

2025 -- S 0055

=====  
LC000593  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

—————  
A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE RHODE ISLAND HEALTH  
CARE REFORM ACT OF 2004 -- HEALTH INSURANCE OVERSIGHT

Introduced By: Senators Pearson, Lauria, Valverde, DiMario, Ujifusa, Euer, Murray,  
Thompson, DiPalma, and Gallo

Date Introduced: January 23, 2025

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Sections 42-14.5-2.1 and 42-14.5-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-14.5  
2   entitled "The Rhode Island Health Care Reform Act of 2004 — Health Insurance Oversight" are  
3   hereby amended to read as follows:

4           **42-14.5-2.1. Definitions.**

5           As used in this chapter:

6           (1) "Accountability standards" means measures including service processes, client and  
7   population outcomes, practice standard compliance and fiscal integrity of social and human service  
8   providers on the individual contractual level and service type for all state contacts of the state or  
9   any subdivision or agency to include, but not limited to, the department of children, youth and  
10   families (DCYF), the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals  
11   (BHDDH), the department of human services (DHS), the department of health (DOH), and  
12   Medicaid. This may include mandatory reporting, consolidated, standardized reporting, audits  
13   regardless of organizational tax status, and accountability dashboards of aforementioned state  
14   departments or subdivisions that are regularly shared with the public.

15          (2) "Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS)" means the department  
16   that serves as "principal agency of the executive branch of state government" (§ 42-7.2-2)  
17   responsible for managing the departments and offices of: health (RIDOH), human services (DHS),  
18   healthy aging (OHA), veterans services (VETS), children, youth and families (DCYF), and

1 behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals (BHDDH). EOHHS is also  
2 designated as the single state agency with authority to administer the Medicaid program in Rhode  
3 Island.

4 (3) "Primary care services" means professional services rendered by primary care providers  
5 at a primary care site of care.

6 ~~(3)~~(4) "Rate review" means the process of reviewing and reporting of specific trending  
7 factors that influence the cost of service that informs rate setting.

8 ~~(4)~~(5) "Rate setting" means the process of establishing rates for social and human service  
9 programs that are based on a thorough rate review process.

10 ~~(5)~~(6) "Social and human service program" means a social, mental health, developmental  
11 disability, child welfare, juvenile justice, prevention services, habilitative, rehabilitative, substance  
12 use disorder treatment, residential care, adult or adolescent day services, vocational, employment  
13 and training, or aging service program or accommodations purchased by the state.

14 ~~(6)~~(7) "Social and human service provider" means a provider of social and human service  
15 programs pursuant to a contract with the state or any subdivision or agency to include, but not be  
16 limited to, the department of children, youth and families (DCYF), the department of behavioral  
17 healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals (BHDDH), the department of human services  
18 (DHS), the department of health (DOH), and Medicaid.

19 ~~(7)~~(8) "State government and the provider network" refers to the contractual relationship  
20 between a state agency or subdivision of a state agency and private companies the state contracts  
21 with to provide the network of mandated and discretionary social and human services.

22 **42-14.5-3. Powers and duties.**

23 The health insurance commissioner shall have the following powers and duties:

24 (a) To conduct quarterly public meetings throughout the state, separate and distinct from  
25 rate hearings pursuant to § 42-62-13, regarding the rates, services, and operations of insurers  
26 licensed to provide health insurance in the state; the effects of such rates, services, and operations  
27 on consumers, medical care providers, patients, and the market environment in which the insurers  
28 operate; and efforts to bring new health insurers into the Rhode Island market. Notice of not less  
29 than ten (10) days of the hearing(s) shall go to the general assembly, the governor, the Rhode Island  
30 Medical Society, the Hospital Association of Rhode Island, the director of health, the attorney  
31 general, and the chambers of commerce. Public notice shall be posted on the department's website  
32 and given in the newspaper of general circulation, and to any entity in writing requesting notice.

