



## Summary of the Outcomes of the 2026 Rhode Island Legislative Session that Relate to Aging Services and Senior Housing

### Rhode Island FY27 State Budget HJR7127

The General Assembly's priority is to pass a balanced state budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The following is a summary of the relevant sections of the enacted state budget for FY27:

#### Aging Services

**Assisted Living - Tier C Rate Increase.** The final budget adds \$0.2 million, including \$0.1 million from general revenues, to increase the assisted living Tier C reimbursement rate by 13 percent. This rate will increase to about \$170 a day starting January 1, 2027, excluding the impact of the pending home and community-based rate increase, which would bring the total to about \$185 a day.

**Nursing Homes Rates.** The budget includes a 2.5 percent rate increase for nursing homes effective October 1, 2026.

**Nursing Home Rates - Behavioral Health Per Diem.** The final budget concurs with the Governor's request to update the behavioral health per-diem for complex patients at nursing homes and adds \$0.8 million, of which \$0.4 million is from general revenues. This assumes an April 1, 2027 start date and admission of 20 new residents.

**OHIC Rate Increase Full.** [The Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner \(OHIC\) completed its FY 2026 rate review for submission in the FY 2027 budgets](#), including the Medicaid rates for home and community-based services. The final budget includes [full funding](#) of the OHIC recommended rate increases for these services and adds \$40.7 million, including \$15.6 million from general revenues, bringing the total to \$81.4 million, of which \$31.2 million is from general revenues.

**LTC - Asset Test Increase.** The budget raises the resource threshold for Medicaid long-term care services from \$4,000 to \$8,000 for an individual and from \$6,000 to \$12,000 for a couple. This adds \$9.2 million, including \$3.9 million from general revenues, to account for more eligible individuals.

**Determination of Need Changes.** Section 10 of the budget updates and streamlines the current "Determination of Need for New Healthcare Equipment and New Institutional Health Services" through an extensive amendment to the statutes.

#### Office of Healthy Aging (OHA)

**RIPIN - Hospital Transition Services.** The General Assembly agreed with the Governor's requested amendment to eliminate \$250,000 from general revenues to be matched by Medicaid for a total of \$500,000 for the Hospital Care Transitions program operated by the Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN). The initiative addresses the more expensive institutional placements, such as nursing homes, by transferring eligible individuals to less expensive, more appropriate community-based alternatives. CMS had notified the Executive Office that the Medicaid match is no longer available, so the contract was not extended to FY 2027. The budget includes \$500,000 from general revenues to continue the program through the OHA.

**OHA - Home and Community Care Utilization.** The Governor's recommendation for Home and Community Care services through the Office of Healthy Aging (OHA) was \$8.2 million, including \$3.5 million from general revenues. He requested an amendment to add \$3.3 million from all sources to reflect updated utilization expectations. The final budget concurs with the total amount and includes \$1.4 million from general revenues and \$1.9 million from federal funds to reflect the correct federal match rate.

**OHA - Long Term Care Ombudsman Support.** Consistent with the enacted budget, the Governor recommended \$40,000 from general revenues for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, provided by the Alliance for Better Long-Term Care. The final budget includes an additional \$60,000 from general revenues, for total funding of \$100,000.

**OHIC Rate Increase Fully Funded for OHA.** The budget includes full funding of the OHIC's recommended rate increase for the Office of Healthy Aging and adds \$0.5 million, including \$0.2 million from general revenues, bringing the total to \$1.0 million, of which \$0.4 million is from general revenues.

### **Rural Health Transformation Program**

**Rural Health Transformation Program.** The budget includes the Governor's requested amendment to add \$142.7 million from federal funds to several state agencies for the first year of the state's award from the Rural Health Transformation Program included in federal H.R. 1. The program will support workforce development, technology innovation, improved health for rural residents, innovative access, and sustainable access to care. The amendment includes \$21.8 million and 2.0 new positions for the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner to oversee the program, including \$0.4 million for FY 2026 and \$21.4 million for FY 2027. These funds will primarily support contractors and competitive awards to encourage hospitals and primary care practices to transition to alternative and value-based payment models.

