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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.rilegislature.gov/pressrelease>



- **Senate unveils package of mental health legislation**  
The Rhode Island Senate unveiled a package of legislation intended to improve mental health in Rhode Island. President of the Senate M. Teresa Paiva Weed joined the Health and Human Services Committee and other members of the Senate at a news conference to present a report and recommendations prepared by the committee, as well as a package of 14 bills. The legislation is aimed at improving mental illness prevention and early intervention, access to treatment, and the overall mental health care system.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Rep. Maldonado legislation addresses federal immigration detainers**  
Rep. Shelby Maldonado (D-Dist. 56, Central Falls) has introduced legislation ([2017-H 5515](#)) that would set standards for law enforcement agencies in Rhode Island when dealing with immigration detainers. A civil immigration detainer is a request from federal authorities to local law enforcement officers to continue to hold a person once that person is released from local custody.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Rep. Regunberg, Sen. Satchell bills would create carried interest fairness fee**  
Rep. Aaron Regunberg (D-Dist. 4, Providence) and Sen. Adam J. Satchell (D-Dist. 9, West Warwick) have introduced legislation ([2017-H 5563/2017-S 0259](#)) that would establish a 19 percent fairness fee for investment management services in order to tax the carried interest income of hedge fund and private equity investors as traditional earned income rather than as capital gains.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)

More...

- **Rep. Serpa bill would keep insurers from halting substance abuse treatment**  
The House Committee on Corporations has recommended passage of legislation ([2017-H 5218](#)) submitted by Rep. Patricia Serpa (D-Dist. 27, West Warwick, Coventry, Warwick) that would keep insurers from terminating residential or inpatient substance abuse treatment for patients currently in treatment.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Rep. Tanzi bill would keep guns out of hands of domestic abusers**  
Rep. Teresa Tanzi (D-Dist. 34, South Kingstown, Narragansett) has introduced legislation ([2017-H 5510](#)) that seeks to protect the victims of domestic abuse by taking firearms out of the hands of abusers. Called the Protect Rhode Island Families Act, the bill would prohibit gun possession by people convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors and people currently subject to final domestic abuse protective orders.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Rep. Shanley bill would allow tenants to break lease over secondhand smoke**  
Rep. Evan P. Shanley (D-Dist. 24, Warwick) has introduced legislation that would afford tenants some recourse when experiencing secondhand smoke in their apartments. The bill ([2017-H 5522](#)) would permit tenants of multi-unit residences to terminate their lease agreements if no action is taken by landlords to remedy the presence of secondhand smoke.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Sen. DiPalma bill would equalize teacher retirement contributions**  
Sen. Louis P. DiPalma (D-Dist. 12, Middletown, Little Compton, Newport, Tiverton) introduced legislation ([2017-S 0210](#)) that would gradually increase the state's contribution to the teachers' retirement system, while reducing the municipal contribution, which would eventually result in the contributions being shared equally between the state and municipalities.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Rep. Lima bill would release investigative records of 38 Studios**  
Rep. Charlene M. Lima's (D-Dist. 14, Cranston, Providence) bill ([2017-H 5347A](#)) that would release certain records pertaining to the state investigation of 38 Studios passed the House Committee on Judiciary this week. Before being released, sensitive personally-identifiable information shall be redacted.
- **Rep. McNamara, Sen. Lynch Prata bill would create Gaspee Days license plate**  
Rep. Joseph M. McNamara (D-Dist. 19, Warwick, Cranston) and Sen. Erin Lynch Prata (D-Dist. 31, Warwick, Cranston) have introduced legislation ([2017-H 5424](#)) to create a special fundraising license plate to benefit the Gaspee Days Committee. Gaspee Days commemorates the burning of a British vessel — the HMS Gaspee — that was torched by colonial freedom-fighters in 1772, in what was one of the earliest events in the young country's fight for independence.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Rep. Williams bill would exempt natural hair braiders from cosmetology license**

Rep. Anastasia P. Williams (D-Dist. 9, Providence) introduced legislation ([2017-H 5436](#)) that would exempt natural hair braiders from the state's requirement for hairdressers and cosmeticians to be licensed with the state. Natural hair braiding does not include the application of dyes, reactive chemicals, or other preparations to alter the color of the hair or to straighten, curl, or alter the structure of the hair; or the use of chemical hair joining agents such as synthetic tape, keratin bonds, or fusion bonds. [Click here to see news release.](#)

**-30-**

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