

Feb. 14, 2025

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>



- **Assault weapons ban introduced**

Rep. Jason Knight (D-Dist. 67, Barrington, Warren) and Sen. Louis P. DiPalma (D-Dist. 12, Middletown, Little Compton, Newport, Tiverton) introduced legislation ([2025-H 5436](#)) to prohibit assault weapons including certain semi-automatic shotguns, rifles and pistols. All five of the state’s general officers and gun safety advocates called for the passage of the ban, which Gov. Dan McKee also included in his proposed 2026 budget bill.

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

- **Ujifusa, Potter sponsor bill to prohibit 'junk fees'**

Sen. Linda Ujifusa (D-Dist. 11, Portsmouth, Bristol) and Rep. Brandon Potter (D-Dist. 16, Cranston) are sponsoring legislation ([2025-S 0017](#), [2025-H 5247](#)) to prohibit “junk fees” by making it a deceptive trade practice to advertise, display or offer a price for a good or service that does not include all mandatory fees or charges other than government taxes and shipping.

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- **Euer bill would help Rhode Islanders pass on their homes without probate**

A bill ([2025-S 0092](#)) introduced by Sen. Dawn Euer (D-Dist. 13, Newport, Jamestown) would allow Rhode Islanders to avoid the costly and complex process of probate when leaving their home to a loved one after their death.

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- **Urso, Handy aim to boost Rhode Island’s main streets**

Legislation ([2025-S 0174](#), [2025-H 5477](#)) introduced by Sen. Lori Urso (D-Dist. 8,

More...

Pawtucket) and Rep. Arthur Handy (D-Dist. 18, Cranston) would launch a pilot statewide Main Street Coordinating Program to aid the success of Rhode Island's main streets, downtowns and city centers.

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- **Felag, Boylan bill would waive VIN check fees for veterans and military**
Senate Special Legislation and Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Walter S. Felag Jr. (D-Dist. 10, Warren, Bristol, Tiverton) and Rep. Jennifer Boylan (D-Dist. 66, Barrington, East Providence) introduced legislation ([2025-H 5081](#), [2025-S 0075](#)) to waive the fee for vehicle identification number (VIN) inspections for veterans and active-duty military personnel.
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Morales, Kallman bill would help victims of wage theft in construction industry**
Rep. David Morales (D-Dist. 7, Providence) and Sen. Meghan E. Kallman (D-Dist. 15, Pawtucket, Providence) introduced legislation ([2025-H 5366](#), [2025-S 0069](#)) to help the victims of wage theft who work in construction receive the payments they are owed.
[Click here to see Morales release.](#)
[Click here to see Kallman release.](#)
- **Chairmen Craven and LaMountain introduce V.I.C.T.I.M. Act**
House Judiciary Chairman Robert E. Craven (D-Dist. 32, North Kingstown) and Senate Judiciary Chairman Matthew L. LaMountain (D-Dist. 31, Warwick, Cranston) joined advocates at the State House on Wednesday to introduce the Victims of Crime Trauma Informed Mobilization (V.I.C.T.I.M.) Act ([2025-H 5390](#), [2025-S 0258](#)), which would establish a VICTIM Fund grant program to support nonprofit organizations providing victim services in Rhode Island.
[Click here to see news release](#)
- **House, Senate oversight committees hear update on Washington Bridge**
The House Committee on Oversight met jointly with the Senate Committee on Rules, Government Ethics and Oversight to hear an update on the demolition and reconstruction of the westbound side of Washington Bridge from Department of Transportation Director Peter L. Alviti. The westbound span of the Washington Bridge was closed on Dec. 11, 2023, after the Department of Transportation announced the critical failure of some original bridge components.
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Legislators and Working Families Party announce 'Working Families Agenda'**
A diverse group of legislators announced their Working Families Agenda, a list of top priorities for the 2025 legislative session.
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Shekarchi, Bissaillon mark opening of ECHO Village**
Speaker of the House K. Joseph Shekarchi (D-Dist. 23, Warwick) and Sen. Jacob E. Bissaillon (D-Dist. 1, Providence) joined other officials to mark the opening of ECHO Village, the first pallet shelter village in Rhode Island, designed to help address the state's homelessness crisis. The project was supported by state fiscal

recovery funds, a Community Development Block Grant, and funding from the city of Providence.

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