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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2007

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

**ENDORISING THE ADOPTION OF ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS AND HEALTH
INFORMATION EXCHANGE SYSTEMS THAT IMPROVE THE QUALITY, SAFETY AND
VALUE OF HEALTH CARE**

Introduced By: Senators C Levesque, Paiva-Weed, Perry, Gibbs, and Sheehan

Date Introduced: June 07, 2007

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The people of Rhode Island expect health care services to be high quality,
2 safe and of high value; and

3 WHEREAS, The Institute of Medicine has endorsed the implementation of health
4 information technology including electronic medical records and the use of electronic prescribing
5 in order to increase the quality of health care delivery and to prevent medication errors; and

6 WHEREAS, The implementation of health information technology will support the
7 Institute of Medicine's vision for a transformed health care system that is safe, effective, patient-
8 centered, timely, efficient and equitable; and

9 WHEREAS, There are a growing number of physicians' offices, hospitals, laboratories,
10 pharmacies and other health care providers in Rhode Island that have already taken steps to adopt
11 electronic medical record systems; and

12 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Board of Medical Licensure has endorsed the use of
13 electronic prescribing defined as the order, transmission and receipt of prescriptions electronically
14 between prescriber and pharmacy; and

15 WHEREAS, Through a public-private partnership, the State has begun to build the initial
16 infrastructure for a statewide system that will facilitate the secure electronic health information
17 exchange across health care providers; and

18 WHEREAS, In the 2006 legislative session, the General Assembly authorized the state's
19 financial contribution to the continued development, support and ongoing maintenance of a

1 statewide health information exchange system, conditional upon the financial contributions of
2 other federal and private entities; now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence
4 Plantations hereby affirms the need to transition from a paper-based medical system to an
5 electronic -records system; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly hereby endorses health care providers' ongoing
7 effort to implement and utilize to maximum capability electronic health records for their patients,
8 including all appropriate electronic health information exchange systems that will improve the
9 quality, safety and value of health care delivery in Rhode Island by facilitating the secure,
10 confidential and appropriate flow of health care information between health care providers and
11 consumer access to their own health information; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly hereby endorses efforts by non-providers to
13 support the ongoing work to implement and utilize to maximum capability electronic health
14 records for all Rhode Islanders, including all appropriate electronic health information exchange
15 systems that will improve the quality, safety and value of health care delivery in Rhode Island by
16 facilitating the secure, confidential and appropriate flow of health care information between
17 health care providers, and consumer access to their own health information; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly hereby recognizes that health care consumers
19 should expect that their health care providers will use electronic health records and information
20 systems that:

21 (1) Protect the confidentiality of health care information in accordance with the providers'
22 professional obligations to their patients and the provisions of state and federal laws;

23 (2) Provide the consumer with access to their healthcare information;

24 (3) Provide appropriate security measures to protect electronic information against illicit
25 access;

26 (4) Interface with the Rhode Island statewide electronic health information exchange that
27 facilitates the sharing of health information for coordination and continuity of care;

28 (5) Improve health care providers' ability to apply the best available scientific evidence in
29 the provision of health care services;

30 (6) Reduce waste and duplication of health care services; and

31 (7) Improve the safety of health care by ensuring that electronic orders for laboratory
32 tests, medication and other services are created and transmitted electronically whenever possible;
33 and be it further

34 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly hereby supports the goal that all health care

- 1 consumers in Rhode Island will be served by providers that have adopted electronic health
- 2 records systems by January 1, 2015.

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