

2023 -- H 5176

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

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A N A C T

RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES

Introduced By: Representatives McGaw, Shekarchi, Ajello, Speakman, Donovan, Kislak,
Tanzi, Cotter, Stewart, and Felix

Date Introduced: January 19, 2023

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 27-18 of the General Laws entitled "Accident and Sickness Insurance
2 Policies" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **27-18-91. Epinephrine injectors.**

4 (a) The Rhode Island general assembly recognizes that epinephrine cartridges and injectors
5 are life-saving devices which must be administered quickly to be effective. Such administration is
6 often done by persons who are not health care professionals, and is done in an emergency situation.
7 Accordingly, it is in the best interests of the people of the state to promote the widespread
8 availability of epinephrine cartridges and injectors.

9 (b) Every individual or group health insurance contract, plan, or policy that provides
10 prescription coverage and that is delivered, issued for delivery, prescribed, or renewed in this state
11 on or after January 1, 2024, shall provide coverage for prescribed epinephrine injectors and
12 cartridges. There shall be no copayment required, and no deductible shall need to be met, to obtain
13 a prescribed epinephrine injector or cartridge.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 27-19 of the General Laws entitled "Nonprofit Hospital Service
15 Corporations" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

16 **27-19-83. Epinephrine injectors.**

17 (a) The Rhode Island general assembly recognizes that epinephrine cartridges and injectors
18 are life-saving devices which must be administered quickly to be effective. Such administration is
19 often done by persons who are not health care professionals, and is done in an emergency situation.

1 Accordingly, it is in the best interests of the people of the state to promote the widespread
2 availability of epinephrine cartridges and injectors.

3 (b) Every individual or group health insurance contract, plan, or policy that provides
4 prescription coverage and that is delivered, issued for delivery, prescribed, or renewed in this state
5 on or after January 1, 2024, shall provide coverage for prescribed epinephrine injectors and
6 cartridges. There shall be no copayment required, and no deductible shall need to be met, to obtain
7 a prescribed epinephrine injector or cartridge.

8 SECTION 3. Chapter 27-20 of the General Laws entitled "Nonprofit Medical Service
9 Corporations" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

10 **27-20-79. Epinephrine injectors.**

11 (a) The Rhode Island general assembly recognizes that epinephrine cartridges and injectors
12 are life-saving devices which must be administered quickly to be effective. Such administration is
13 often done by persons who are not health care professionals, and is done in an emergency situation.
14 Accordingly, it is in the best interests of the people of the state to promote the widespread
15 availability of epinephrine cartridges and injectors.

16 (b) Every individual or group health insurance contract, plan, or policy that provides
17 prescription coverage and that is delivered, issued for delivery, prescribed, or renewed in this state
18 on or after January 1, 2024, shall provide coverage for prescribed epinephrine injectors and
19 cartridges. There shall be no copayment required, and no deductible shall need to be met, to obtain
20 a prescribed epinephrine injector or cartridge.

21 SECTION 4. Chapter 27-41 of the General Laws entitled "Health Maintenance
22 Organizations" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

23 **27-41-96. Epinephrine injectors.**

24 (a) The Rhode Island general assembly recognizes that epinephrine cartridges and injectors
25 are life-saving devices which must be administered quickly to be effective. Such administration is
26 often done by persons who are not health care professionals, and is done in an emergency situation.
27 Accordingly, it is in the best interests of the people of the state to promote the widespread
28 availability of epinephrine cartridges and injectors.

29 (b) Every individual or group health insurance contract, plan, or policy that provides
30 prescription coverage and that is delivered, issued for delivery, prescribed, or renewed in this state
31 on or after January 1, 2024, shall provide coverage for prescribed epinephrine injectors and
32 cartridges. There shall be no copayment required, and no deductible shall need to be met, to obtain
33 a prescribed epinephrine injector or cartridge.

1 SECTION 5. 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 -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES

- 1 This act would require group health plans and health insurance issuers that provide
- 2 prescription benefits to cover prescribed epinephrine injectors and cartridges. No copayment or
- 3 deductible would be required to obtain a prescribed epinephrine injector or cartridge.
- 4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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