



Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services
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March 12, 2026

The Honorable Melissa A. Murray, Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Senate Lounge – State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: 2026 – S 2854– An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Department of Human Services

Dear Chairwoman Murray:

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services would like to share information and concerns regarding S 2854. This bill would transfer the responsibility for implementation of rehabilitative services for persons with traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) from the Department of Human Services (DHS) to EOHHS.

While EOHHS understands the purpose of the designation of a single State TBI authority responsible for the overall coordination of TBI services within the State of Rhode Island. Currently, responsibility for TBI services is shared across multiple departments as follows and will require additional discussion and coordination among all of the departments impacted to determine the appropriate agency and the resources, including funding and staffing necessary to effectuate this change without a gap in the administration of services:

- BHDDH is the licensing authority for residential and other support programs serving individuals with TBI within the state under R.I. Gen. Laws § 40.1-24-1 and § 40.1-24-2 and the housing authority for persons with TBI under R.I. Gen. Laws § 40.1-1-11.
- RIDOH administers the Traumatic Brain Injury State Demonstration Grant Program, awarded by the Administration for Community Living, and manages the Rhode Island TBI Registry under R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-1-49.
- EOHHS, as the single State Medicaid Agency, is responsible for the overall coordination and payment for rehabilitative and habilitative services for Medicaid eligible individuals with TBI covered under the Medicaid State Plan and Section 1115 Waiver. However, Medicaid is a major funding source for services supporting only about one-third of individuals with TBI. Therefore, EOHHS is not involved in the payment or coordination of such services outside of Medicaid.
- DHS determines clinical eligibility and service authorizations for Medicaid long-term services and supports, including for the habilitative waiver program for individuals with TBI.

EOHHS would welcome any discussion about S 2854, and staff are available to assist with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Richard R. Charest, R.Ph., MBA
Secretary, Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Cc: Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Honorable Brian J. Thompson
Kristin Silvia, Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Legislation