

Roberta DiMezza

From: Westlake, Robert <robert_westlake@brown.edu>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 5:22 PM
To: Rep. Shekarchi, K Joseph; -Rep-fogarty@rilegislature.gov
Cc: Roberta DiMezza; Rep. Tanzi, Teresa A.
Subject: Support H5036

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I am a retired physician who has lived and practiced medicine in Rhode Island for almost 50 years. During this period I have been a close observer of our Legislature and I am thankful for the great effort that our elected representatives put into the welfare of the people of the State.

I have however been repeatedly baffled and discouraged by the absolute perversion of the democratic process shown in the case of a few important initiatives which for unclear reasons never receive a vote in committee or on the floor. In some cases carefully written bills with multiple sponsors and repeated painful sessions of public input are never voted on but simply "held for further study" ...sometimes for as long as 14 years! I understand that these bills may be controversial but if we truly live in a state governed by the democratic process they should have received an up or down vote long ago. With no vote, how are we able to hold our elected representatives accountable?

For this reason I urge you to support H5036 which will help to alleviate this serious problem. The bill will allow each House member to prioritize three bills that are being held for further study to receive votes in committees. This would be an important reform of a practice that is a source of frustration for many. support of H5036, to allow each House member to prioritize three bills that are being held for further study to receive votes in committees. This would be an important reform of a practice that is a source of frustration for many. Further, as was pointed out in the Rules Committee, this provision has the potential to reduce the glut of bills that are reintroduced year after year. To remedy an embarrassing and long standing ant-democratic process I strongly urge you to support Representative Tanzi's proposed bill H5036.

Thank you for the work you do on the part of all of us,

Robert Westlake, MD

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