regulated
17 entity's or the small business's consumer health data privacy policy.

18 **23-101.1-4. Collection or sharing of consumer health data.**

19 (a)(1) A regulated entity, by January 1, 2027, and a small business, by April 1, 2027, may
20 not collect or share any consumer health data, including the sale of consumer health data, except:

21 (i) With consent from the consumer for such collection for a specified purpose; and
22 (ii) If the consumer health data is collected or shared only for one or more of the following
23 permissible purposes:

24 (A) As necessary to provide a product, service, or service feature to the individual to whom
25 the consumer health data pertains when requested by that individual;

26 (B) To initiate, manage, execute, or complete a financial or commercial transaction or to
27 fulfill an order for a specific product or service requested by an individual to whom the consumer
28 health data pertains, including, but not limited to, associated routine administrative, operational,
29 and account servicing activity such as billing, shipping, storage, and accounting;

30 (C) To comply with an obligation under a law of this state or federal law;

31 (D) To protect public safety or public health;

32 (E) To prevent, detect, protect against, or respond to a security incident, identity theft,
33 fraud, harassment, malicious or deceptive activities, or activities that are illegal under the laws of
34 this state;

1 (F) To preserve the integrity or security of systems; and
2 (G) To investigate, report, or prosecute persons responsible for activities that are illegal
3 under the laws of this state.

4 (b) Consent required under this section shall be obtained prior to the collection or sharing,
5 as applicable, of any consumer health data, and the request for consent shall clearly and
6 conspicuously disclose:

7 (1) The categories of consumer health data collected or shared;

8 (2) The purpose of the collection or sharing of the consumer health data, including the
9 specific ways in which it will be used;

10 (3) The categories of entities with whom the consumer health data is shared; and

11 (4) How the consumer can withdraw consent from future collection or sharing of the
12 consumer's health data.

13 (c) A regulated entity or a small business shall not unlawfully discriminate against a
14 consumer for exercising any rights included in this chapter.

15 **23-101.1-5. Consumer rights and requests -- Refusal -- Appeal.**

16 (a) A consumer has the right to confirm whether a regulated entity or a small business is
17 collecting, sharing, or selling consumer health data concerning the consumer and to access such
18 data, including a list of all third parties and affiliates with whom the regulated entity or the small
19 business has shared or sold the consumer health data and an active email address or other online
20 mechanism that the consumer may use to contact these third parties.

21 (b) A consumer has the right to withdraw consent from the regulated entity's or the small
22 business's collection and sharing of consumer health data concerning the consumer.

23 (c) A consumer has the right to have consumer health data concerning the consumer deleted
24 and may exercise that right by informing the regulated entity or the small business of the consumer's
25 request for deletion.

26 (1) A regulated entity or a small business that receives a consumer's request to delete any
27 consumer health data concerning the consumer shall:

28 (i) Delete the consumer health data from its records, including from all parts of the
29 regulated entity's or the small business's network, including archived or backup systems pursuant
30 to subsection (c)(3) of this section; and

31 (ii) Notify all affiliates, processors, contractors, and other third parties with whom the
32 regulated entity or the small business has shared consumer health data of the deletion request.

33 (2) All affiliates, processors, contractors, and other third parties that receive notice of a
34 consumer's deletion request shall honor the consumer's deletion request and delete the consumer

1 health data from its records, subject to the requirements of this chapter.

2 (3) If consumer health data that a consumer requests to be deleted is stored on archived or
3 backup systems, then the request for deletion may be delayed to enable restoration of the archived
4 or backup systems; provided that, such delay may not exceed six (6) months from authenticating
5 the deletion request.

6 (d) A consumer may exercise the rights set forth in this chapter by submitting a request, at
7 any time, to a regulated entity or a small business. Such a request may be made by a secure and
8 reliable means established by the regulated entity or the small business and described in its
9 consumer health data privacy policy. The method shall take into account the ways in which
10 consumers normally interact with the regulated entity or the small business, the need for secure and
11 reliable communication of such requests, and the ability of the regulated entity or the small business
12 to authenticate the identity of the consumer making the request. A regulated entity or a small
13 business may not require a consumer to create a new account in order to exercise consumer rights
14 pursuant to this chapter but may require a consumer to use an existing account.

