

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER  
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**Title of Rule:** Licensing of Hospitals (216-RICR-40-10-4)

**Rule Identifier:** 216-RICR-40-10-4

**Rulemaking Action:** Proposed Amendment

**Important Dates:**

Date of Public Notice: February 25, 2026

End of Public Comment: March 27, 2026

**Rulemaking Authority:**

R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 23-17-10 and 23-17.14-31

**Summary of Rulemaking Action:**

The Rhode Island Department of Health (“RIDOH”; “The Department”) is proposing to amend “Licensing of Hospitals” [216-RICR-40-10-4] to revise language requiring hospitals to provide the Department with “a plan, acceptable to the Director, for continued operation of the facility, suspension of operations, or closure in the event of such actual or potential labor dispute/action.” The provision requiring a plan already exists in these regulations, however, the requirement that notification of a labor dispute or action be provided to the Department withing twenty-four hours and that a strike plan be provided within 72 hours of such notification are being added. Additionally, language is being added to require hospitals to submit a strike contingency plan at least sixty days prior to the expiration of any existing collective bargaining agreement.

The language change is also updating the language to indicate that the requirements only apply to hospitals and not all healthcare facilities.

**Additional Information and Public Comments:**

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until March 27, 2026 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Zachary Garceau  
Department of Health  
3 Capitol Hill  
Room 403  
Providence, RI 02908  
zachary.garceau@health.ri.gov

In accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.8, an oral hearing will be granted if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, by a governmental agency or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within ten (10) days of the publication of this notice.

**Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:**

In development of this rule, consideration was given to:

1. Alternative approaches;
2. Overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions; and
3. Significant economic impact on small business.

No alternative approach, duplication or overlap was identified based on available information. RIDOH has determined that the benefits of the rule justify its costs.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.