

2011 -- H 5798

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LC01038
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

A N A C T

RELATING TO INSURANCE -- COMMUNICATION ACCESS

Introduced By: Representatives Handy, and McNamara

Date Introduced: March 03, 2011

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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

3 **27-18-71. Communication access services.** – (a) Every individual or group health
4 insurance contract, or every individual or group hospital or medical expense insurance policy,
5 plan, or group policy delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state on or after January 1,
6 2012, shall provide coverage for communication access services for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
7 patients or identified clients.

8 (b) For the purposes of this section:

9 (1) "Communication Access Services" means any effective communication access
10 services recognized by either the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities
11 Act to guarantee full communication access between the patients or identified clients who are
12 deaf and hard-of-hearing and doctors or other health care professionals to ensure that each party
13 understands their health needs and treatments. Examples of communication access services are
14 interpreters for the deaf, Communication Access Real Time (CART) service, remote video
15 interpreting service for the deaf, remote CART service, etc.

16 (c) This section shall not apply to equipment purchased as part of communication access
17 accommodations. Examples are TTYs , videophones, assistive listening devices, etc.

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

1 **27-19-62. Communication access services.** – (a) Every individual or group health
2 insurance contract, or every individual or group hospital or medical expense insurance policy,
3 plan, or group policy delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state on or after January 1,
4 2012, shall provide coverage for communication access services for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
5 patients or identified clients.

6 (b) For the purposes of this section:

7 (1) “Communication Access Services” means any effective communication access
8 services recognized by either the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities
9 Act to guarantee full communication access between the patients or identified clients who are
10 deaf and hard-of-hearing and doctors or other health care professionals to ensure that each party
11 understands their health needs and treatments. Examples of communication access services are
12 interpreters for the deaf, Communication Access Real Time (CART) service, remote video
13 interpreting service for the deaf, remote CART service, etc.

14 (c) This section shall not apply to equipment purchased as part of communication access
15 accommodations. Examples are TTYs , videophones, assistive listening devices, etc.

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

18 **27-20-57. Communication access services.** -- (a) Every individual or group health
19 insurance contract, or every individual or group hospital or medical expense insurance policy,
20 plan, or group policy delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state on or after January 1,
21 2012, shall provide coverage for communication access services for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
22 patients or identified clients.

23 (b) For the purposes of this section:

24 (1) “Communication Access Services” means any effective communication access
25 services recognized by either the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities
26 Act to guarantee full communication access between the patients or identified clients who are
27 deaf and hard-of-hearing and doctors or other health care professionals to ensure that each party
28 understands their health needs and treatments. Examples of communication access services are
29 interpreters for the deaf, Communication Access Real Time (CART) service, remote video
30 interpreting service for the deaf, remote CART service, etc.

31 (c) This section shall not apply to equipment purchased as part of communication access
32 accommodations. Examples are TTYs , videophones, assistive listening devices, etc.

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

1 **27-41-75. Communication access services.** -- (a) Every individual or group health
2 insurance contract, or every individual or group hospital or medical expense insurance policy,
3 plan, or group policy delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state on or after January 1,
4 2012, shall provide coverage for communication access services for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
5 patients or identified clients.

6 (b) For the purposes of this section:

7 (1) “Communication Access Services” means any effective communication access
8 services recognized by either the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities
9 Act to guarantee full communication access between the patients or identified clients who are
10 deaf and hard-of-hearing and doctors or other health care professionals to ensure that each party
11 understands their health needs and treatments. Examples of communication access services are
12 interpreters for the deaf, Communication Access Real Time (CART) service, remote video
13 interpreting service for the deaf, remote CART service, etc.

14 (c) This section shall not apply to equipment purchased as part of communication access
15 accommodations. Examples are TTYs , videophones, assistive listening devices, etc.

16 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would require accident and sickness insurance policies, non-profit hospital
2 service corporations, non-profit medical services corporations and health maintenance
3 organizations to provide communication access service coverage in their contracts.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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