

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO INSURANCE -- HEALTHCARE ACCESSIBILITY AND QUALITY  
ASSURANCE ACT

Introduced By: Senators Britto, Murray, McKenney, Tikoian, Gallo, Bissailon,  
Sosnowski, and DiMario

Date Introduced: March 13, 2026

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 27-18.8 of the General Laws entitled "Healthcare Accessibility and  
2 Quality Assurance Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **27-18.8-3.1. Unilateral modification of provider contracts prohibited.**

4 (a) No healthcare entity, as defined in § 27-18.8-2, including any affiliate, subsidiary, or  
5 contracted vendor acting on behalf of the healthcare entity, that offers, issues, or renews a health  
6 plan in this state, shall unilaterally modify, amend, or reinterpret any material term or condition of  
7 a contract with a healthcare provider, during the term of such contract.

8 (b) For purposes of this section, a "material term or condition" means and includes, but is  
9 not limited to, changes to reimbursement methodologies or underlying fee schedules; payment  
10 terms; carrier policies, protocols, or procedures; definitions of covered services or covered sites of  
11 service; utilization review requirements, prior authorization requirements, or medical necessity  
12 criteria; quality management or quality improvement requirements; credentialing requirements;  
13 billing or documentation requirements; clinical policy bulletins or coverage determination or  
14 covered preventive health services.

15 (c) Material terms and conditions shall include any policy, protocol, fee schedule, provider  
16 manual, or guidance incorporated by reference into the contract, whether issued electronically or  
17 otherwise.

18 (d) A healthcare entity may implement changes to a health carrier contract only:

- 1           (1) Upon the mutual written agreement of the healthcare entity and the healthcare provider;  
2   or  
3           (2) Where such change is expressly required by state or federal law.  
4           (e) Any change not required by law shall not take effect until the renewal of the contract  
5   term and then only if the healthcare entity has provided written notice of the proposed change at  
6   least ninety (90) days before the renewal.

7           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 INSURANCE -- HEALTHCARE ACCESSIBILITY AND QUALITY  
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1           This act would prohibit a healthcare entity from unilaterally modifying amending or  
2 reinterpreting any material term or condition of a contact with a healthcare provider during the term  
3 of such contact.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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