



**RHODE
ISLAND**

Senate Committee on Finance

March 21, 2024

Article 3, Sections 11, 16, and 23

Article 6, Sections 2, 8, and 9

Article 3, Section 11: Deputy State Fire Marshal

- Creates R.I.G.L. § 23-28.2-30, authorizing the state fire marshal's assignment of Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) deputy state fire marshals for duty in any town or fire district lacking an OSFM-appointed assistant deputy state fire marshal (ADSFM).
- Requires towns and fire districts to notify the Office of the State Fire Marshal within ten days if they lack an assistant deputy state fire marshal appointed by the Office.
- Permits the Office to assess fees for failure to comply and to assign deputy state fire marshals to fill vacancies temporarily; any associated costs would be reimbursed by the town or fire district.

Article 3, Section 16: Employment Security Fund Date

Grants the Director of the Department of Labor and Training the discretion to determine the Unemployment Insurance tax rate with a computation date falling between September 30 and December 31 for calendar year 2024.

- Currently, the DLT Director must compute the UI Trust Fund tax rate by September 30th of each year.
- Article 1, Section 19, would provide the Governor with the authority to reallocate funding from State Fiscal Recovery Fund programs deemed at risk for federal forfeiture. Should such reallocation occur, the flexibility provided in Article 3, Section 16 would ensure that the DLT Director can compute Unemployment Insurance tax rates – which take into account the UI Trust Fund balance - inclusive of transferred funds.

Article 3, Section 23: Boxing/Wrestling Report Repeal

Recommended clean up repeal as a result of review of required reports. This report has had no recommendations for the past three years.

- Repeals R.I.G.L. § 41-5-23, ending the requirement of the Division of Gaming and Athletics to provide an annual report on boxing and wrestling.

Article 6, Section 2: Real Estate Brokers and Salespersons

Recommended as part of Governor's recommended elimination of various nuisance fees across state government.

- Eliminates the \$25 fee for a licensed real estate salesperson or broker to transfer to another brokerage.
- This change would result in reduced annual revenue of \$20,000.

Article 6, Sections 8 and 9: Tent Certification and Fee Elimination

Recommended as part of Governor's Recommended elimination of various nuisance fees across state government.

- **Section 8:** Authorizes the State Building Commissioner in conjunction with the State Fire Marshal to establish an annual certification process for tents and membrane frame structures as defined in the building code and eliminate the recurring permit and fee requirements that currently exist.
- **Section 9:** Provides that any tent installations on State property or in jurisdictions otherwise subject to the authority of the State Fire Marshal shall be subject to the annual certification process established in Section 8.
- Last year, there were 135 tent permits approved by the Department of Business Regulation. The anticipated revenue impact is \$9,375 in FY 2025 due to mid-year implementation and \$18,750 in FY 2026.