33 (b) To make recommendations to the governor and the house of representatives and senate  
34 finance committees regarding healthcare insurance and the regulations, rates, services,

1 administrative expenses, reserve requirements, and operations of insurers providing health  
2 insurance in the state, and to prepare or comment on, upon the request of the governor or  
3 chairpersons of the house or senate finance committees, draft legislation to improve the regulation  
4 of health insurance. In making the recommendations, the commissioner shall recognize that it is  
5 the intent of the legislature that the maximum disclosure be provided regarding the reasonableness  
6 of individual administrative expenditures as well as total administrative costs. The commissioner  
7 shall make recommendations on the levels of reserves, including consideration of: targeted reserve  
8 levels; trends in the increase or decrease of reserve levels; and insurer plans for distributing excess  
9 reserves.

10 (c) To establish a consumer/business/labor/medical advisory council to obtain information  
11 and present concerns of consumers, business, and medical providers affected by health insurance  
12 decisions. The council shall develop proposals to allow the market for small business health  
13 insurance to be affordable and fairer. The council shall be involved in the planning and conduct of  
14 the quarterly public meetings in accordance with subsection (a). The advisory council shall develop  
15 measures to inform small businesses of an insurance complaint process to ensure that small  
16 businesses that experience rate increases in a given year may request and receive a formal review  
17 by the department. The advisory council shall assess views of the health provider community  
18 relative to insurance rates of reimbursement, billing, and reimbursement procedures, and the  
19 insurers' role in promoting efficient and high-quality health care. The advisory council shall issue  
20 an annual report of findings and recommendations to the governor and the general assembly and  
21 present its findings at hearings before the house and senate finance committees. The advisory  
22 council is to be diverse in interests and shall include representatives of community consumer  
23 organizations; small businesses, other than those involved in the sale of insurance products; and  
24 hospital, medical, and other health provider organizations. Such representatives shall be nominated  
25 by their respective organizations. The advisory council shall be co-chaired by the health insurance  
26 commissioner and a community consumer organization or small business member to be elected by  
27 the full advisory council.

28 (d) To establish and provide guidance and assistance to a subcommittee ("the professional-  
29 provider-health-plan work group") of the advisory council created pursuant to subsection (c),  
30 composed of healthcare providers and Rhode Island licensed health plans. This subcommittee shall  
31 include in its annual report and presentation before the house and senate finance committees the  
32 following information:

33 (1) A method whereby health plans shall disclose to contracted providers the fee schedules  
34 used to provide payment to those providers for services rendered to covered patients;

1 (2) A standardized provider application and credentials verification process, for the  
2 purpose of verifying professional qualifications of participating healthcare providers;

3 (3) The uniform health plan claim form utilized by participating providers;

4 (4) Methods for health maintenance organizations, as defined by § 27-41-2, and nonprofit  
5 hospital or medical service corporations, as defined by chapters 19 and 20 of title 27, to make  
6 facility-specific data and other medical service-specific data available in reasonably consistent  
7 formats to patients regarding quality and costs. This information would help consumers make  
8 informed choices regarding the facilities and clinicians or physician practices at which to seek care.  
9 Among the items considered would be the unique health services and other public goods provided  
10 by facilities and clinicians or physician practices in establishing the most appropriate cost  
11 comparisons;

12 (5) All activities related to contractual disclosure to participating providers of the  
13 mechanisms for resolving health plan/provider disputes;

14 (6) The uniform process being utilized for confirming, in real time, patient insurance  
15 enrollment status, benefits coverage, including copays and deductibles;

16 (7) Information related to temporary credentialing of providers seeking to participate in the  
17 plan's network and the impact of the activity on health plan accreditation;

18 (8) The feasibility of regular contract renegotiations between plans and the providers in  
19 their networks; and

20 (9) Efforts conducted related to reviewing impact of silent PPOs on physician practices.

21 (e) To enforce the provisions of title 27 and title 42 as set forth in § 42-14-5(d).

22 (f) To provide analysis of the Rhode Island affordable health plan reinsurance fund. The  
23 fund shall be used to effectuate the provisions of §§ 27-18.5-9 and 27-50-17.

