

June 12, 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>



- **State budget bill for 2027 enacted**

The General Assembly passed and Gov. Daniel J. McKee signed a balanced \$15.2 billion budget for the 2027 fiscal year ([2026-H 7127Aaa](#)) that provides economic relief for Rhode Islanders, strengthens support for education and the state's hospitals and healthcare providers and establishes new government reform efforts without any broad-based tax or fee increases.

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

- **12 pieces of Senate's 2026 healthcare legislation pass Assembly**

The General Assembly passed 12 bills from the Senate's package of healthcare legislation, including measures to codify the Children's Mobile Response and Stabilization Services, create artificial intelligence safety guidelines related to suicidal ideation and mental health treatment, establish new oversight of pharmacy benefit managers, address prior authorization requirements for post-acute care, update statutes to ensure childhood and adult vaccination access, create a study commission on medical malpractice, invest in loan repayment programs for primary care providers, secure initial funding for the creation of a medical school at the University of Rhode Island and establish a primary care commission to support workforce retention. The measures now move to the governor's office.

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

- **Housing bills sent to governor**

Lawmakers approved numerous bills to address the housing crisis, including four from the House of Representatives housing package: one enabling municipalities to allow housing such as pallet shelters in emergencies, a study of condominium laws, a

More...

bill to clarify housing laws and maximum parking requirements for multifamily housing in areas served by transit. Other approved bills include clarification of the abandoned properties law to prevent its abuse, a bill to prevent families from unfairly losing inherited property, and authorization for a \$25 million housing bond ballot question in Providence, in addition to the \$120 million statewide housing bond question authorized in the budget bill. The bills all go to the governor.

- [Click here to see House release.](#)
- [Click here to see Senator Bissaillon release.](#)
  
- **Assembly approves bill to revive civil claims springing from childhood sex abuse**  
The General Assembly passed and Gov. Dan McKee signed legislation ([2026-H 7200A](#), [2026-S 2616A](#)) introduced by Rep. Carol Hagan McEntee (D-Dist. 33, South Kingstown, Narragansett) and Sen. Mark McKenney (D-Dist. 30, Warwick) that amend what is considered sexual abuse for purposes of limitations on actions based on sexual abuse or exploitation of a child and would amend the provisions for when a cause of action may be brought.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
  
- **General Assembly creates panel to take hard look at education funding formula**  
The General Assembly created a commission to study the feasibility of revamping the funding formula for all public education. The joint resolution ([2026-H 8351Aaa](#), [2026-S 3368aa](#)), introduced by House Education Committee Chairman Joseph M. McNamara (D-Dist. 19, Warwick, Cranston) and Senate Education Committee Chairwoman Hanna M. Gallo (D-Dist. 27, Cranston, West Warwick), sets up a 16-member panel to study the issue.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
  
- **Bills passed to protect access to grocery stores, limit self-checkout lanes**  
Lawmakers approved legislation ([2026-S 2644](#), [2026-H 8106](#)) sponsored by Sens. Melissa Murray (D-Dist. 24, Woonsocket, North Smithfield) and Brian J. Thompson (D-Dist. 20, Woonsocket, Cumberland) and Rep. Stephen M. Casey (D-Dist. 50, Woonsocket) to prohibit restrictive covenants that prevent grocery stores from occupying a particular site, which grocery chains often add to deeds to stifle competition when they close a location and sell the property. The General Assembly also approved legislation ([2026-S 2342B](#), [2026-H 7290A](#)) from Senate President Valarie J. Lawson (D-Dist. 14, East Providence) and Rep. Megan L. Cotter (D-Dist. 39, Exeter, Richmond, Hopkinton) to establish limits on the use of self-checkout lanes at grocery stores in Rhode Island. Both bills now head to the governor.  
[Click here to see restrictive covenants news release.](#)  
[Click here to see self-checkout release.](#)
  
- **Assembly bans sale of rat poisons that endanger wildlife**  
The General Assembly approved legislation ([2026-S 2795](#), [2026-H 7222](#)) sponsored by Senate Health and Human Services Committee Chairwoman Melissa Murray (D-Dist. 24, Woonsocket, North Smithfield) and Rep. Rebecca Kislak (D-Dist. 4, Providence) to phase out dangerous rat poisons that harm wildlife, including the raptors that are their natural predators, and create a pilot program to help communities with safer alternatives for rodent control. The bill now goes to the governor.

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

▪ **Assembly passes expungement expansion bill**

The General Assembly passed legislation ([2026-H 7079A](#), [2026-S 3036A](#)) sponsored by Rep. Robert E. Craven Sr. (D-Dist. 32, North Kingstown) and Sen. Jacob E. Bissaillon (D-Dist. 1, Providence) that would make the possibility of criminal record expungement more widely available to help address barriers that make it difficult for many rehabilitated Rhode Islanders to lead successful lives. The legislation now heads to the governor for consideration.

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

▪ **Assembly passes trio of bills to protect Rhode Islanders from federal overreach**

The General Assembly passed three bills to protect all Rhode Islanders, especially immigrants, from federal overreach. A bill ([2026-S 2045Aaa](#), [2026-H 7360Aaa](#)) from Sen. Meghan E. Kallman (D-Dist. 15, Pawtucket, Providence) and Rep. José F. Batista (D-Dist. 12, Providence) would protect those attending court proceedings in Rhode Island from arrest by ICE or other federal immigration authorities. A bill ([2026-S 2047A](#), [2026-H 7198A](#)) from Sen. Jonathon Acosta (D-Dist. 16, Central Falls, Pawtucket) and Rep. Leonela Felix (D-Dist. 61, Pawtucket) closes a federal immigration loophole that can trigger deportation for minor offenses. A bill ([2026-S 2605](#), [2026-H 7202](#)) from Senate Majority Leader Frank A. Ciccone (D-Dist. 7, Providence, Johnston) and Rep. Brandon Potter (D-Dist. 16, Cranston) would allow Rhode Islanders whose constitutional rights are violated by federal officials to sue in state court. The bills were part of the Rhode Island Black, Latino, Indigenous, Asian-American and Pacific Islander (RIBLIA) Caucus's 2026 immigration legislative package.

[Click here for Kallman/Batista release.](#)

[Click here for Acosta/Felix release.](#)

[Click here for Ciccone/Potter release.](#)

▪ **Assembly passes bills to protect survivors of stalking and abuse**

The General Assembly approved a bill ([2026-S 2291A](#), [2026-H 7199A](#)) from Sen. Melissa Murray (D-Dist. 24, Woonsocket, North Smithfield) and Rep. Karen Alzate (D-Dist. 60, Pawtucket, Central Falls) allowing tenants who are survivors of abuse to terminate a rental lease early without penalty or liability for future rent, and a bill ([2026-S 3263](#), [2026-H 7547](#)) from Sen. Matthew L. LaMountain (D-Dist. 31, Warwick, Cranston) and Rep. Jenni A. Furtado (D-Dist. 64, East Providence, Pawtucket) allowing stalking victims to receive emergency compensation for relocation or reasonable home security modifications from the Crime Victim Compensation Program.

[Click here for LaMountain/Furtado release.](#)

[Click here for Murray/Alzate release.](#)