

# SENATE BILLS OF INTEREST

- S-0016**      **“Award of Municipal Contracts”** *Tassoni, S-Finance*  
This act would give priority to Rhode Island located businesses whose bids on municipal contracts are up to 3% higher than the lowest bid.
- S-0032**      **“Property Subject to Taxation”** *Tassoni, S-Finance*  
This act would give cities and towns the option of entirely exempting the homestead of a disabled veteran or his or her surviving spouse from taxation.
- S-0036**      **“School and Municipal Playground Safety”** *Blais, S-Finance*  
This act would provide grants to cities and towns for projects undertaken specifically to comply with the department of education and department of health’s joint health and environment recreational facility safety regulations and/or to provide access for people with disabilities.
- S-0044**      **“Open Meetings”** *Picard, S-Judiciary*  
This act would make public notice of school committee meetings in newspapers optional.
- S-0060**      **“State Educational Mandates”** *Blais, S-Education*  
This act would require that educational mandates be fully funded or else be unenforceable.
- S-0061**      **“Local Real Property Assessment”** *Walaska, S-Housing & Municipal Government*  
This act would reduce the frequency of updated real estate revaluations from once every three (3) years to once every five (5) years for the post transition periods.
- S-0066**      **“School Committees and Superintendents”** *Walaska, S-Labor*  
This act would provide that a city or town council member would be included in any labor contract negotiations a school committee is involved in.
- S-0067**      **“Public Officers and Employees”** *Walaska, S-Labor*  
This act would state that a person who is retired on the basis of a disability undertake an annual recertification process to establish a continuing disability.
- S-0071**      **“Public Officers and Employees-Retirement”** *Walaska, S-Finance*  
This act would require an examination by three (3) physicians engaged by the retirement board prior to a state employee being granted disability.
- S-0072**      **“Public Officers and Employees-Retirement System-Contributions and Benefits”** *Walaska, S-Finance*  
This act would require that every beneficiary have a medical exam at least once every three (3) years.

- S-0104**      **“Excavation Near Underground Utility Facilities-Costs”** *Fogarty*, S-Corporations  
This act would require public utilities to incur all costs associated with the temporary or permanent relocation of utility poles within municipal rights-of-way.
- S-0133**      **“Public Buildings”** *Tassoni*, S-Housing & Municipal Government  
This act would require public buildings to provide designated parking spaces for motorcycles at the rate of one space per total of thirty (30) spaces. Failure to use the designated space would result in a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00).
- S-0180**      **“School Committees and Superintendents”** *Levesque*, S-Finance  
This act would repeal the provisions of the General Laws permitting school committees to seek additional appropriations by bringing an action in the Rhode Island Superior Court. Instead, school committees would be able to appeal to the commissioner of the department of elementary and secondary education.
- S-0181**      **“Property Subject to Taxation”** *Tassoni*, S-Finance  
This act would permit any city or town council to tax twenty percent (20%) of the assessed valuation of all real and personal property owned by private colleges and universities located within the municipality.
- S-0219**      **“The Open Contracting Act”** *Metts*, S-Labor  
This act would prohibit certain contract specifications issued by public bodies soliciting bids on public works projects.
- S-0247**      **“Sewage Charges”** *Crowley*, S-Housing & Municipal Government  
This act would make the lien for sewage charges, previously granted only to specified municipalities, a law of general application.
- S-0299**      **“Retirement of Municipal Employees”** *Blais*, S-Finance  
This act would allow retired firefighters and police officers to work an unlimited number of days in the service of the system.
- S-0312**      **“Local Canvassing Authorities”** *Crowley*, S- Judiciary  
This act would permit public questions to be voted upon in a local election to be posted on the website of the secretary of state or the website of the municipality where the election is to be held, or mailed to the household of each registered voter in lieu of an advertisement in a newspaper of local circulation.
- S-0324**      **“Actions by and Against Towns”** *Maselli*, S- Judiciary  
This act would require cities, towns, and fire districts to indemnify officials for claims arising out of the performance of their official duties.
- S-0331**      **“Labor Relations Act”** *Goodwin*, S-Labor  
This act would amend the labor relations act to provide for a certified representative for collective bargaining.