24 (g) To analyze the impact of changing the rating guidelines and/or merging the individual  
25 health insurance market, as defined in chapter 18.5 of title 27, and the small-employer health  
26 insurance market, as defined in chapter 50 of title 27, in accordance with the following:

27 (1) The analysis shall forecast the likely rate increases required to effect the changes  
28 recommended pursuant to the preceding subsection (g) in the direct-pay market and small-employer  
29 health insurance market over the next five (5) years, based on the current rating structure and  
30 current products.

31 (2) The analysis shall include examining the impact of merging the individual and small-  
32 employer markets on premiums charged to individuals and small-employer groups.

33 (3) The analysis shall include examining the impact on rates in each of the individual and  
34 small-employer health insurance markets and the number of insureds in the context of possible

1 changes to the rating guidelines used for small-employer groups, including: community rating  
2 principles; expanding small-employer rate bonds beyond the current range; increasing the employer  
3 group size in the small-group market; and/or adding rating factors for broker and/or tobacco use.

4 (4) The analysis shall include examining the adequacy of current statutory and regulatory  
5 oversight of the rating process and factors employed by the participants in the proposed, new  
6 merged market.

7 (5) The analysis shall include assessment of possible reinsurance mechanisms and/or  
8 federal high-risk pool structures and funding to support the health insurance market in Rhode Island  
9 by reducing the risk of adverse selection and the incremental insurance premiums charged for this  
10 risk, and/or by making health insurance affordable for a selected at-risk population.

11 (6) The health insurance commissioner shall work with an insurance market merger task  
12 force to assist with the analysis. The task force shall be chaired by the health insurance  
13 commissioner and shall include, but not be limited to, representatives of the general assembly, the  
14 business community, small-employer carriers as defined in § 27-50-3, carriers offering coverage in  
15 the individual market in Rhode Island, health insurance brokers, and members of the general public.

16 (7) For the purposes of conducting this analysis, the commissioner may contract with an  
17 outside organization with expertise in fiscal analysis of the private insurance market. In conducting  
18 its study, the organization shall, to the extent possible, obtain and use actual health plan data. Said  
19 data shall be subject to state and federal laws and regulations governing confidentiality of health  
20 care and proprietary information.

21 (8) The task force shall meet as necessary and include its findings in the annual report, and  
22 the commissioner shall include the information in the annual presentation before the house and  
23 senate finance committees.

24 (h) To establish and convene a workgroup representing healthcare providers and health  
25 insurers for the purpose of coordinating the development of processes, guidelines, and standards to  
26 streamline healthcare administration that are to be adopted by payors and providers of healthcare  
27 services operating in the state. This workgroup shall include representatives with expertise who  
28 would contribute to the streamlining of healthcare administration and who are selected from  
29 hospitals, physician practices, community behavioral health organizations, each health insurer, and  
30 other affected entities. The workgroup shall also include at least one designee each from the Rhode  
31 Island Medical Society, Rhode Island Council of Community Mental Health Organizations, the  
32 Rhode Island Health Center Association, and the Hospital Association of Rhode Island. In any year  
33 that the workgroup meets and submits recommendations to the office of the health insurance  
34 commissioner, the office of the health insurance commissioner shall submit such recommendations

1 to the health and human services committees of the Rhode Island house of representatives and the  
2 Rhode Island senate prior to the implementation of any such recommendations and subsequently  
3 shall submit a report to the general assembly by June 30, 2024. The report shall include the  
4 recommendations the commissioner may implement, with supporting rationale. The workgroup  
5 shall consider and make recommendations for:

6 (1) Establishing a consistent standard for electronic eligibility and coverage verification.

