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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>



- **Governor submits FY2027 state budget proposal**

The House of Representatives received Gov. Daniel McKee's FY2027 budget proposal ([2026-H 7127](#)), introduced on the governor's behalf by House Finance Committee Chairman Marvin L. Abney (D-Dist. 73, Newport, Middletown). Over the next several months, the House and Senate finance committees will hold meetings to analyze the proposed spending plan.

- **General Assembly hears State of the State Address**

The Senate and House of Representatives met in grand committee Tuesday to hear Gov. Daniel McKee's State of the State address. Governor McKee spoke of plans to make living in Rhode Island more affordable, including cutting taxes on gasoline and Social Security benefits, creating a permanent child tax credit and reducing energy bills.

[Click here to see the State of the State address.](#)

- **Minority Leader Chippendale responds to State of the State Address**

House Minority Leader Michael W. Chippendale (R-Dist. 40, Foster, Glocester, Coventry) delivered the Republican rebuttal to the State of the State address given by Gov. Daniel McKee Tuesday. In the address, Leader Chippendale called for limiting the spending of state government so that it aligns with inflation and income growth, noting that that state budget has grown by 200 percent since 2000 while household incomes have grown by only 25 to 30 percent.

[Click here to see the rebuttal.](#)

More...

- **Corvese bill would prevent insurers from denying claims caused by a third party**  
Rep. Arthur Corvese (D-Dist. 55, North Providence) introduced legislation ([2026-H 7002](#)) to prohibit insurers and health care providers from denying the payment of a medical bill solely because the bill may have arisen from a third party's actions. Existing law allows insurers to recover those costs after the fact if a third party is found liable for them.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
  
- **Brien legislation would allow veterinarians to use telemedicine**  
Rep. Jon D. Brien (I-Dist. 49, Woonsocket) has introduced legislation ([2026-H 7020](#)) that would establish a framework for veterinary telemedicine in Rhode Island. It would authorize a veterinarian to establish a client-patient relationship through electronic means, subject to certain limitations and requirements such as a veterinarian making a good faith effort to determine whether care should be provided through telemedicine instead of in person.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
  
- **Fellela bill would require businesses to alert customers to credit card surcharges**  
Rep. Deborah A. Fellela (D-Dist. 43, Johnston) has introduced legislation ([2026-H 7022](#)) that would require businesses to alert customers to surcharges for credit card use. A credit card surcharge is an extra fee a merchant adds to a customer's bill to compensate for some costs of payment processing.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
  
- **Thompson, Raptakis, Burke to propose CPI amendment to minimum wage law**  
Sens. Brian J. Thompson (D-Dist. 20, Woonsocket, Cumberland), Leonidas P. Raptakis (D-Dist. 33, Coventry, West Greenwich) and John P. Burke (D-Dist. 9, West Warwick) will be introducing legislation to increase the state's minimum wage by having Rhode Island join with 21 other states that tie increases to the minimum wage with the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Linking minimum wage increases to CPI, which is released by the U.S. Department of Labor each March, would give businesses and employees nine months to prepare for any new minimum wage that would take effect in January.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
  
- **Rep. Knight resolution condemns ICE's violent, masked attacks on communities**  
Rep. Jason Knight (D-Dist. 67, Barrington, Warren) filed a resolution ([2026-H 7077](#)) condemning the needlessly aggressive and violent enforcement tactics employed in Rhode Island by masked Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents with the blessing of the Trump administration.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
  
- **Chairman Azzinaro unveils plaque at State House honoring POWs**  
House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Samuel A. Azzinaro (D-Dist. 37, Westerly) and Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi (D-Dist. 23, Warwick) unveiled a plaque at the State House to honor Prisoners of War (POWs). The plaque was donated to Rhode Island by the American Ex-Prisoners of War Legacy Project, whose goal is to place a commemorative plaque in each of the 50 state houses across the country.  
[Click here to see news release](#)

- **Speaker Shekarchi, Sen. Gallo help announce State Council on the Arts grants**  
Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi (D-Dist. 23, Warwick) and Sen. Hanna M. Gallo (D-Dist. 27, Cranston, West Warwick) helped the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts announce grants totaling some \$2.75 million to 17 arts and cultural organizations during an event at The Gamm Theatre in Warwick. The grants are funded by appropriations from the voter-approved 2024 ballot measure, Cultural Arts and Economy Grant Program Bond.

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