- S-0332**      **“School Committees and Superintendents”** *Sosnowski, S-Labor*  
This act would authorize certain actions, including, but not limited to, compulsory mediation, and require the filing of a statement of corrective action, when a school district's expenditures for any account exceed the statewide average for all districts by ten percent (10%) or greater.
- S-0335**      **“Arbitration of Labor Controversies”** *McCaffrey, S-Labor*  
This act would acknowledge arbitration as the preferred alternative labor dispute resolution mechanism and limit instances when an arbitration award can be vacated.
- S-0392**      **“Subdivision of Land”** *Maselli, S-Housing & Municipal Government*  
This act would add a definition for land suitable for development which shall mean the total land area of a lot including slopes and wetlands, considering the requirements of pertinent federal, state and local regulations.
- S-0393**      **“Zoning Ordinances”** *Maselli, S-Housing & Municipal Government*  
This act would provide that in instances where a city and town has not yet amended its zoning ordinances to reflect amendments to the city or town’s comprehensive plan, any conflicts or inconsistencies contained therein would be resolved in favor of the provisions of the current zoning ordinances and zoning map.
- S-0396**      **“Installers of Individual Sewage Disposal Systems”**  
*McBurney, S- Environment & Agriculture*  
This act would permit a person holding a valid license to connect individual sewage disposal systems into municipal sewage systems.
- S-0441**      **“Boiler Inspection and Pressure Vessels”** *Blais, S-Labor*  
This act would amend the hearings mechanism for boiler and pressure vessel violations by repealing the provisions for hearings before compensated arbitration panels and permitting hearings before the Occupational Safety and Health Review Board pursuant to section 28-20-19.
- S-0442**      **“Firefighters' Arbitration”** *Blais, S-Labor*  
This act would prohibit a firefighter’s rights to collectively bargain levels of personnel employed by the department, deployment of personnel and types of equipment utilized.
- S-0443**      **“Firefighters' Arbitration”** *Blais, S-Labor*  
This act would provide for last-best offer arbitration for firefighters and municipal police.

- S-0444**      **“Labor Relations Act”** *Bates, S-Labor*  
This act would provide that no collective bargaining agreement in effect as of January 1, 2009 would provide for an employee contribution of not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the premium cost of health benefits.
- S-0502**      **“Municipal Retirement”** *Blais, S-Finance*  
This act would make sweeping revisions to the law on retirement qualification for municipal employees.
- S-0503**      **“Relief of Injured and Deceased Fire Fighters and Police Officers”** *Blais, S-Finance*  
This act would limit payment during line of duty illness or injury to eighty percent (80%) of salary or wage.
- S-0563**      **“Subdivision of Land”** *Maselli, S-Housing & Municipal Government*  
This act would create additional rights for subdivision applicants.
- S-0569**      **“School Committees and Superintendents”** *Levesque, S-Judiciary*  
This act would establish standards and procedures whereby a school committee may, within five (5) days of a negative vote by an appropriating authority (i.e. municipality or municipalities in the case of a regional school district), request non-binding, fact finding mediation to be conducted by a special master appointed by the superior court.
- S-0625**      **“Municipal Employees' Arbitration”** *Ruggerio, S-Finance*  
This act would require the state to pay the cost of compulsory mediation involving municipal employees.
- S-0626**      **“School Teachers' Arbitration”** *Ruggerio, S-Finance*  
This act would require that the state would pay the total cost of compulsory mediation for school teachers.
- S-0627**      **“Optional Retirement for Police Force and Fire Fighters”** *Ruggerio, S-Finance*  
This act would amend the provisions for determination by a city or town of a police officer or firefighter’s disability for purposes of retirement, by adding job related illness as a cause thereof.
- S-0629**      **“Retirement System – Administration”** *Ruggerio, S-Finance*  
This act would define "active member" and "vested" as it applies to members of the state retirement system.
- S-0658**      **“Certified School Teachers' Arbitration”** *Bates, S-Labor*  
This act would prohibit strikes by public school teachers and would provide for penalties for those teachers who violate this section.

- S-0682**      **“School Committees and Superintendents”** *Doyle, S-Finance*  
This act would repeal those provisions of section 16-2-21.4 which permits a school committee to seek additional appropriations by bringing an action in Superior Court seeking more funding from the appropriating authority.
- S-0694**      **“Firefighters’ and Municipal Police Arbitration”** *Blais, S-Labor*  
This act would allow for arbitration decisions and negotiated contracts to be the obligation of cities or towns to negotiate in good faith. It would also provide that the term of a contract would not exceed three years.
- S-0713**      **“Certified School Teachers' Arbitration”** *Perry, S-Labor*  
This act would amend section 28-9.3-9 to provide that if a successor collective bargaining agreement has not been agreed to by the parties, then the terms and conditions of the old teachers contract would remain in full force and effect until a new agreement is reached.
- S-0729**      **“School Committees and Superintendents-Management Rights of School Committee”**  
*Blais, S-Education*  
This act would expand and clarify the general powers and duties of school committees.
- S-0731**      **“Waste Recycling”** *Sosnowski, S-Environment & Agriculture*  
This act would provide for municipal oversight of recycling with respect to commercial and multi-family entities.
- S-0733**      **“State Aid”** *Blais, S-Finance*  
This act would repeal the statewide purchasing system as it currently stands and would institute a new statewide purchasing system for municipalities of regional school districts.
- S-0744**      **“School Committees and Superintendents”** *Blais, S-Finance*  
This act would state that if state aid to education of general revenue sharing is revealed or suspended then school budget compliance with the provisions of subsections 16-2-21.4(a) through 16-2-21.4(c) would be suspended for that year. The governor would create a three (3) member panel to create a remedy.
- S-0754**      **“Rhode Island Development Impact Fee Act”**  
*Maselli, S-Housing & Municipal Government*  
This act would address expiration periods pertaining to any approval, permit, variance or license issued pursuant to any state statute or municipal ordinance.
- S-0755**      **“Low and Moderate Income Housing”** *Blais, S-Housing & Municipal Government*  
This act would require that year-round mobile homes be included in year-round housing units and rented year-round mobile homes be included in year-round rental housing units for purposes of determining the need for low and moderate income housing units.