15 (e) If a regulated entity or a small business is unable to authenticate the request using
16 commercially reasonable efforts, the regulated entity or the small business is not required to comply
17 with a request to initiate an action under this section and may request that the consumer provide
18 additional information reasonably necessary to authenticate the consumer and the consumer's
19 request.

20 (f) Information provided in response to a consumer request shall be provided by a regulated
21 entity and a small business free of charge, up to twice annually per consumer. If requests from a
22 consumer are manifestly unfounded, excessive, or repetitive, the regulated entity or the small
23 business may charge the consumer a reasonable fee to cover the administrative costs of complying
24 with the request or decline to act on the request. The regulated entity and the small business bear
25 the burden of demonstrating the manifestly unfounded, excessive, or repetitive nature of the
26 request.

27 (g) A regulated entity and a small business shall comply with the consumer's requests under
28 subsections (a) through (d) of this section within forty-five (45) days of receipt of the request
29 submitted pursuant to the methods described in this section. A regulated entity and a small business
30 shall promptly take steps to authenticate a consumer request, but this shall not extend the regulated
31 entity's and the small business's duty to comply with the consumer's request within forty-five (45)
32 days of receipt of the consumer's request. The response period may be extended once by forty-five
33 (45) additional days when reasonably necessary, taking into account the complexity and number
34 of the consumer's requests, so long as the regulated entity or the small business informs the

1 consumer of any such extension within the initial forty-five (45) day response period, together with
2 the reason for the extension.

3 (h) A regulated entity shall comply with this section by January 1, 2027, and a small
4 business shall comply with this section beginning April 1, 2027.

5 **23-101.1-6. Data security practices.**

6 A regulated entity, by January 1, 2027, and a small business, by April 1, 2027, shall:

7 (1) Restrict access to consumer health data by the employees, processors, and contractors
8 of such regulated entity or small business to only those employees, processors, and contractors for
9 which access is necessary to further the purposes for which the consumer provided consent or where
10 necessary to provide a product or service that the consumer to whom such consumer health data
11 relates has requested from such regulated entity or small business; and

12 (2) Establish, implement, and maintain administrative, technical, and physical data security
13 practices that, at a minimum, satisfy reasonable standard of care within the regulated entity's or the
14 small business's industry to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and accessibility of consumer
15 health data appropriate to the volume and nature of the consumer health data at issue.

16 **23-101.1-7. Processors.**

17 (a)(1) By January 1, 2027, for a regulated entity and April 1, 2027, for a small business, a
18 processor may process consumer health data only pursuant to a binding contract between the
19 processor and the regulated entity or the small business that sets forth the processing instructions
20 and limit the actions the processor may take with respect to the consumer health data it processes
21 on behalf of the regulated entity or the small business.

22 (2) A processor may process consumer health data only in a manner that is consistent with
23 the binding instructions set forth in the contract with the regulated entity or the small business.

24 (b) A processor shall assist the regulated entity or the small business by appropriate
25 technical and organizational measures, insofar as this is possible, in fulfilling the regulated entity's
26 and the small business's obligations under this chapter.

27 (c) If a processor fails to adhere to the regulated entity's or the small business's instructions
28 or processes consumer health data in a manner that is outside the scope of the processor's contract
29 with the regulated entity or the small business, the processor is considered a regulated entity or a
30 small business with regard to such data and is subject to all the requirements of this chapter with
31 regard to such data.

32 **23-101.1-8. Valid authorization to sell -- Defects -- Provision to consumer.**

33 (a) Subject to the requirements of § 23-101.1-4, by January 1, 2027, for a regulated entity
34 and April 1, 2027, for a small business, it is unlawful for any person to sell or offer to sell consumer

1 health data concerning a consumer without first obtaining valid authorization from the consumer.
2 The sale of consumer health data shall be consistent with the valid authorization signed by the
3 consumer. This authorization shall be separate and distinct from the consent obtained to collect or
4 share consumer health data, as required under the provisions of § 23-101.1-4.

