CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.6, the following is a concise explanatory statement:

AGENCY: Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

DIVISION: Income Support Division

RULE IDENTIFIER: 260-RICR-40-05-1

RULE TITLE: Unemployment Insurance and Temporary Disability Insurance Programs

REASON FOR RULEMAKING: The proposed amendment aims to expand the scope of individuals considered "Qualified healthcare providers" under Rhode Island regulation 260-RICR-40-05-1. This change allows for the inclusion of healthcare professionals licensed outside the United States to provide necessary certifications for a claimant seeking benefits, provided the claimant submits evidence demonstrating the healthcare provider's proper licensure upon request by the Director or his/her designee.

ANY FINDING REQUIRED BY LAW AS A PREREQUISITE TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE RULE: N/A.

TESTIMONY AND COMMENTS: One comment was received from the Rhode Island American Civil Liberties Union which was in support of the proposed amendment.

CHANGE TO TEXT OF THE RULE: There were no changes between the text of the Rule as proposed and the text of the Final Rule.

REGULATORY ANALYSIS: The proposed amendment offers significant societal benefits by broadening the pool of healthcare professionals who can certify for claimants, thereby enhancing access to benefits for individuals receiving medical care from providers licensed outside the United States. This expansion promotes inclusivity and accommodates diverse healthcare backgrounds, ensuring equitable access to benefits for all eligible claimants, and streamlines the claims process. Furthermore, the requirement for documentary evidence of licensure serves to uphold the integrity of the system by verifying the qualifications of healthcare providers, reducing the risk of fraudulent claims. This conclusion is supported by the need for fairness and efficiency in benefit distribution, aligning with the objectives of the authorizing statute to provide timely and accurate assistance to claimants.