# HOUSE BILLS OF INTEREST

**H-5019**      **“FY’09 Supplemental State Budget”** *Watson, H. Finance*  
This bill revised appropriations for the FY’09 State Budget and includes the following “articles’ to the budget:

- **Article 2.            “Gubernatorial Authority”**  
Enables the governor to unilaterally suspend or reduce any budget appropriations or state aid program if the revenue estimating conference indicates that revenue or resources will not equal the estimates upon which the appropriation was made.
  
- **Article 7.            “State Aid”**  
Suspends all appropriations under the General Revenue Sharing Program for FY 2009, resulting in a loss of state aid to cities and towns of \$55.1 million.
  
- **Article 16.          “Telecommunications Tax”**  
Freezes the tax rate on the tangible personal property of telecommunications and cable companies at the rate in effect on 12/31/08 (\$15.56) in order to prevent the allocation of local aid under the “telephone tax” from decreasing in future fiscal years due to the continued decline in the average statewide property tax.
  
- **Article 17.          “School Food Services Program”**  
Mandates all school districts to join, upon the expiration of any current food services agreement, a statewide food service program.
  
- **Article 18.          “School Bus Monitors”**  
Suspends the requirement that school bus monitors be on busses provided for transportation of K-fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) grade students;
  
- **Article 19.          “Teachers Health and Dental Insurance Program”**  
Requires school teachers, non-certified school employees and municipal employees (non-public safety) to become members of the Statewide Public Employees Healthcare and Dental Insurance Program (“Program”) on either July 1, 2010 or upon the expiration of their collective bargaining agreement if it was in effect July 1, 2010. The Program shall provide for standardized coverage, a minimum employee co-share of 25%, a buy-back provision no greater than 10% of the premium rate and a prohibition against double coverage. Municipalities which can document that their municipally-administered healthcare plan is less costly than the Program are exempt from the Program for a period of no longer than three (3) years.

- **Article 20. “Statewide Purchasing System”**  
 Authorizes RIDE to develop a statewide purchasing system for supplies, services, transportation, food services, and healthcare and dental insurance. This article also allows municipalities to participate.
- **Article 21. “School Budget Resolution”**  
 Prohibits Superior Court judgments in a “Caroulo” suit from exceeding the property tax levy caps pursuant to 16-2-21.4(b) RIGL. Also it suspends the “Caroulo” law in any fiscal year that state aid is reduced or suspended. If there is a school/municipal budget dispute, a three (3) member panel consisting of the director of revenue, the auditor general and the commissioners of education, or their designees, shall develop a corrective action plan.
- **Article 22. “Transportation of Pupils”**  
 Requires school committees to utilize a statewide transportation system for special needs students and all students.
- **Article 23. “School Nurses”**  
 This article repeals the law which requires school nurses to be certified as teachers.
- **Article 24. “Dismissal of Teachers”**  
 Allows school committees to dismiss any school teacher at any time of the year and for any justifiable reason.
- **Article 25. “Teacher’s Tenure”**  
 Changes the date for layoff notices to school teachers from March 1 to June 1 and allows for layoffs as a result of personnel budget reductions.
- **Article 26. “Collective Bargaining Fiscal Impact Statements”**  
 This article requires towns, cities and school committees to post their proposed collective bargaining agreements and fiscal impact statements on the appropriate town, city or school district website at least 30 days prior to contract ratification.
- **Article 27. “School Teachers’ Arbitration Act”**  
 This article prohibits “work to rule” labor actions by certified public school teachers and also imposes the loss of two days pay for each day of a strike and further provides that a labor organization that promotes strikes shall lose its representational status and its ability to collect dues from its members for a period of three (3) years.
- **Article 28. “Intervention and Support for Failing Schools”**  
 This article enhances the departments of education’s authority, in school districts under progressive support and intervention, to assign teachers to

positions where they are most needed without regard to collective bargaining contractual provisions and accurate and objective employment evaluation for certified employees of school districts.

- **Article 29. “Management Rights of School Committee”**  
Provides school committees with numerous management rights which are to be prohibited subjects of collective bargaining with school teachers. No school teacher collective bargaining agreement entered into after the effective date of this article shall contain any provision in violation or contradiction of this article.
  
