



Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services
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May 14, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chairman
House Committee on Finance
Room 35 – State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: 2026 – H 8268 – An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – The Healthcare Services Funding Plan Act

Dear Chairman Abney:

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services would like to share information and concerns regarding **H 8268**. This bill would include both the MomsPRN and PediPRN teleconsultation lines as programs supported by the thirty million dollars of healthcare services funding contributions established in calendar year 2026 (“primary care assessment”).

EOHHS/Medicaid wants to call attention to the overall permissibility of the assessment beginning October 1, 2026.

- House Resolution 1 (H.R.1), which became law on July 4, 2025, includes modifications to the permissible levels of provider taxes and waiver of uniform tax requirements.
- Beginning October 1, 2026, for any provider class that did not have a tax in effect as of July 4, 2025, the hold harmless threshold (overall tax level) for that provider class is set at zero percent (0%). This policy means that states may not enact new or raise existing provider taxes after July 4, 2025, and have those taxes remain in place after October 1, 2026.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released guidance¹ that describes the new thresholds are based on the applicable percent of net patient revenue attributable to the permissible class for a tax, provided that a state or locality “has enacted a tax and imposes such tax” as of July 4, 2025.
- The primary care assessment was enacted prior to July 4, 2025, however, was not imposed as of July 4, 2025.

Based on the above, it is highly likely that the primary care assessment is impermissible as of October 1, 2026, which would not allow this bill to be implemented. CMS’ guidance does acknowledge that the information is preliminary in nature and final policies will depend on the contents of a final rule.

EOHHS/Medicaid would welcome any discussion about **H 8268**, and staff are available to assist with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kristin Pono Sousa
Rhode Island Medicaid Program Director
Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance
Honorable Mary Ann Shallcross Smith
Danica Iacoi, Chief of Staff and Special Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House

¹ https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/downloads/providertax_dcl_11142025.pdf