



**Division of Workers' Compensation**  
P.O. Box 20190, Cranston, RI 02920-0942  
Phone 401-462-8100 | Fax 401-462-8105  
<http://www.dlt.ri.gov/wc>

Information Letter 2026-01  
March 18, 2026

### **Notice of 2026 Cost of Living Increase**

Rhode Island General Law Sections 28-33-17(f)(1), Weekly Compensation for Total Incapacity, 28-33-18.3(b)(1), Continuation of Benefits – Partial Incapacity and 28-37- 30, Cost of Living Increase, provide for annual benefit increases to certain classes of employees.

By the statutes listed above, the increases to these employees shall be by an amount equal to the total percentage increase in the (CPI-W) Consumer Price Index, United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers as formulated and computed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor for the period of March 1 to February 28 each year.

**The Cost of Living Increase for 2026 will be 2.2%.**

Effective May 10, 2026, weekly benefits paid to these employees should be increased 2.2%. By statute, increases shall be paid by insurers and employers without further order of the court. Late payment of the increase may result in the assessment of a 20% penalty on the unpaid amount. Questions may be addressed to a Workers' Compensation Education Unit Representative at (401) 462-8100, option #1.

Sincerely,

Kathy McElroy  
Chief Administrator