- **Article 31. “Education Aid”**  
This article suspends the professional development fund allocation to districts (\$5.8 million), reduces school housing aid determined to be ineligible for reimbursement (\$2.5 million), reduces the permanent school aid fund due to lower video lottery receipts (\$4.3 million) and it also reduces state aid to education by \$40.7 million, which is to be offset by an equivalent amount of expenditure savings due to reduced employer contributions (25% of the actual FY 2009 employer contribution rate) to the teachers’ retirement system.
  
- **Article 32. “Pension Reform”**  
Reduces the employer’s contribution rate to the state and school teachers’ retirement system, during the period February 1 to June 30, 2009, to 25% of the contribution percentage rate determined by the R.I. State Retirement Board. The article also makes numerous changes in the retirement systems of state employees, school teachers, state police and judges who retire after April 1, 2009.
  
- **Article 40. “Last Best Offer Arbitration”**  
This article changes the final and binding arbitration process for municipal police officers and firefighters by requiring the bargaining unit and the city or town to submit a statement to the arbitration panel that has each party’s final and last-best offer to resolve all unresolved issues. The arbitration panel must choose either labor or management’s final offer on all the issues as the basis for the panel’s award.
  
- **Article 41. “School and Municipal Realignment Commission”**  
This article creates a fourteen (14) member realignment commission to study school district consolidation, mergers and cost saving service methodologies. This article also creates a fourteen (14) member Municipal Public Safety and Public Works Realignment Commission to study the cost sharing, mergers or services and methodologies to provide a more cost effective and efficient way to provide municipal services.

Both commissions are to report to the General Assembly by March 1, 2010.

“School Realignment Commission”

Composition:

- 5 appointees by Governor, one (1) of whom shall be a representative of organized labor
- 2 appointees House of Representatives
- 2 appointees R.I. Senate
- 5 ex-officio Director of Revenue\*  
Commissioner of Education\*  
Director of Administration\*  
R.I. Association of School Committees  
R.I. League of Cities and Towns

“Municipal Public Safety and Public Works Realignment Commission”

Composition:

- 7 appointees by Governor, two (2) of whom shall be representatives of organized labor, one (1) shall be a current or retired police chief, one (1) shall be a current or retired fire chief
- 2 appointees House of Representatives
- 2 appointees R.I. Senate
- 3 ex-officio Director of Revenue\*  
Director of Administration\*  
R.I. League of Cities and Towns

\*or their designees

- **Article 42. “Firefighters and Municipal Police Arbitration”**  
This article amends the Firefighter’s and Policemen’s Arbitration Acts by allowing labor and management to agree to having an arbitration award be up to three (3) years in duration, requiring arbitration panels to consider: (1) statutory limitation on a community’s ability to raise property tax levies; (2) the salaries and fringe benefits of other bargaining units in the city or town; and (3) the salaries and fringe benefits of fire departments of comparable size in other states. This article also limits the total monetary award of an arbitration panel to the levy cap percentages as in 44-5-2(b) RIGL as applied to the total value of all wages and fringe benefits contained in the previous collective bargaining agreement.
- **Article 43. “Firefighters and Municipal Police Manning”**  
This article removes the number of personnel, deployment of personnel and the number of and location of any pieces of equipment, vehicles and stations from

the subjects which can be bargained for under the Policemen and Firefighter's Arbitration Acts.

- **Article 44. "Municipal Health Insurance Cost Sharing"**

This article provides that no collective bargaining agreement covering police officers, firefighters, school teachers or municipal employees of any city, town, school district or fire district shall provide for an employee co-share payment for health, dental and vision benefits of less than twenty-five (25%) percent.

- **Article 45. "Municipal Retirement"**

This article makes numerous changes to the Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) and to all private, municipally administered pension plans.

These changes include:

- a minimum age of 59 years and 29 years of service
- an accidental disability retirement allowance of 50% of salary if disabled from one's job and, an accidental disability allowance of 66-2/3% of salary if one is permanently and totally disabled from any employment
- accidental disability retirees must furnish the state retirement system with an annual statement of earnings and household income
- a one (1%) percent increase in employee contributions
- prohibits any collective bargaining agreement from exceeding the vesting requirements, benefit structure, and allowances as provided for under MERS, or for employee contributions to pension plans which are less than employee contributions as required by MERS
- post retirement health, dental, life or other insurance benefits cannot be provided to any retiree before the retiree's fifty-fifth (55) birthday and these benefits shall discontinue upon the retiree's becoming Medicare eligible.
- cost of living adjustments may not exceed three (3%) percent non-compounded annually
- no double dipping on health insurance coverage if another health insurance plan is available to the employee
- a minimum retiree co-share for health insurance benefits of twenty (20%) percent

- **Article 46. "Police and Firefighters Injured on Duty"**

This article reduces the level of compensation cities and towns pay to injured or ill police officers and firefighters during their period of incapacitation from one hundred (100%) percent to eighty (80%) percent of their pay.

