

June 22, 2018

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>



- **General Assembly passes state budget**

The General Assembly passed the state's \$9.572 billion budget ([2018-H 7200A](#)) for the fiscal year that begins July 1 and the document was signed into law by the governor. The amended budget restores proposed cuts to services for the state's most vulnerable populations and continues the phase-out of the car tax without raising broad-based taxes. It also includes a bond question for November's ballot asking voters to approve \$250 million in construction to replace the state's crumbling public schools, although the bill adds a requirement that communities commit to funding regular maintenance of new schools.
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Governor signs law to protect Rhode Island DACA DREAMers**

Gov. Gina M. Raimondo signed into law legislation that protects Rhode Island DREAMers' ability to obtain drivers licenses during a ceremony at the State House. The law ([2018-H 7982B](#), [2018-S 2678A](#)), introduced by Rep. Shelby Maldonado (D-Dist. 56, Central Falls) and Senate Majority Leader Michael J. McCaffrey (D-Dist. 29, Warwick), will continue the status quo relating to operator and chauffeur's licenses to approved recipients under the DACA program. It also provides that the issuance of a Rhode Island operator's license would not confer the right to vote in the state of Rhode Island.
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- **General Assembly OKs bill to eradicate substandard, counterfeit airbags**

The General Assembly passed legislation ([2018-H 7125](#), [2018-S 2287](#)) introduced by Speaker Pro Tempore Brian Patrick Kennedy (D-Dist. 38, Hopkinton, Westerly) and

More...

Senate President Dominick J. Ruggiero (D-Dist. 4, North Providence, Providence) to tighten the regulatory controls on automobile airbags. The legislation would comprehensively expand the registration of motor vehicle airbags to prohibit the manufacture and importation of substandard airbags. The measure now moves to the governor's office.

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▪ **Legislature passes bill to offer flu vaccines to inpatients who are 65 and older**

The General Assembly passed legislation ([2018-H 7569](#), [2018-S 2226aa](#)) introduced by Rep. Mia Ackerman (D-Dist. 45, Cumberland, Lincoln) and Sen. Erin Lynch Prata (D-Dist. 31, Warwick, Cranston) that would require hospitals to offer influenza vaccinations to their inpatients who are 65 and over. The bill would require hospitals to offer the vaccinations unless the person has a condition that would not allow such vaccination or if the vaccine is in short supply. The measure now moves to the governor's office.

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▪ **General Assembly amends sexual offender registration, notification laws**

The General Assembly passed legislation ([2018-S 2586A](#), [2018-H 7541A](#)) introduced by Sen. Hanna M. Gallo (D-Dist. 27, Cranston, West Warwick) and Rep. Robert E. Craven (D-Dist. 32, North Kingstown) amending Rhode Island's sexual offender registration and community notification laws. The bill, which was filed at the behest of the attorney general, would implement several registration and notification procedures of the federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. The measure now moves to the governor's office.

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▪ **Legislature passes bill to allow service animals into homeless shelters**

The General Assembly passed legislation ([2018-S 2133](#), [2018-H 7615](#)) introduced by Sen. James A. Seveney (D-Dist. 11, Portsmouth, Bristol, Tiverton) and Rep. Dennis M. Canario (D-Dist. 71, Portsmouth, Tiverton, Little Compton) that would prohibit homeless shelters from refusing people with service animals. The bill amends the Homeless Bill of Rights to protect homeless persons in possession of a service animal, as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act, from being denied access to any homeless shelter in violation of the ADA or the state or federal Fair Housing Practices Acts.

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▪ **Assembly approves bill to ban tanning by minors**

The General Assembly approved legislation ([2018-S 2299B](#), [2018-H 7136](#)) sponsored by Senate Majority Whip Maryellen Goodwin (D-Dist. 1, Providence) and Rep. Mia Ackerman (D-Dist. 45, Cumberland, Lincoln) to prohibit those under 18 from using tanning facilities in Rhode Island. The bill will now go to the governor.

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▪ **Legislators make sexual abuse reporting law more effective**

The General Assembly approved legislation ([2018-S 2353](#), [2018-H 8232](#)) introduced by Senate Majority Whip Maryellen Goodwin (D-Dist. 1, Providence) and Rep. William W. O'Brien (D-Dist. 54, North Providence) to improve the effectiveness of

the state's law requiring school officials to report sexual abuse. The legislation, which will now go to the governor, clarifies when to raise a flag about possible abuse, and requires schools to designate one leader to report it.

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▪ **Assembly approves Kristen's Law**

The General Assembly approved Kristen's Law, a bill sponsored by Speaker Nicholas A. Mattiello (D-Dist. 15, Cranston) and Sen. Hanna M. Gallo (D-Dist. 27, Cranston, West Warwick) to strengthen penalties for dealers who sell fatal drug doses. The bill ([2018-H 7715Aaa](#), [2018-S 2279B](#)), which now goes to the governor, specifies that any person convicted of unlawfully selling illicit substances that result in a person's death shall be sentenced to up to life in prison.

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▪ **House Finance Committee OKs legislation to allow funding of PawSox stadium**

The House Finance Committee recommended passage of enabling legislation ([2018-H 7290A](#)) introduced by Rep. Mary Duffy Messier (D-Dist. 62, Pawtucket) that would allow public support for a new baseball stadium in downtown Pawtucket. The stadium would be the future home of the Pawtucket Red Sox. The House of Representatives was expected to consider the legislation on Friday evening.

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