

2021 -- S 0878

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT – OFFICE OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced By: Senators DiMario, Miller, Valverde, Sosnowski, Lawson, Mendes,
Anderson, and Kallman

Date Introduced: May 07, 2021

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 42-7.2 of the General Laws entitled "Office of Health and Human
2 Services" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **42-7.2-21. Medicaid primary care parity.**

4 (a) Statement of intent. The intent of this section is to ensure that Rhode Island's Medicaid
5 beneficiaries are able to access high quality and coordinated health care. To meet this need, Rhode
6 Island Medicaid and its contracted managed care entities shall increase Medicaid primary care
7 payment rates to rates not lower than federal Medicare payment rates for the same service. The
8 intent of this section of law is to:

9 (1) Incentivize private community-based primary care providers to participate in the state's
10 Medicaid program;

11 (2) Support the goals and objectives of the executive office of health and human services'
12 accountable entity program;

13 (3) Support the ten (10) year public health vision shared by the Rhode Island department
14 of health in partnership with the Rhode Island Foundation;

15 (4) Support the office of the health insurance commissioner's affordability standards;

16 (5) Ensure Medicaid beneficiaries get access to high quality and coordinated primary care;

17 and

18 (6) Support Rhode Island's private community-based primary care providers.

1 (b) On or before July 1, 2022, Rhode Island Medicaid and its contracted managed care
2 entities shall provide that all primary care reimbursement rates are not lower than one hundred
3 percent (100%) of the federal Medicare reimbursement rates.

4 (c) The executive office of health and human services shall conduct an analysis of the
5 impact of this section on access to care for Medicaid beneficiaries and submit a report of its findings
6 to the general assembly on or before January 1, 2025.

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 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT – OFFICE OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

- 1 This act would raise Rhode Island Medicaid primary care payment rates to not less than
- 2 federal Medicare rates for the same service.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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