5 (b) A valid authorization to sell consumer health data is a document consistent with this
6 section and shall be written in plain language. The valid authorization to sell consumer health data
7 shall contain the following:

8 (1) The specific consumer health data concerning the consumer that the person intends to
9 sell;

10 (2) The name and contact information of the person collecting and selling the consumer
11 health data;

12 (3) The name and contact information of the person purchasing the consumer health data
13 from the seller identified in subsection (b) of this section;

14 (4) A description of the purpose for the sale, including how the consumer health data will
15 be gathered and how it will be used by the purchaser identified in subsection (b)(3) of this section
16 when sold;

17 (5) A statement that the provision of goods or services may not be conditioned on the
18 consumer signing the valid authorization;

19 (6) A statement that the consumer has a right to revoke the valid authorization at any time
20 and a description on how to submit a revocation of the valid authorization;

21 (7) A statement that the consumer health data sold pursuant to the valid authorization may
22 be subject to redisclosure by the purchaser and may no longer be protected by this section;

23 (8) An expiration date for the valid authorization that expires one year from when the
24 consumer signs the valid authorization; and

25 (9) The signature of the consumer and date.

26 (c) An authorization is not valid if the document has any of the following defects:

27 (1) The expiration date has passed;

28 (2) The authorization does not contain all the information required under this section;

29 (3) The authorization has been revoked by the consumer;

30 (4) The authorization has been combined with other documents to create a compound
31 authorization; or

32 (5) The provision of goods or services is conditioned on the consumer signing the
33 authorization.

34 (d) A copy of the signed valid authorization shall be provided to the consumer.

1 (e) The seller and purchaser of consumer health data shall retain a copy of all valid
2 authorizations for sale of consumer health data for six (6) years from the date of its signature or the
3 date when it was last in effect, whichever is later.

4 **23-101.1-9. Geofence restrictions.**

5 It is unlawful for any person to implement a geofence around an entity that provides in-
6 person reproductive healthcare services, as defined in § 23-101-2, or gender-affirming healthcare
7 services, as defined in § 23-101-2, where such geofence is used to:

8 (1) Identify or track consumers seeking reproductive healthcare services or gender-
9 affirming healthcare services; or,

10 (2) Collect consumer health data from consumers.

11 **23-101.1-10. Exemptions.**

12 This chapter does not apply to:

13 (1) Information that meets the definition of:

14 (i) Protected health information for purposes of the federal health insurance portability and
15 accountability act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-191 (1996), and related regulations;

16 (ii) Health care information collected, used, or disclosed in accordance with chapter 37.3
17 of title 5;

18 (iii) Patient identifying information collected, used, or disclosed in accordance with 42
19 C.F.R. Part 2, established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 290dd-2;

20 (iv) Identifiable private information for purposes of the federal policy for the protection of
21 human subjects, 45 C.F.R. Part 46; identifiable private information that is otherwise information
22 collected as part of human subjects research pursuant to the good clinical practice guidelines issued
23 by the international council for harmonization; the protection of human subjects under 21 C.F.R.
24 Parts 50 and 56; or personal data used or shared in research conducted in accordance with one or
25 more of the requirements set forth in this subsection;

26 (v) Information and documents created specifically for, and collected and maintained by:

27 (A) A quality improvement program for purposes of chapter 17.17 of title 23;

28 (B) A peer review committee for purposes of § 23-17-25;

29 (C) A quality assurance committee for purposes of chapter 17.17 of title 23; or

30 (D) A hospital, for reporting of health care-associated adverse events for purposes § 23-
31 17-40.

