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Legislative Press Bureau at (401) 528-1743

THIS WEEK AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE HOUSE — Here are the highlights from news and events that took place in the General Assembly this week. For more information on any of these items visit <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/News/>



- **General Assembly proclaims Jan. 20, 2016, #DSTRONG Day**
Dorian Murray, the 8-year-old Westerly boy suffering from untreatable cancer who became a worldwide sensation, was honored by both chambers of the General Assembly who declared Jan. 20, 2016, as #DSTRONG Day. Senate Minority Leader Dennis L. Algieri (R-Dist. 38, Charlestown, South Kingstown, Westerly) submitted the resolution ([2016-S 2082](#)) in the Senate while Rep. Brian Patrick Kennedy (D-Dist. 38, Hopkinton, Westerly) submitted the resolution ([2016-H 7260](#)) in the House. [Click here to see news release.](#)
- **‘Good Samaritan Act passes House’**
The Rhode Island House of Representatives voted on and passed The Good Samaritan Overdose Prevention Act of 2016 ([2016-H 7003](#)). Sponsored by House Committee on Municipal Government Chairman Robert E. Craven (D-Dist. 32, North Kingstown), the act exempts from liability and provides immunity for violations of probation and/or parole to any person who administers an opioid antagonist to another person to prevent a drug overdose.
- **Rep. McNamara introduces legislation changing car tax assessments**
Rep. Joseph M. McNamara (D-Dist. 19, Warwick, Cranston) has introduced legislation that would gradually change the way car value is assessed for taxes from clean retail value to trade-in value. The bill ([2016-H 7231](#)) would amend car tax statutes so that the assessment of used motor vehicles would be reduced to 95 percent of clean retail value for the first year after passage, then 90 percent of the clean retail value for the subsequent year, and thereafter 100 percent of the average trade-in value. [Click here to see news release.](#)

More...

- **Assembly leaders submit Twin River Tiverton bill**
House Majority Leader John J. DeSimone (D-Dist. 5, Providence) and Senate Majority Whip Maryellen Goodwin (D-Dist. 1, Providence) have submitted legislation ([2016-H 7228](#), [2015-S 2081](#)) necessary to allow Twin River to transfer its operations at Newport Grand to a new facility in Tiverton, pending approval from voters statewide and in Tiverton.
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Rep. Fellela looks to protect animals with euthanasia criteria legislation**
In an effort to give the state's animals an additional degree of protection, Rep. Deborah A. Fellela (D-Dist. 43, Johnston) has introduced a bill that establishes a list of conditions that must be met before an animal shelter is authorized to euthanize an animal. The proposed legislation ([2016-H 7083](#)) would amend Rhode Island's animal care law by compelling animal shelters to meet certain guidelines.
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Rep. Lancia announces 2016 as Year of the Veteran**
Rep. Robert B. Lancia (R-Dist. 16, Cranston) held a press conference announcing 2016 as the "Year of the Veteran." He discussed legislation he is introducing this session to benefit veterans across the state, including those who have retired, own their own businesses, or are seeking to start their own businesses in the state. The Cranston representative has created a working group to develop legislation aimed at veterans in all stages of life.
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Rep. Bennett introduces bill discouraging sale of stolen goods at pawn shops**
Rep. David A. Bennett (D-Dist. 20, Warwick, Cranston) has introduced legislation ([2016-H 7027](#)) that would subject pawn shop owners to criminal penalties and civil liability for not only the purchase price, but also interest and lawyer's fees for anyone to whom they sell stolen property if they refuse to grant that person a refund.
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Senate Judiciary Committee hears bills on powdered alcohol, caffeine**
The Senate Committee on Judiciary met to consider [2016-S 2056](#). Sponsored by Sen. Elizabeth A. Crowley (D-Dist. 16, Central Falls, Pawtucket), the bill prohibits the sale of powdered caffeine to any person under the age of 18 and the possession of powdered caffeine by anyone under 18 or the possession of powdered caffeine on a school premises or public playground. Also heard was [2016-S 2061](#), sponsored by Senator Crowley, which would make the possession of an alcohol without liquid device a crime punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment and [2016-S 2059](#), sponsored by Sen. Frank S. Lombardo III (D-Dist. 25, Johnston), which would make the possession, purchase or sale of powdered alcohol a crime punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000. All three bills were recommended for passage by the committee.