

May 1, 2026

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>



▪ **Bills from Speaker's housing package pass House**

The House approved five bills endorsed by House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi (D-Dist. 23, Warwick) in his 2026 legislative package to address the housing crisis. The bills enable cities and towns to allow Supportive and Functional Emergency units (SAFE Units), such as pallet shelters ([2026-H 8001A](#)), sponsored by Speaker Shekarchi; allow subdivision of single-family residential properties in areas with public water and sewer capacity ([2026-H 8007](#)), sponsored by Municipal Government and Housing Committee Chairman Stephen M. Casey (D-Dist. 50, Woonsocket); establish maximum parking requirements for multifamily housing in areas accessible by public transit ([2026-H 8005A](#)), sponsored by Rep. Joshua J. Giraldo (D-Dist. 56, Central Falls); allow the adaptive reuse of state-owned vacant buildings by right ([2026-H 8003A](#)), sponsored by Rep. Thomas E. Noret (D-Dist. 25, Coventry, West Warwick); and establish a commission to study potential updates to the state's Condominium Act ([2026-H 8008A](#)), sponsored by Housing Affordability Commission Chairwoman June S. Speakman (D-Dist. 68, Warren, Bristol).
[Click here to see subdivision news release.](#)
[Click here to see condominium commission release.](#)

▪ **Assembly enacts Boylan, Urso bill to allow nurses to provide home foot care**

The General Assembly approved legislation ([2026-H 7029A](#), [2026-S 2116A](#)) introduced by Rep. Jennifer Boylan (D-Dist. 66, Barrington, East Providence) and Sen. Lori Urso (D-Dist. 8, Pawtucket) to help homebound patients access routine foot care at home. The governor signed the bill into law Wednesday.
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More...

- **House OKs McNamara bill to move presidential primary to Super Tuesday**
The House of Representatives passed legislation ([2026-H 7090](#)) introduced by Rep. Joseph M. McNamara (D-Dist. 19, Warwick, Cranston) that would effectively move the Rhode Island presidential preference primary to Super Tuesday by changing the date from the fourth Tuesday in April to the first Tuesday in March. The measure now moves to the Senate where similar legislation ([2026-S 2491](#)) has been introduced by Sen. Matthew L. LaMountain (D-Dist. 31, Warwick, Cranston).
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- **House OKs Ackerman bill to protect early voters from campaign interference**
The House voted to approve legislation ([2026-H 7572](#)) from House Deputy Majority Whip Mia A. Ackerman (D-Dist. 45, Cumberland, Lincoln) to prevent electioneering within 50 feet of a polling location during early voting. The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration, where Sen. Samuel D. Zurier (D-Dist. 3, Providence) has introduced companion legislation ([2026-S 2131](#)).
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- **Senate OKs Murray bills capping copays for inhalers, diabetes supplies**
The Senate approved two bills sponsored by Senate Health and Human Services Committee Chairwoman Melissa Murray (D-Dist. 24, Woonsocket, North Smithfield) to limit insured patients' costs for inhalers ([2026-S 2876](#)) and for supplies and equipment used to monitor or treat diabetes ([2026-S 2877](#)) to \$25 for a 30-day supply or per item. The bills now go to the House, where Rep. Brian Patrick Kennedy (D-Dist. 38, Hopkinton, Westerly) is sponsoring companion legislation ([2026-H 7188](#)) for the diabetes supply bill and Rep. David Morales (D-Dist. 7, Providence) is sponsoring companion legislation ([2026-H 7948](#)) for the inhaler bill.
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- **House approves bill to protect control of consumers' genetic information**
The House approved legislation ([2026-H 7639](#)) sponsored by Rep. Edith H. Ajello (D-Dist. 1, Providence) to ensure that Rhode Island consumers retain control over their own genetic information when they use genetic testing companies. The bill addresses concerns that came to light with the bankruptcy of the genetic testing company 23andMe. The bill now heads to the Senate, where Sen. Samuel D. Zurier (D-Dist. 3, Providence) is sponsoring companion legislation ([2026-S 2203](#)).
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- **House passes Dawson bills to protect service members during foreclosures**
The House passed two bills sponsored by Rep. Matthew S. Dawson (D-Dist. 65, East Providence) that would help protect service members in foreclosure proceedings. The first ([2026-H 8103](#)) would increase the time that mortgage foreclosure notices are required for active military service members from nine months to one year after completion of their active duty. The second ([2026-H 7654](#)) would allow foreclosure notices to be sent by United States Postal Service first class mail and/or an overnight delivery service, instead of by USPS certified mail with a return receipt request. Both bills now head to the Senate for consideration.
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- **House OKs Hull bill establishing search warrant timeframes for tracking devices**

The House approved legislation sponsored by Deputy Speaker Raymond A. Hull (D-Dist. 6, Providence, North Providence) that would define and dictate the timeframe of a search warrant involving a tracking device. The legislation ([2026-H 8087](#)) states that search warrants involving tracking devices would require the date and times of its issuance and the grounds for probable cause for its issuance. The legislation now heads to the Senate for consideration, where Sen. Andrew R. Dimitri (D-Dist. 25, Johnston) has introduced the legislation ([2026-S 3045](#)).

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- **House approves Azzinaro bills to support active and retired military personnel**
The House approved two bills from Rep. Samuel A. Azzinaro (D-Dist. 37, Westerly) to support active-duty and retired service members. The first ([2026-H 7094](#)) would establish the Rhode Island Orange Heart Medal to formally recognize Rhode Island veterans whose service exposed them to toxic herbicides, burn pits or other hazardous agents. The second ([2026-H 8125](#)) would allow military-connected students to enroll by remote registration. Both bills now head to the Senate for consideration, where Sen. Walter S. Felag Jr. (D-Dist. 10, Warren, Bristol, Tiverton) has introduced the legislation ([2026-S 2177](#), [2026-S 2756](#)).
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- **Senate Minority Leader de la Cruz, Majority Whip Tikoian highlight tax bills**
Senate Minority Leader Jessica de la Cruz (R-Dist. 23, North Smithfield, Burrillville, Glocester), Senate Majority Whip David P. Tikoian (D-Dist. 22, Smithfield, North Providence, Lincoln), and Senate Minority Whip Gordon E. Rogers (R-Dist. 21, Foster, Coventry, Scituate, West Greenwich) were joined by business leaders at a State House event to highlight several bills addressing tax burdens.
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