- **Article 47. "Pre-Judgment Interest"**

This article prohibits the award of pre-judgment interest in a civil action in which a verdict is rendered for damages against the state, cities or towns or employees of the state or local government. It does provide for post judgment interest of twelve (12%) percent commencing four (4) weeks after the judgment was

rendered. It also prohibits state or municipal employees from being sued in their personal or individual capacity and it changes the manner in which joint and several liability is triggered so that one (1%) percent liability does not translate into one-hundred (100%) percent responsibility for damages.

- H-5063**      **“School Committees and Superintendents”** *Corvese*, H-Finance  
This act would codify and set forth certain management authority of school committees, which could not be bargained away through collective bargaining agreements.
- H-5080**      **“Zoning Ordinances”** *Azzinaro*, H-Municipal Government  
This act would allow local zoning boards to consider the permitted and non-conforming use of neighboring land structures in deciding applications for use-variances.
- H-5092**      **“Real Estate Tax Reform Act of 2009”** *Carter*, H-Finance  
This act would provide local communities an optional method for the determination of local real estate taxes.
- H-5100**      **“Retirement System-Contributions and Benefits”** *Gallison*, H-Labor  
This act would amend the current law so that all state employees and municipal employees participating in the state retirement system, who receive a retirement income of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) or more, will no longer qualify for COLA benefits or a cost of living increase.
- H-5111**      **“Excavation Near Underground Utility Facilities”** *Pacheco*, H-Municipal Government  
This act would require public utilities to be responsible for any costs associated with the temporary or permanent relocation of utility poles during public works projects within municipal rights of way.
- H-5116**      **“Tangible Personal Property Tax”** ” *Loughlin*, H-Finance  
This act would allow cities and towns to reduce their tangible personal property tax to zero percent (0%) and to eliminate the classification and depreciation table for business tangible personal property.
- H-5129**      **“Property Subject to Taxation”** *Corvese*, H-Finance  
This act would impose a property tax on boats and that tax would be imposed and collected in the city or town where the owner resides.
- H-5130**      **“Real Estate Conveyance Tax”** *Pacheco*, H-Finance  
This act would increase the amount of monies which municipalities receive from the real estate conveyance tax from \$1.10 to \$1.40 per every \$2.00 of the face value of the stamps.

- H-5136**      **“Access to Public Records”** *Ajello*, H-Judiciary  
This act would mandate that a public body receiving a request for access to public records comply within seven (7) business days. It would also prevent a public body from requiring that a requester of public records provide personally identifiable information or the reason for the request. It would also raise the maximum civil fine that may be imposed for a willful and knowingly violation of the chapter from one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). The act would also impose a new fine not to exceed five thousand dollars(\$5,000) for reckless violation of the chapter.
- H-5142**      **“School Teachers' Arbitration”** *Gemma*, H-Labor  
This act would expand the scope of the binding arbitration process to include monetary issues for teachers and non-teacher educational employees.
- H-5144**      **“Awarding of Municipal Contracts”** *Winfield*, H-Municipal Government  
This act would give priority to Rhode Island located businesses whose bids on municipal contracts are up to 3% higher than the lowest bid.
- H-5158**      **“Property Subject to Taxation”** *Winfield*, H-Finance  
This act would give cities and towns the option of entirely exempting the homestead of a disabled veteran or his or her surviving spouse from taxation.
- H-5162**      **“School Bus Monitors”**      *Rice*, H-Health, Education & Welfare  
House resolution in support of school bus monitors.
- H-5163**      **“Professional Development”** *Mattiello*, H-Health, Education & Welfare  
This act would eliminate the requirement for a state funded education professional fund.
- H- 5164**      **“Rhode Island School Improvement Team Act”** *Serpa*, H-Health, Education & Welfare  
This act would make voluntary the establishment of school improvement teams by school boards or school committees.
- H-5165**      **“Establishment of Charter Public Schools”** *Mattiello*, H-Health, Education & Welfare  
This act would limit transportation availability for charter schools to days that the public schools are regularly scheduled to be in session.
- H-5166**      **“Fire Safety Code-General Provisions”** *Mattiello*, H- Health, Education & Welfare  
This act would extend fire code compliance for public school buildings to no earlier than January 1, 2011.
- H-5168**      **“Health and Safety of Pupils”** *Mattiello*, H- Health, Education & Welfare  
This act would permit the school committee of any school district to vote to forego and be exempt from the state requirement for school bus monitors.
- H-5205**      **“Levy and Assessment of Local Taxes”** *Schadone*, H-Finance  
This act would amend the revaluation time frames for cities and towns.

