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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 -- 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

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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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