7 Such standard shall:

8 (i) Include standards for eligibility inquiry and response and, wherever possible, be  
9 consistent with the standards adopted by nationally recognized organizations, such as the Centers  
10 for Medicare & Medicaid Services;

11 (ii) Enable providers and payors to exchange eligibility requests and responses on a system-  
12 to-system basis or using a payor-supported web browser;

13 (iii) Provide reasonably detailed information on a consumer's eligibility for healthcare  
14 coverage; scope of benefits; limitations and exclusions provided under that coverage; cost-sharing  
15 requirements for specific services at the specific time of the inquiry; current deductible amounts;  
16 accumulated or limited benefits; out-of-pocket maximums; any maximum policy amounts; and  
17 other information required for the provider to collect the patient's portion of the bill;

18 (iv) Reflect the necessary limitations imposed on payors by the originator of the eligibility  
19 and benefits information;

20 (v) Recommend a standard or common process to protect all providers from the costs of  
21 services to patients who are ineligible for insurance coverage in circumstances where a payor  
22 provides eligibility verification based on best information available to the payor at the date of the  
23 request of eligibility.

24 (2) Developing implementation guidelines and promoting adoption of the guidelines for:

25 (i) The use of the National Correct Coding Initiative code-edit policy by payors and  
26 providers in the state;

27 (ii) Publishing any variations from codes and mutually exclusive codes by payors in a  
28 manner that makes for simple retrieval and implementation by providers;

29 (iii) Use of Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act standard group codes,  
30 reason codes, and remark codes by payors in electronic remittances sent to providers;

31 (iv) Uniformity in the processing of claims by payors; and the processing of corrections to  
32 claims by providers and payors;

33 (v) A standard payor-denial review process for providers when they request a  
34 reconsideration of a denial of a claim that results from differences in clinical edits where no single,

1 common-standards body or process exists and multiple conflicting sources are in use by payors and  
2 providers.

3 (vi) Nothing in this section, nor in the guidelines developed, shall inhibit an individual  
4 payor's ability to employ, and not disclose to providers, temporary code edits for the purpose of  
5 detecting and deterring fraudulent billing activities. The guidelines shall require that each payor  
6 disclose to the provider its adjudication decision on a claim that was denied or adjusted based on  
7 the application of such edits and that the provider have access to the payor's review and appeal  
8 process to challenge the payor's adjudication decision.

9 (vii) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to modify the rights or obligations of  
10 payors or providers with respect to procedures relating to the investigation, reporting, appeal, or  
11 prosecution under applicable law of potentially fraudulent billing activities.

12 (3) Developing and promoting widespread adoption by payors and providers of guidelines  
13 to:

14 (i) Ensure payors do not automatically deny claims for services when extenuating  
15 circumstances make it impossible for the provider to obtain a preauthorization before services are  
16 performed or notify a payor within an appropriate standardized timeline of a patient's admission;

17 (ii) Require payors to use common and consistent processes and time frames when  
18 responding to provider requests for medical management approvals. Whenever possible, such time  
19 frames shall be consistent with those established by leading national organizations and be based  
20 upon the acuity of the patient's need for care or treatment. For the purposes of this section, medical  
21 management includes prior authorization of services, preauthorization of services, precertification  
22 of services, post-service review, medical-necessity review, and benefits advisory;

23 (iii) Develop, maintain, and promote widespread adoption of a single, common website  
24 where providers can obtain payors' preauthorization, benefits advisory, and preadmission  
25 requirements;

26 (iv) Establish guidelines for payors to develop and maintain a website that providers can  
27 use to request a preauthorization, including a prospective clinical necessity review; receive an  
28 authorization number; and transmit an admission notification;

29 (v) Develop and implement the use of programs that implement selective prior  
30 authorization requirements, based on stratification of healthcare providers' performance and  
31 adherence to evidence-based medicine with the input of contracted healthcare providers and/or  
32 provider organizations. Such criteria shall be transparent and easily accessible to contracted  
33 providers. Such selective prior authorization programs shall be available when healthcare providers  
34 participate directly with the insurer in risk-based payment contracts and may be available to

1 providers who do not participate in risk-based contracts;

2 (vi) Require the review of medical services, including behavioral health services, and  
3 prescription drugs, subject to prior authorization on at least an annual basis, with the input of  
4 contracted healthcare providers and/or provider organizations. Any changes to the list of medical  
5 services, including behavioral health services, and prescription drugs requiring prior authorization,  
6 shall be shared via provider-accessible websites;

7 (vii) Improve communication channels between health plans, healthcare providers, and  
8 patients by:

9 (A) Requiring transparency and easy accessibility of prior authorization requirements,  
10 criteria, rationale, and program changes to contracted healthcare providers and patients/health plan  
11 enrollees which may be satisfied by posting to provider-accessible and member-accessible  
12 websites; and

13 (B) Supporting:

14 (I) Timely submission by healthcare providers of the complete information necessary to  
15 make a prior authorization determination, as early in the process as possible; and

16 (II) Timely notification of prior authorization determinations by health plans to impacted  
17 health plan enrollees, and healthcare providers, including, but not limited to, ordering providers,  
18 and/or rendering providers, and dispensing pharmacists which may be satisfied by posting to  
19 provider-accessible websites or similar electronic portals or services;

20 (viii) Increase and strengthen continuity of patient care by:

21 (A) Defining protections for continuity of care during a transition period for patients  
22 undergoing an active course of treatment, when there is a formulary or treatment coverage change  
23 or change of health plan that may disrupt their current course of treatment and when the treating  
24 physician determines that a transition may place the patient at risk; and for prescription medication  
25 by allowing a grace period of coverage to allow consideration of referred health plan options or  
26 establishment of medical necessity of the current course of treatment;

27 (B) Requiring continuity of care for medical services, including behavioral health services,  
28 and prescription medications for patients on appropriate, chronic, stable therapy through  
29 minimizing repetitive prior authorization requirements; and which for prescription medication shall  
30 be allowed only on an annual review, with exception for labeled limitation, to establish continued  
31 benefit of treatment; and

32 (C) Requiring communication between healthcare providers, health plans, and patients to  
33 facilitate continuity of care and minimize disruptions in needed treatment which may be satisfied  
34 by posting to provider-accessible websites or similar electronic portals or services;



1 (D) Continuity of care for formulary or drug coverage shall distinguish between FDA  
2 designated interchangeable products and proprietary or marketed versions of a medication;

3 (ix) Encourage healthcare providers and/or provider organizations and health plans to  
4 accelerate use of electronic prior authorization technology, including adoption of national standards  
5 where applicable; and

6 (x) For the purposes of subsections (h)(3)(v) through (h)(3)(x) of this section, the  
7 workgroup meeting may be conducted in part or whole through electronic methods.

8 (4) To provide a report to the house and senate, on or before January 1, 2017, with  
9 recommendations for establishing guidelines and regulations for systems that give patients  
10 electronic access to their claims information, particularly to information regarding their obligations  
11 to pay for received medical services, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. § 164.524.

12 (5) No provision of this subsection (h) shall preclude the ongoing work of the office of  
13 health insurance commissioner's administrative simplification task force, which includes meetings  
14 with key stakeholders in order to improve, and provide recommendations regarding, the prior  
15 authorization process.

16 (i) To issue an anti-cancer medication report. Not later than June 30, 2014, and annually  
17 thereafter, the office of the health insurance commissioner (OHIC) shall provide the senate  
18 committee on health and human services, and the house committee on corporations, with: (1)  
19 Information on the availability in the commercial market of coverage for anti-cancer medication  
20 options; (2) For the state employee's health benefit plan, the costs of various cancer-treatment  
21 options; (3) The changes in drug prices over the prior thirty-six (36) months; and (4) Member  
22 utilization and cost-sharing expense.

23 (j) To monitor the adequacy of each health plan's compliance with the provisions of the  
24 federal Mental Health Parity Act, including a review of related claims processing and  
25 reimbursement procedures. Findings, recommendations, and assessments shall be made available  
26 to the public.

27 (k) To monitor the transition from fee-for-service and toward global and other alternative  
28 payment methodologies for the payment for healthcare services. Alternative payment  
29 methodologies should be assessed for their likelihood to promote access to affordable health  
30 insurance, health outcomes, and performance.

31 (l) To report annually, no later than July 1, 2014, then biannually thereafter, on hospital  
32 payment variation, including findings and recommendations, subject to available resources.