- H-5217**      **“State Education Mandates”** *DaSilva*, H- Health, Education & Welfare  
This act would require that educational mandates be fully funded or else be unenforceable.
- H-5232**      **“Certified School Teachers' Arbitration”** *Gablinske*, H-Labor  
This act would prohibit strikes by public school teachers and would provide for penalties for those teachers who violate this section.
- H-5236**      **“Sewage Charges”** *Flaherty*, H-Municipal Government  
This act would exempt any building used for religious worship and up to five (5) acres immediately surrounding them from municipal sewage charges.
- H-5251**      **“Police Officers and Firefighters Injured on Duty”** *Gemma*, H- Finance  
This act would allow firefighters and/or police officers who are wholly or partially incapacitated by reason of injuries or sickness contracted in the performance of his or her duties to receive eighty percent (80%) of their salary or wages together with all of their benefits.
- H-5258**      **“Disabled Veterans”** *Carter*, H- Veterans` Affairs  
This act would grant a one hundred percent (100%) property tax exemption to permanently disabled veterans or the unmarried surviving spouse of a veteran who died while on active duty.
- H-5279**      **“Property Subject to Taxation”** *Winfield*, H-Finance  
This act would permit any city or town council, by ordinance, to tax twenty percent (20%) of the assessed valuation of all real and personal property owned by private colleges and universities located within the municipality.
- H-5280**      **“School Committees and Superintendents”** *Loughlin*, H- Finance  
This act would amend the "Caruolo Act", so-called, to provide that no award of the Superior Court would exceed the school budget increase caps set forth in subsection 16-2-21(d).
- H-5300**      **“Labor Relations Act”** *Gablinske*, H-Labor  
This act would restrict collective bargaining by municipal employees, including teachers, to matters concerning compensation and benefits only.
- H-5303**      **“Temporary Disability Insurance – Benefits”** *Vaudreuil*, H-Labor  
This act would prevent injured in the line of duty personnel who receive full pay and benefits for their work related disability from simultaneously receiving temporary disability insurance benefits.

- H-5310**      **“Cooperative Service Among School Districts”** *Kilmartin*, H-Finance  
This act would allow school districts to adopt rules and regulations regarding all aspects of the operations’ mission and goals relative to cooperative service among school districts. All such agreements among school districts must be approved by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education.
- H-5312**      **“State Aid”** *Kilmartin*, H-Finance  
This act would provide that the general assembly annually appropriate three million dollars (\$3,000,000) to any school district that creates an arts high school.
- H-5315**      **“Salaries and Traveling Expenses”** *Kilmartin*, H-Finance  
This act would prohibit state employees from crediting service as a municipal employee or municipal elected official as state service for the purpose of computing vacation accrual.
- H-5335**      **“Arbitration of Labor Controversies”** *San Bento*, H-Labor  
This act would acknowledge arbitration as the preferred alternative labor dispute resolution mechanism and limit instances when an arbitration award can be vacated.
- H-5337**      **“Condominium Ownership”** *Menard*, H- Municipal Government  
This act would require municipalities to provide garbage and recycling services that are provided to single family residences to condominiums or, in the alternative, to reimburse condominiums the cost of said services
- H-5339**      **“Creating Sunset Oversight Commission”** *Kilmartin*, H- Separation of Powers  
This act would establish a nine (9) member sunset commission with authority periodically to review various commissions, boards, agencies, authorities and corporations to determine whether or not there is a genuine public need for the agency under review and to determine whether or not the agency is performing efficiently and effectively to meet that need. This act would establish criteria for the commission to utilize in the review process.
- H-5349**      **“Public Service Corporation Tax”** *Malik*, H-Finance  
This act would provide that for each filing of a telegraph, cable, telecommunications, or express company doing business within the state of Rhode Island relating to tangible personal property as of December 31, 2008 and thereafter, the tax rate applied by the tax administrator would not be less than the rate applied in the prior year.
- H-5360**      **“Programs for Fire Departments”** *Gallison*, H- Health, Education & Welfare  
This act would transfer the responsibility for enforcement of safety and health programs for the fire departments from the director of labor and training to the department of attorney general. Any fire department that would violate or refuses to comply with the provisions of this section would be fined five hundred dollars (\$500) for each week the violation continues.

- H-5379**      **“Certified School Teachers' Arbitration”** *Gablinske*, H-Labor  
This act would prohibit bumping during the layoff of teachers and the order of layoffs would be determined by the school principal based on a merit system.
- H-5380**      **“Union Membership”** *Gablinske*, H-Labor  
This act would forbid discrimination against any government employees because of their membership in a labor or employee organization. It would also allow employees who elect not to join a labor union from being required to pay a service charge in lieu of union dues.
- H-5381**      **“Employee Voting”** *Gablinske*, H-Labor  
This act would require that all employees voting on issues concerning the exercise of their labor relations rights do so by the use of secret ballots.
- H-5382**      **“Teacher Performance Evaluation”** *Gablinske*, H-Labor  
Commencing January 1, 2010, this act would prohibit any teacher's collective bargaining agreement from prohibiting the performance evaluation of any tenured teachers.
- H-5403**      **“Rhode Island Incinerator Ban Act”** *Segal*, H-Environment and Natural Resources  
This act would ban incinerators except those used to combust on-site generated solid waste.
- H-5435**      **“Labor Relations Act”** *Trillo*, H-Labor  
This act would prohibit any future collective bargaining agreements with public employees, state or municipal.
- H-5437**      **“School Committees and Superintendents”** *Trillo*, H-Labor  
This act would require that if a city or town charter or ordinance empowers a city or town council to ratify the collective bargaining agreements of its school committees then no collective bargaining agreement is effective unless ratified by the city or town council.
- H-5472**      **“School Committees and Superintendents”** *Trillo*, H-Finance  
This act would limit school budget increases to no more than three percent (3%) over the prior fiscal period.
- H-5476**      **“Retirement of Municipal Employees”** *Marcello*, H-Finance  
This act would repeal the section of law granting one full retirement credit year for service in excess of six months in any one year on a city or town council.
- H-5477**      **“State and Municipal Court Compact”** *Ucci*, H-Finance  
This act would double the fine amount of each traffic offense from the current levels, and would increase the court costs from the current level of thirty-five (\$35.00) to fifty dollars (\$50.00).

