

2017 -- H 6289

LC002826

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced By: Representatives Lima, Blazejewski, Keable, Handy, and Tanzi

Date Introduced: June 07, 2017

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 40-8-17 of the General Laws in Chapter 40-8 entitled "Medical
2 Assistance" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **40-8-17. Waiver request.**

4 (a) Formation. The executive office of health and human services, is directed and
5 authorized to apply for and obtain any necessary waiver(s), waiver amendment(s) and/or state
6 plan amendments from the secretary of the United States department of health and human
7 services, including, but not limited to, an extension of the section 1115(a) demonstration waiver
8 amended, as appropriate, and renamed to reflect the state's effort to coordinate all publicly
9 financed healthcare. The secretary of the office shall ensure that the state's health and human
10 services departments and the people and communities they serve in the Medicaid program shall
11 have the opportunity to contribute to and collaborate in the formulation of any request for a new
12 waiver, waiver extension and/or state plan amendment(s). Any such actions shall: (1) continue
13 efforts to rebalance the system of long-term services and supports by assisting people in obtaining
14 care in the most appropriate and least restrictive setting; (2) pursue further utilization of care
15 management models that promote preventive care, offer a health home, and provide an integrated
16 system of services; (3) use smart payments and purchasing to finance and support Medicaid
17 initiatives that fill gaps in the integrated system of care; ~~and~~ (4) recognize and assure access to
18 non-medical services and supports, such as peer navigation and employment and housing
19 stabilization services, that are essential for optimizing a person's health, wellness and safety and

1 that reduce or delay the need for long-term services and supports; (5) assure that individuals who
2 are homeless have access to supportive housing services; (6) support the development of mobile
3 health services to help maintain the physical and mental health of individuals who are homeless;
4 and (7) continue efforts to improve access to mental and behavioral healthcare services, with a
5 focus on initiatives that reduce emergency department utilization, integrate mental and behavioral
6 healthcare into primary care settings, and promote team-based models of care.

7 (b) Effective July 1, 2009, any provision presently in effect in the Rhode Island General
8 Laws where the executive office of health and human services, is authorized to apply for and
9 obtain any necessary waiver(s), waiver amendment(s) and/or state plan amendment(s) for the
10 purpose of providing medical assistance to recipients, shall authorize the executive office of
11 health and human services, to proceed with appropriate category changes in accordance with the
12 special terms and conditions of the Rhode Island Global Consumer Choice Compact section
13 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver or any extension thereof, as amended and/or renamed under the
14 authority provided in this section.

15 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 HUMAN SERVICES

1 This act would direct and authorize the executive office of health and human services to
2 apply for any necessary waivers, waiver amendments, and state plan amendments to assure the
3 homeless have access to supportive housing services, health services and mental and behavioral
4 healthcare services.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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