

Sept. 22, 2017

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>



- **Sick time bill passes General Assembly**

Lawmakers approved legislation sponsored by Senate Majority Whip Maryellen Goodwin (D-Dist. 1, Providence) and Rep. Aaron Regunberg (D-Dist. 4, Providence) to give earned paid sick time to more than 100,000 employees in the state as well as protecting all workers from retaliation for taking time off to care for themselves or a loved one. The Healthy and Safe Families and Workplaces Act ([2017-H 5413Baa](#), [2017-S 0290B](#)) will now go to the governor. [Click here to see news release.](#)

- **Assembly OKs domestic violence gun safety measure**

Legislation sponsored by Rep. Teresa Tanzi (D-Dist. 34, South Kingstown, Narragansett) and Sen. Harold M. Metts (D-Dist. 6, Providence) to protect victims of domestic violence by disarming their abusers cleared the General Assembly and will be sent to the governor. The Protect Rhode Island Families Act ([2017-H 5510Baa](#), [2017-S 0405Aaa](#)) prohibits gun possession by domestic abusers convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence crimes and those subject to court-issued final protective orders, and ensures that all those subject to the prohibition actually turn in their guns when they become prohibited from possessing them. [Click here to see news release.](#)

- **General Assembly passes bills to overhaul probation, parole system**

The General Assembly passed several bills introduced by Senate Majority Leader Michael J. McCaffrey (D-Dist. 29, Warwick) and Representatives Robert E. Craven (D-Dist. 32, North Kingstown), Edith H. Ajello (D-Dist. 1, Providence), Joseph S.

More...

Almeida (D-Dist. 12, Providence) and Christopher R. Blazejewski (D-Dist. 2, Providence) that would overhaul Rhode Island's pension and parole system. The bills now head to the governor's office.

[Click here to see news release.](#)

- **Legislature OKs bill requiring notification of sex offenders near bus stops**  
The General Assembly passed legislation ([2017-S 0608Aaa](#), [2017-H 5724Aaa](#)) introduced by Senate Majority Leader Michael J. McCaffrey (D-Dist. 29, Warwick) and Rep. Joseph J. Solomon Jr. (D-Dist. 22, Warwick) that would mandate the notification of parents of schoolchildren when sex offenders are living near school bus stops. The measure now moves to the governor.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Post-election audit program approved by General Assembly**  
The General Assembly passed legislation ([2017-S 0413A](#), [2017-H 5704A](#)) sponsored by Sen. James C. Sheehan (D-Dist. 36, North Kingstown, Narragansett) and Rep. Edith H. Ajello (D-Dist. 1, Providence) that would establish post-election audits to ensure that the equipment and procedures used to count votes during an election are working properly. The measure now moves to the governor.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **General Assembly OKs bill to prohibit dangerous chemicals in furniture**  
The General Assembly passed legislation ([2017-H 5082A](#), [2017-S 0166A](#)) introduced by Rep. Michael Morin (D-Dist. 49, Woonsocket) and Sen. Adam J. Satchell (D-Dist. 9, West Warwick) that would prohibit the sale of furniture, bedding and children's products that contain certain cancer-causing chemicals. The next step for the legislation is the governor's office.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Goodwin, O'Brien bill to speed up animal adoptions passes General Assembly**  
Senate Majority Whip Maryellen Goodwin (D-Dist. 1, Providence) and Rep. William W. O'Brien's (D-Dist. 54, North Providence) legislation ([2017-S 0563Aaa](#), [2017-H 6314Aaa](#)) that would speed up the process of adoption for any animals that are abandoned or impounded was passed by the General Assembly. The measure now moves to the governor's office. The act would allow a pound or animal shelter to put an abandoned or impounded animal up for adoption after ten days if the animal has identifying tags or is microchipped.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Assembly passes increased penalties for assaulting delivery person**  
The General Assembly gave final passage to legislation ([2017-S 0230](#), [2017-H 5954](#)) to create stiff penalties for assault on a delivery person. The bill was introduced by Senate President Dominick J. Ruggerio (D-Dist. 4, Providence, North Providence) and Rep. Raymond A. Hull (D-Dist. 6, North Providence, Providence). The legislation would make assault and battery upon delivery persons a felony and would mandate a maximum sentence of imprisonment of three years or a \$3,000 fine. The bill would also mandate a sentence of five to 20 years if the assault involves a dangerous weapon.

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- **Tanzi, Lombardo bill gives seniors a way out of door-to-door contracts**  
Elderly Rhode Islanders will get some protection from high-pressure at-home sales pitches by contractors under a bill sponsored by Rep. Teresa Tanzi (D-Dist. 34, South Kingstown, Narragansett) and Sen. Frank Lombardo (D-Dist. 25, Johnston) after being approved by the General Assembly this week. The legislation ([2017-H 5826A](#), [2017-S 1009](#)) would allow anyone age 60 or older a three-day window in which to cancel any contract with a licensed contractor if that contract originated from in-home solicitation.
  
- **Ruggerio, O'Brien bill would encourage pension claim settlements**  
Senate President Dominick J. Ruggerio (D-Dist. 4, North Providence, Providence) and Rep. William W. O'Brien (D-Dist. 54, North Providence) introduced legislation ([2017-S 1017](#), [2017-H 6375](#)) that would encourage court settlements in the event claims are made as part of the St. Joseph Health Services pension fund bankruptcy case.  
[Click here for Senate release.](#) [Click here for House release.](#)

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