- H-5497**      **“Open Meetings”** *Hearn*, H-Judiciary  
This act would make public notice of school committee meetings in newspapers optional.
- H-5503**      **“Optional Retirement for Police and Firefighters”** *Ucci*, H-Labor  
This act would amend the provisions for determination by a city or town of a police officer or firefighter’s disability for purposes of retirement, by adding job related illness as a cause thereof .
- H-5504**      **“Labor Relations Act”** *Almeida*, H-Labor  
This act would amend the labor relations act to provide for a certified representative for collective bargaining.
- H-5505**      **“Collective Bargaining”** *Williamson*, H-Labor  
This act would eliminate the collective bargaining references and requirements throughout title 16.
- H-5506**      **“Foundation Level School Support”** *Williamson*, H-Labor  
This act would delete the requirement that each community use a step system for paying public school teachers.
- H-5508**      **“Collective Bargaining”** *Williamson*, H- Labor  
This act would provide that collective bargaining agreements would be null and void in those instances where actual funds to the school committee and/or district fell short of the actual funding received by the committee and/or district.
- H-5516**      **“State Budget”** *Ucci*, H-Finance  
This act would make it a misdemeanor for state and municipal employees to make or authorize expenditures exceeding appropriations.
- H-5527**      **“Foundation Level School Support”** *Loughlin*, H-Labor  
This act would allow the school committee in every community to negotiate other means of compensation for teachers including, but not limited to, merit pay.
- H-5549**      **“Relief of Firefighters and Police Officers”** *Lally*, H-Finance  
This act would permit police and firefighter retirees to receive certain medical benefits as a result of illness or injury for the necessary period.
- H-5583**      **“Quasi-State Employees Arbitration”** *Carter*, H-Labor  
This act would establish arbitration procedures for quasi-state employees.
- H-5589**      **“Municipal Employees' Arbitration”** *Flaherty*, H-Labor  
This act would make several procedural and substantive changes in municipal employees' grievance and interest in arbitration laws. The act would also establish specific factors to be considered by arbitration boards when deciding an arbitrator's central case.

- H-5590**      **“Municipal Employees' Arbitration”** *Flaherty*, H-Labor  
This act would amend the definition of "municipal employee" for purpose of municipal employees' arbitration.
- H-5593**      **“Zoning Ordinances”** *Gallison*, H-Municipal Government  
This act would provide that in instances where a city and town has not yet amended its zoning ordinances to reflect amendments to the city or town's comprehensive plan, any conflicts or inconsistencies contained therein would be resolved in favor of the provisions of the current zoning ordinances and zoning map.
- H-5613**      **“Rhode Island Statewide Educator Health Insurance Act”**  
*McNamara*, H-Corporations  
This act would provide a mechanism for group purchasing of health, dental and vision insurance for all Rhode Island teachers.
- H-5634**      **“Retirement of Municipal Employees”** *Fellela*, H- Finance  
This act would exempt firefighters and police officers from the seventy-five (75) day rule as it applies to reemployment of retired members of the municipal employee retirement system.
- H-5635**      **“Levy and Assessment of Local Taxes”** *Gallison*, H-Finance  
This act would authorize a city or town after establishing the maximum tax levy for the fiscal year to add to the levy limit the amount of new growth in the community.
- H-5638**      **“Access to Audio Clips”** *Naughton*, H-Finance  
This act would require that all video clips and voice-recorded clips on state and public sponsored websites be made accessible to people with hearing impairment.
- H-5639**      **“Property Subject to Taxation”** *Lima*, H-Finance  
This act would remove state-owned property from the exemption from local property taxes.
- H-5646**      **“Transportation Pupils”** *Savage*, H-Health, Education & Welfare  
This act would affect the transportation of pupils by establishing oversight of a statewide transportation system.
- H-5670**      **“Subdivision of Land”** *Carter*, H-Judiciary  
This act would add a definition for land suitable for development which shall mean the total land area of a lot including slopes and wetlands, considering the requirements of pertinent federal, state and local regulations.
- H-5679**      **“Councils and Governing Bodies”** *Pacheco*, H-Municipal Government  
This act would limit the appointments of city or town managers and other municipal officers to three (3) year terms.

