

2013 -- S 1044

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND THE RHODE ISLAND HEALTH EXCHANGE TO PROVIDE A REPORT TO THE SENATE ON THE NEWLY-ENROLLED ADULTS BETWEEN 133 PERCENT AND 175 PERCENT FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL TO THE MARKETPLACE

Introduced By: Senators Miller, Satchell, Cool Rumsey, Goldin, and Nesselbush

Date Introduced: July 02, 2013

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island is fully committed to the health and welfare of its
2 citizens by providing access to quality, affordable health insurance through the implementation of
3 the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) and implementation of the Rhode Island Health Exchange
4 (“The Marketplace”); and

5 WHEREAS, The Ocean State is a leader in its design of the Health Exchange and Unified
6 Health Infrastructure Project (UHIP), creating a singular platform to support both new and
7 existing health insurance initiatives under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), bolster existing human
8 services programs, and provide hosting services for the state’s health benefits exchange “The
9 Marketplace” and eligibility systems; and

10 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Fiscal Year 2014 Budget eliminated RIte Care premiums
11 to enhance the affordability of overall family coverage, while expanding Medicaid coverage to
12 residents that qualify with incomes up to 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) who are
13 not currently eligible for Medicaid coverage; and

14 WHEREAS, There are discrepancies between the Medicaid definition of the
15 “affordability standard” for health insurance premium costs at 5 percent of gross income and the
16 Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) definition of 9.5 percent; and

17 WHEREAS, Advocates and policymakers have expressed concern with the FY 2014
18 budget shift of 6,500 adults between 133 percent to 175 percent FPL from Medicaid coverage to

1 the Exchange, that offer subsidy amounts that are currently indeterminable, for those that qualify
2 to pay for premium expenses, and out-of-pocket costs; now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
4 respectfully requests the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), Office of
5 Medicaid and Office of the Health Exchange to submit a report to the Senate Committee on
6 Health and Human Services on or before April 15, 2014, with the following information for
7 newly-enrolled adults between 133 percent to 175 percent FPL through the health exchange: (i)
8 The take-up rates for coverage, as compared with the previous year's enrollments for Medicaid
9 coverage; (ii) The average subsidy amounts per enrollee; (iii) The average out-of-pocket expenses
10 in the first quarter and estimates per annum; (iv) Any other relevant information to fully examine
11 the transition; and (v) Recommendations for improvements and/or modifications to the current
12 policy; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to send
14 a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services.

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