



STATE of RHODE ISLAND
Executive Department
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
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Legislative Impact Statement

To: Senator Murray, Chair
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
From: Elisabeth Hubbard, Executive Secretary
Re: 26 Senate 2378 AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE --
LONG-TERM CARE SERVICE AND FINANCE REFORM
April 9, 2026

The Governor's Commission on Disabilities' Legislation Committee has developed a Legislative Impact Statement on the bill listed below. The Commission would be pleased to present testimony to the committee. Please contact me (462-0110) if testimony is desired or for additional information.

The Commission finds this bill beneficial.

The GCD finds this bill beneficial. Part of the work of the Commission promotes the right of people with disabilities to live in the community instead of facilities. This has been a central idea to the disability rights movement since it began in the 1970s.

Being able to remain in one's home means that a person can maintain connections to their community and family. It means access to natural supports, but also to be able to participate in their community such as work, volunteering or other social activities. People who live at home have more independence and have more authority to direct their own care. They are also less susceptible to community-acquired illnesses that can occur in facilities.

The ability to live in their own home is not only a benefit to the individual with a disability, it is also cost saving for the state. If a person cannot live safely at home due to their disability, their only alternative is a nursing facility. The estimated 2026 annual cost of a shared room in a nursing facility is in Rhode Island is \$151,475.¹ This cost is much higher than it would be for a person to receive supports in their home.

¹ [Nursing Home Costs by State and Region: Updated Jan 2026](https://www.medicaidplanningassistance.org/nursing-home-costs/#:~:text=When%20considering%20applying%20for%20Medicaid%2C%20many%20individuals%20want)
<https://www.medicaidplanningassistance.org/nursing-home-costs/#:~:text=When%20considering%20applying%20for%20Medicaid%2C%20many%20individuals%20want>

For these reasons the state should advocate for programs that help residents remain in their own home where they can maintain their independence and connections to their community.