

**July 5, 2011**

## Legislative Update

The 2011 Rhode Island General Assembly legislative session ended on June 30. This Issue Brief provides an update on the final result of several pieces of healthcare legislation. From a Rhode Island Business Group on Health position, some results went in our favor, some did not.

For more information or questions on these or any other bills, please contact Jeff Swallow at 268-2639 or [jswallow@gdeb.com](mailto:jswallow@gdeb.com).

### **H5201**

Large Group Health Insurance

Would permit a large group or small employer, when purchasing more than one product offered by the carrier, to receive a discount of up to 1% of the premium or fees.

Status: Bill died in committee.

Link: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5201.pdf>

RIBGH position: neutral

### **H5275**

Autism Spectrum Disorders

Would require coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders.

Status: House and Senate passed on 6/28.

Link: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5275.pdf>

RIBGH position: against

### **H5276/S0770**

Rhode Island All-Payer Patient-Centered Medical Home Act of 2011

Would create the Rhode Island Medical Home Act.

Status: House and Senate passed on 6/30.

Link: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5276.pdf>,

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/SenateText11/S0770.pdf>

RIBGH position: support

### **H5381**

Mandated Benefits

Would require a mandated benefit review by the health insurance commissioner of any mandated benefits.

Status: Died in committee.

Link: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5381.pdf>

RIBGH position: support

**H5422/S0462**

Health Care Accessibility and Quality Assurance Act

Would allow health plans to implement a tiered provider network where providers will be classified into tiers based on their rates of favorable patient outcomes.

Status: Died in committee.

Link: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5422.pdf>,  
<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/SenateText11/S0462.pdf>

RIBGH position: support

**H5498/S0087**

Health Benefits Exchange Act

Would establish the Rhode Island Health Insurance Exchange.

Status: H5498 – died in committee. S0087 – died in House.

Link: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5498.pdf>,  
<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/SenateText11/S0087.pdf>

RIBGH position: support, but there has been much discussion on the language of this bill and position could change depending on the outcome of the discussion. Was not likely to pass this session as it was written.

**H5733**

Health Insurance Rate Review

Would require the health insurance commissioner to give prior written approval to a proposed change in a rate or rating formula. Would also give greater transparency to the health rate approval process.

Status: died in committee.

Link: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5733.pdf>

RIBGH position: support

**H5859/S0477**

Implantable Hearing Devices

Would require health insurance providers to provide coverage for implantable hearing or restorative or assistive devices.

Status: died in committee.

Link: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5859.pdf>,  
<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/SenateText11/S0477.pdf>

RIBGH position: against