33 (m) Notwithstanding any provision of the general or public laws or regulation to the  
34 contrary, provide a report with findings and recommendations to the president of the senate and the

1 speaker of the house, on or before April 1, 2014, including, but not limited to, the following  
2 information:

3 (1) The impact of the current, mandated healthcare benefits as defined in §§ 27-18-48.1,  
4 27-18-60, 27-18-62, 27-18-64, similar provisions in chapters 19, 20 and 41 of title 27, and §§ 27-  
5 18-3(c), 27-38.2-1 et seq., or others as determined by the commissioner, on the cost of health  
6 insurance for fully insured employers, subject to available resources;

7 (2) Current provider and insurer mandates that are unnecessary and/or duplicative due to  
8 the existing standards of care and/or delivery of services in the healthcare system;

9 (3) A state-by-state comparison of health insurance mandates and the extent to which  
10 Rhode Island mandates exceed other states benefits; and

11 (4) Recommendations for amendments to existing mandated benefits based on the findings  
12 in (m)(1), (m)(2), and (m)(3) above.

13 (n) On or before July 1, 2014, the office of the health insurance commissioner, in  
14 collaboration with the director of health and lieutenant governor's office, shall submit a report to  
15 the general assembly and the governor to inform the design of accountable care organizations  
16 (ACOs) in Rhode Island as unique structures for comprehensive healthcare delivery and value-  
17 based payment arrangements, that shall include, but not be limited to:

18 (1) Utilization review;

19 (2) Contracting; and

20 (3) Licensing and regulation.

21 (o) On or before February 3, 2015, the office of the health insurance commissioner shall  
22 submit a report to the general assembly and the governor that describes, analyzes, and proposes  
23 recommendations to improve compliance of insurers with the provisions of § 27-18-76 with regard  
24 to patients with mental health and substance use disorders.

25 (p) To work to ensure the health insurance coverage of behavioral health care under the  
26 same terms and conditions as other health care, and to integrate behavioral health parity  
27 requirements into the office of the health insurance commissioner insurance oversight and  
28 healthcare transformation efforts.

29 (q) To work with other state agencies to seek delivery system improvements that enhance  
30 access to a continuum of mental health and substance use disorder treatment in the state; and  
31 integrate that treatment with primary and other medical care to the fullest extent possible.

32 (r) To direct insurers toward policies and practices that address the behavioral health needs  
33 of the public and greater integration of physical and behavioral healthcare delivery.

34 (s) The office of the health insurance commissioner shall conduct an analysis of the impact

1 of the provisions of § 27-38.2-1(i) on health insurance premiums and access in Rhode Island and  
2 submit a report of its findings to the general assembly on or before June 1, 2023.

3 (t) To undertake the analyses, reports, and studies contained in this section:

4 (1) The office shall hire the necessary staff and prepare a request for proposal for a qualified  
5 and competent firm or firms to undertake the following analyses, reports, and studies:

6 (i) The firm shall undertake a comprehensive review of all social and human service  
7 programs having a contract with or licensed by the state or any subdivision of the department of  
8 children, youth and families (DCYF), the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental  
9 disabilities and hospitals (BHDDH), the department of human services (DHS), the department of  
10 health (DOH), and Medicaid for the purposes of:

11 (A) Establishing a baseline of the eligibility factors for receiving services;

12 (B) Establishing a baseline of the service offering through each agency for those  
13 determined eligible;

14 (C) Establishing a baseline understanding of reimbursement rates for all social and human  
15 service programs including rates currently being paid, the date of the last increase, and a proposed  
16 model that the state may use to conduct future studies and analyses;

17 (D) Ensuring accurate and adequate reimbursement to social and human service providers  
18 that facilitate the availability of high-quality services to individuals receiving home and  
19 community-based long-term services and supports provided by social and human service providers;

20 (E) Ensuring the general assembly is provided accurate financial projections on social and  
21 human service program costs, demand for services, and workforce needs to ensure access to entitled  
22 beneficiaries and services;

23 (F) Establishing a baseline and determining the relationship between state government and  
24 the provider network including functions, responsibilities, and duties;

25 (G) Determining a set of measures and accountability standards to be used by EOHHS and  
26 the general assembly to measure the outcomes of the provision of services including budgetary  
27 reporting requirements, transparency portals, and other methods; and

28 (H) Reporting the findings of human services analyses and reports to the speaker of the  
29 house, senate president, chairs of the house and senate finance committees, chairs of the house and  
30 senate health and human services committees, and the governor.

