

2026 -- S 3064

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Lauria, Lawson, Ciccone, Murray, DiMario, and
Paolino

Date Introduced: March 12, 2026

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The general assembly hereby finds and declares that:

2 (1) Rhode Island faces an ongoing and worsening projected shortage of physicians and
3 healthcare professionals, particularly in primary care and underserved communities;

4 (2) Establishing a medical school at the University of Rhode Island would strengthen the
5 state's healthcare workforce pipeline, improve access to care, and support long-term economic
6 development; and

7 (3) An initial state investment is necessary to support leadership recruitment, faculty hiring,
8 accreditation planning, and curriculum development for such medical school.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 16-32 of the General Laws entitled "University of Rhode Island [See
10 Title 16 Chapter 97 — The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended by adding
11 thereto the following section:

12 **16-32-43. University of Rhode Island medical school -- Establishment and funding.**

13 (a) For fiscal year 2027, the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) is hereby appropriated
14 from general revenues to the University of Rhode Island for the purpose of initiating the
15 establishment of a medical school.

16 (b) Funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be used for operating
17 expenses and salaries related to, including, but not limited to:

18 (1) Hiring a founding dean and senior leadership;

19 (2) Recruitment of core faculty and administrative staff;

1 (3) Accreditation preparation and compliance activities; and

2 (4) Curriculum planning and institutional development.

3 (c) It is the intent of the general assembly that the fiscal year 2027 appropriation represents
4 the first phase of a multi-year state investment to support the development of a medical school at
5 the University of Rhode Island.

6 (d) Subject to future appropriations, the general assembly anticipates additional funding in
7 the following amounts:

8 (1) Fiscal year 2028: Seven million dollars (\$7,000,000); and

9 (2) Fiscal year 2029: Eight million dollars (\$8,000,000).

10 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring any future general assembly to
11 appropriate such funds.

12 (f) The University of Rhode Island shall submit a report to the governor and the general
13 assembly no later than January 1, 2028, detailing:

14 (1) The use of funds appropriated under this section;

15 (2) Progress toward accreditation and institutional readiness;

16 (3) Faculty and leadership hiring progress; and

17 (4) A projected timeline and budget for subsequent phases of development.

18 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

1 This act would establish the framework to create a medical school at the University of
2 Rhode Island and provide an initial appropriation of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) as the first
3 phase of a multi-year investment for the development of a medical school.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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