- For FY 2026 and FY 2027, funds will be budgeted among three health and human service agencies, and the Departments of Business Regulation, Elementary and Secondary Education, and Labor and Training. The total award is \$156.2 million, with the remaining \$13.4 million anticipated in the FY 2028 recommended budget; it must be spent by September 30, 2027.
- For DLT, \$0.4 million for FY 2026 and \$7.0 million for FY 2027, primarily to support the Real Jobs Rhode Island program in providing pre-employment healthcare-related training opportunities in rural communities, as well as existing staff responsible for administering grant programming.
- For EOHHS, \$5.6 million for FY 2026 and \$68.8 million for FY 2027. It also adds five positions in both years.
- For DOH, \$2.3 million for FY 2026 and \$26.3 million for FY 2027. Of this, \$0.8 million supports approximately six positions, as well as new training programs, equipment, vehicles, and contracts for information technology revitalization and other projects.
- For BHDDH, \$0.5 million for FY 2026 and \$4.1 million for FY 2027. It also adds two positions in both years. Funding will support recovery centers, crisis and stabilization services, and Westerly Hospital's geriatric psychiatry unit.
- For the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, \$1.1 million for FY 2026 and \$4.8 million for FY 2027. Funding will primarily support Career and Technical Education programs and workforce development.

### **Housing Funding**

**State LIHTC Redemptions.** The budget adds \$0.5 million from Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Trust Fund restricted receipts to reflect the first anticipated redemption of credits under the program in FY 2027. The Assembly has reserved a total of \$36.0 million, including \$4.0 million in FY 2026, against an existing award maximum of \$120.0 million based on the current sunset date to redeem credits; the Fund also receives all revenues from the non-owner-occupied non-rental residential property, set at 0.5 percent annually on the portion of values exceeding \$1.0 million, effective July 1, 2026.

## **Other bills of interest that passed this session:**

### **[SB2107-A - An Act Relating to Health and Safety -- Healthcare Worker Platform Act](#) & [HB7030-B - An Act Relating to Health and Safety -- Healthcare Worker Platform Act](#)**

Establishes the healthcare worker platform and would require platforms offering healthcare shifts to register with the Department of Health by June 1, 2027, while, specifically, exempting them from being classified as nursing service agencies.

### **[SB2116-A - An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions -- Nurses](#) & [HB7029-A - An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions -- Nurses](#)**

Permits a nurse who has the appropriate knowledge, credentials and clinical competency, to provide home services foot care, which includes routine foot and nail care, as well as implementing a plan of care that includes hygiene and fingernails.

### **[SB2260 - An Act Relating to Health and Safety -- Building Benchmarking And Reporting Act of 2026](#) & [HB7183 - An Act Relating to Health and Safety -- Building Benchmarking and Reporting Act Of 2026](#)**

Establishes a building energy reporting program for covered residential, nonresidential properties and campuses containing twenty-five thousand (25,000) or more gross square feet. The office of energy resources (OER) shall be responsible for reporting this information to the public to provide transparency to the marketplace.

### **[SB2570-A - An Act Relating to Health and Safety -- Use of Artificial Intelligence by Healthcare Providers Notification Act](#) & [HB7538-A - An Act Relating to Health and Safety -- Use of Artificial Intelligence by Healthcare Providers Notification Act](#)**

Requires healthcare providers and healthcare facilities to inform patients of the use of artificial intelligence to memorialize patient visits.

### **[SB3282 - An Act Relating to Insurance -- Medicare Supplement Insurance Policies](#) & [HB8595 - An Act Relating to Insurance -- Medicare Supplement Insurance Policies](#)**

Expands guaranteed issue rights for Medigap plan enrollees who enroll outside of a plan's initial enrollment period.