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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- LABOR RELATIONS ACT--NO  
LIMITATION ON HEALTHCARE BENEFIT PROVIDERS

Introduced By: Senators Bell, Murray, Ciccone, Thompson, Gallo, Burke, Gu, Ujifusa,  
Quezada, and Valverde

Date Introduced: January 16, 2026

Referred To: Senate Labor & Gaming

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 28-7-49 of the General Laws in Chapter 28-7 entitled "Labor  
2 Relations Act" is hereby repealed.

3           ~~**28-7-49. No limitation on healthcare benefit providers.**~~

4           ~~No collective bargaining agreement covering any group or groups of state employees,~~  
5 ~~public school teachers, or employees of any city or town, ratified after August 1, 2008, shall specify~~  
6 ~~that an employer must procure a healthcare benefit plan from a specific provider of such plans. The~~  
7 ~~technical qualifications of the healthcare benefit plan, to be contracted for, shall not be framed or~~  
8 ~~constructed in a manner designed to identify an exclusive provider of said healthcare services.~~

9           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 LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- LABOR RELATIONS ACT--NO  
LIMITATION ON HEALTHCARE BENEFIT PROVIDERS

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1           This act would repeal the law that prevents a collective bargaining agreement covering  
2   state employees, public school teachers and municipal employees from specifying a particular  
3   healthcare provider in it.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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