

2024 -- S 2875

LC005233

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES

Introduced By: Senators Quezada, Ujifusa, Cano, Acosta, Mack, DiMario, F. Lombardi,
Lauria, LaMountain, and Tikoian

Date Introduced: March 22, 2024

Referred To: Senate 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 **27-18-95. Coverage for interpreter services.**

4 Every individual or group health insurance contract, or every individual or group hospital
5 or medical expense insurance policy, plan, or group policy delivered, issued for delivery, or
6 renewed in this state on or after January 1, 2025, shall provide coverage for a qualified interpreter
7 in connection with all services provided to every non-English speaker who is a patient or seeks
8 appropriate care and treatment and the interpreter services shall be provided for any one on one,
9 face to face medically necessary office visit. Coverage pursuant to this section shall only be
10 provided to the extent that interpreter services are not required to be covered by federal law or
11 regulation.

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

14 **27-19-87. Coverage for interpreter services.**

15 Every individual or group health insurance contract, or every individual or group hospital
16 or medical expense insurance policy, plan, or group policy delivered, issued for delivery, or
17 renewed in this state on or after January 1, 2025, shall provide coverage for a qualified interpreter
18 in connection with all services provided to every non-English speaker who is a patient or seeks
19 appropriate care and treatment and the interpreter services shall be provided for any one on one,

1 face to face medically necessary office visit. Coverage pursuant to this section shall only be
2 provided to the extent that interpreter services are not required to be covered by federal law or
3 regulation.

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

6 **27-20-83. Coverage for interpreter services.**

7 Every individual or group health insurance contract, or every individual or group hospital
8 or medical expense insurance policy, plan, or group policy delivered, issued for delivery, or
9 renewed in this state on or after January 1, 2025, shall provide coverage for a qualified interpreter
10 in connection with all services provided to every non-English speaker who is a patient or seeks
11 appropriate care and treatment and the interpreter services shall be provided for any one on one,
12 face to face medically necessary office visit. Coverage pursuant to this section shall only be
13 provided to the extent that interpreter services are not required to be covered by federal law or
14 regulation.

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

17 **27-41-100. Coverage for interpreter services.**

18 Every individual or group health insurance contract, or every individual or group hospital
19 or medical expense insurance policy, plan, or group policy delivered, issued for delivery, or
20 renewed in this state on or after January 1, 2025, shall provide coverage for a qualified interpreter
21 in connection with all services provided to every non-English speaker who is a patient or seeks
22 appropriate care and treatment and the interpreter services shall be provided for any one on one,
23 face to face medically necessary office visit. Coverage pursuant to this section shall only be
24 provided to the extent that interpreter services are not required to be covered by federal law or
25 regulation.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES

1 This act would provide insurance coverage for interpreter services for all medically
2 necessary doctor appointments.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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