31 (2) The analyses, reports, and studies required pursuant to this section shall be  
32 accomplished and published as follows and shall provide:

33 (i) An assessment and detailed reporting on all social and human service program rates to  
34 be completed by January 1, 2023, including rates currently being paid and the date of the last

1 increase;

2 (ii) An assessment and detailed reporting on eligibility standards and processes of all  
3 mandatory and discretionary social and human service programs to be completed by January 1,  
4 2023;

5 (iii) An assessment and detailed reporting on utilization trends from the period of January  
6 1, 2017, through December 31, 2021, for social and human service programs to be completed by  
7 January 1, 2023;

8 (iv) An assessment and detailed reporting on the structure of the state government as it  
9 relates to the provision of services by social and human service providers including eligibility and  
10 functions of the provider network to be completed by January 1, 2023;

11 (v) An assessment and detailed reporting on accountability standards for services for social  
12 and human service programs to be completed by January 1, 2023;

13 (vi) An assessment and detailed reporting by April 1, 2023, on all professional licensed  
14 and unlicensed personnel requirements for established rates for social and human service programs  
15 pursuant to a contract or established fee schedule;

16 (vii) An assessment and reporting on access to social and human service programs, to  
17 include any wait lists and length of time on wait lists, in each service category by April 1, 2023;

18 (viii) An assessment and reporting of national and regional Medicaid rates in comparison  
19 to Rhode Island social and human service provider rates by April 1, 2023;

20 (ix) An assessment and reporting on usual and customary rates paid by private insurers and  
21 private pay for similar social and human service providers, both nationally and regionally, by April  
22 1, 2023; and

23 (x) Completion of the development of an assessment and review process that includes the  
24 following components: eligibility; scope of services; relationship of social and human service  
25 provider and the state; national and regional rate comparisons and accountability standards that  
26 result in recommended rate adjustments; and this process shall be completed by September 1, 2023,  
27 and conducted biennially hereafter. [On and after September 1, 2025, all biennial reports shall](#)  
28 [include a review and recommendations of rates for primary care services.](#) The biennial rate setting  
29 shall be consistent with payment requirements established in § 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Social  
30 Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(30)(A), and all federal and state law, regulations, and quality  
31 and safety standards. The results and findings of this process shall be transparent, and public  
32 meetings shall be conducted to allow providers, recipients, and other interested parties an  
33 opportunity to ask questions and provide comment beginning in September 2023 and biennially  
34 thereafter.

1           (3) In fulfillment of the responsibilities defined in subsection (t), the office of the health  
2 insurance commissioner shall consult with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services.

3           (u) Annually, each department (namely, EOHHS, DCYF, DOH, DHS, and BHDDH) shall  
4 include the corresponding components of the assessment and review (i.e., eligibility; scope of  
5 services; relationship of social and human service provider and the state; and national and regional  
6 rate comparisons and accountability standards including any changes or substantive issues between  
7 biennial reviews) including the recommended rates from the most recent assessment and review  
8 with their annual budget submission to the office of management and budget and provide a detailed  
9 explanation and impact statement if any rate variances exist between submitted recommended  
10 budget and the corresponding recommended rate from the most recent assessment and review  
11 process starting October 1, 2023, and biennially thereafter.

12           (v) The general assembly shall appropriate adequate funding as it deems necessary to  
13 undertake the analyses, reports, and studies contained in this section relating to the powers and  
14 duties of the office of the health insurance commissioner.

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

=====  
LC000593  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE RHODE ISLAND HEALTH  
CARE REFORM ACT OF 2004 -- HEALTH INSURANCE OVERSIGHT

\*\*\*

1           This act would include the definition of "primary care services" and requires that all  
2 biennial reports shall include a review and recommendation of rates for primary care services on  
3 and after September 1, 2025.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC000593  
=====