32 (vi) Information and documents created for purposes of the federal health care quality
33 improvement act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660 (1986), and related regulations;

34 (vii) Patient safety work product for purposes of 42 C.F.R. Part 3, established pursuant to

1 [42 U.S.C. § 299b-21 through 299b-26;](#)
2 [\(viii\) Information that is:](#)
3 [\(A\) Deidentified in accordance with the requirements for deidentification set forth in 45](#)
4 [C.F.R. Part 164; and](#)
5 [\(B\) Derived from any of the health care-related information listed or described in](#)
6 [subsection \(a\)\(1\)\(viii\)\(A\) of this section;](#)
7 [\(2\) Information originating from, and intermingled to be indistinguishable with,](#)
8 [information under subsection \(a\)\(1\) of this section that is maintained by:](#)
9 [\(i\) A covered entity or business associate as defined by the health insurance portability and](#)
10 [accountability act of 1996 and related regulations;](#)
11 [\(ii\) A health care facility or health care provider; or](#)
12 [\(iii\) A program or a qualified service organization as defined by 42 C.F.R. Part 2,](#)
13 [established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 290dd-2;](#)
14 [\(3\) Information used only for public health activities and purposes as described in 45 C.F.R.](#)
15 [Sec. 164.512 or that is part of a limited data set, as defined, and is used, disclosed, and maintained](#)
16 [in the manner required, by 45 C.F.R. § 164.514 or corresponding state law.](#)
17 [\(b\) Personal information that is governed by and collected, used, or disclosed pursuant to](#)
18 [the following regulations, parts, titles, or acts, is exempt from the provisions of this chapter:](#)
19 [\(1\) The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act \(15 U.S.C. § 6801 et seq.\) and implementing regulations;](#)
20 [\(2\) Part C of Title XI of the Social Security Act \(42 U.S.C. § 1320d et seq.\);](#)
21 [\(3\) The Fair Credit Reporting Act \(15 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.\);](#)
22 [\(4\) The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(20 U.S.C. § 1232g; Part 99 of Title](#)
23 [34, C.F.R.\);](#)
24 [\(5\) The Rhode Island health benefit exchange and applicable statutes and regulations,](#)
25 [including 45 C.F.R. § 155.260 and § 42-157-1 et seq.; or](#)
26 [\(6\) Chapter 17.17 of title 23; and](#)
27 [\(7\) Privacy rules adopted by the office of the health insurance commissioner.](#)
28 [\(c\) The obligations imposed on regulated entities, small businesses, and processors under](#)
29 [this chapter does not restrict a regulated entity's, small businesses, or processor's ability for](#)
30 [collection, use, or disclosure of consumer health data to prevent, detect, protect against, or respond](#)
31 [to security incidents, identity theft, fraud, harassment, malicious or deceptive activities, or any](#)
32 [activity that is illegal under Rhode Island law or federal law; preserve the integrity or security of](#)
33 [systems; or investigate, report, or prosecute those responsible for any such action that is illegal](#)
34 [under Rhode Island law or federal law.](#)

1 (d) If a regulated entity, small business, or processor processes consumer health data
2 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, such entity bears the burden of demonstrating that such
3 processing qualifies for the exemption and complies with the requirements of this section.

4 **23-101.1-11. Penalties and remedies.**

5 (a) A person who alleges a violation of this chapter may bring a civil action for appropriate
6 injunctive relief and compensatory damages in the superior court for the county where the alleged
7 violation occurred, the county where the complainant resides, or the county where the person
8 against whom the civil complaint is filed resides or has their principal place of business. A
9 prevailing plaintiff may be entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

10 (b) A violation of this chapter shall also constitute a deceptive trade practice in violation
11 of the provisions of chapter 13.1 of title 6, and the attorney general may bring an enforcement
12 action over violations of this chapter.

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

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LC004350/SUB A
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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- SENSITIVE HEALTHCARE INFORMATION
PRIVACY ACT

1 This act would create the sensitive healthcare information privacy act to protect
2 reproductive and gender-affirming care data. The act would require the holders of such data, with
3 certain exceptions, to obtain consent from a consumer before collecting the data and would prohibit
4 the sale of the data without the permission of the consumer. The act contains several enforcement
5 mechanisms to ensure compliance with the law, including an individual cause of action and
6 authority for the attorney general to bring enforcement of an action.

7 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC004350/SUB A
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