

**2026 -- S 2115**

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LC004009

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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 HEALTH AND SAFETY -- HEALTH CARE POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Introduced By: Senator Matthew L. LaMountain

Date Introduced: January 16, 2026

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1        SECTION 1. Chapter 23-4.10 of the General Laws entitled "Health Care Power of  
2        Attorney" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3        **23-4.10-2.1. Notary public in hospitals.**

4        (a) All hospitals in Rhode Island shall have a notary public on staff and available twenty-  
5        four (24) hours a day and seven (7) days a week.

6        (b) The notary shall be available through the patient services department to notarize  
7        important healthcare and legal documents including:

8        (1) Advance directive to hospital personnel;

9        (2) Powers of attorney; and

10        (3) Wills.

11        (c) Upon request the notary public shall visit the patient in their room during the  
12        hospitalization. A valid ID shall be required from the patient and documents shall be signed in the  
13        presence of the notary.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- HEALTH CARE POWER OF ATTORNEY

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- 1      This act would require hospitals to have a notary on staff all hours of the day and week.
- 2      This act would take effect upon passage.

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