- H-5682**      **“State Aid”** *Segal*, H-Municipal Government  
This act would permit municipalities to seek reimbursement from non-profit institutions for emergency services based on a pro rata basis according to property value being serviced.
- H-5684**      **“Subdivision of Land”** *San Bento*, H-Municipal Government  
This act would create additional rights for subdivision applicants.
- H-5685**      **“Installers of Individual Sewage Disposal Systems”**  
*San Bento*, H-Municipal Government  
This act would permit a person holding a valid license to connect individual sewage disposal systems into municipal sewage systems.
- H-5686**      **“Rhode Island Development Impact Fee Act”**  
*San Bento*, H-Municipal Government  
This act would address expiration periods pertaining to any approval, permit, variance or license issued pursuant to any state statute or municipal ordinance.
- H-5687**      **“Councils and Governing Bodies”** *A Rice*, H-Municipal Government  
This act would allow any city, town, school committee, water or fire district, or other public or quasi-municipal authority, agency or entity, or organization that is an instrumentality of such cities or towns to establish agreements for obtaining or effecting insurance.
- H-5709**      **“School Committees and Superintendents”** *Loughlin*, H-Finance  
This act would state that if state aid to education of general revenue sharing is revealed or suspended then school budget compliance with the provisions of subsections 16-2-21.4(a) through 16-2-21.4(c) would be suspended for that year. The governor would create a three (3) member panel to create a remedy.
- H-5762**      **“Certified School Teachers' Arbitration”** *Palumbo*, H-Labor  
This act would amend section 28-9.3-9 to provide that if a successor collective bargaining agreement has not been agreed to by the parties, then the terms and conditions of the existing teachers' contract would remain in full force and effect until a new agreement is reached.
- H-5763**      **“Firefighters' Arbitration”** *Palumbo*, H-Labor  
This act would require that the rights or benefits conferred on employees by an expiring collective bargaining agreement would continue until a new agreement is ratified.
- H-5801**      **“State Aid”** *Watson*, H- Health, Education & Welfare  
This act would repeal the statewide purchasing system as it currently stands and would institute a new statewide purchasing system for municipalities of regional school districts.

- H-5817**      **“School Committees and Superintendents, Councils and Governing Bodies”**  
*Watson, H-Labor*  
This act would require that collective bargaining fiscal impact statements be publicized on the city or town website for thirty (30) days prior to ratification.
- H-5820**      **“Certified School Teachers' Arbitration”** *Gablinske, H-Labor*  
This act would prevent payment to public employees for a waiver of health insurance coverage and would require spouses and domestic partners of public officers of employees to obtain health insurance from the spouse’s or domestic partner’s employer.
- H-5837**      **“Property Subject to Taxation”** *Jacquard, H-Finance*  
This act would provide that any city or town which provides an exemption or stabilization of taxes prepare and publicly release an analysis of the impact of the proposed project receiving the exemption prior to determining if the tax relief will be granted.
- H-5843**      **“School Committees and Superintendents”** *Kilmartin, H-Finance*  
This act would establish standards and procedures whereby a school committee may, within five (5) days of a negative vote by an appropriating authority (i.e. municipality or municipalities in the case of a regional school district), request non-binding, fact finding mediation to be conducted by a special master appointed by the superior court.
- H-5844**      **“School Committees and Superintendents”** *Kilmartin, H-Finance*  
This act would repeal those provisions of section 16-2-21.4 which permits a school committee to seek additional appropriations by bringing an action in Superior Court seeking more funding from the appropriating authority. This act would also delete a cross reference to these deleted provisions and actions.
- H-5849**      **“Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation”** *Menard, H-Finance*  
This act would end the automatic increase in the municipal tipping fee equal to one hundred seven and one-half percent (107.5%) of the prior fiscal year's municipal tipping fee.
- H-5859**      **“Open Meetings”** *Marcello, H- Judiciary*  
This act would require that certain closed meetings and proceedings of public bodies pursuant to the “Open Meetings” law be opened and made public under specific circumstances.
- H-5883**      **“Maintenance of Town Highways”** *Jacquard, H- Municipal Government*  
This act would require the Providence Water Supply Board to restore the portion of any roadway which was altered to the same or better condition that existed prior to alteration.

**H-5916**

**“Levy and Assessment of Local Taxes”** *Pacheco*, H-Finance

This act would affect the maximum tax levy applied to cities or towns that experience growth in its tax base as the result of major new construction.

**H-5920**

**“Property Taxes”** *MacBeth*, H-Finance

This act would authorize cities and towns to provide a property tax freeze for eligible person sixty-five (65) years of age or older and for disabled persons.