



**RIEEA**

Rhode Island Environmental  
Education Association

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On Behalf of the Rhode Island Environmental Education Association

**In Support of H-6093 - AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION**

House Committee on State Government and Elections

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

The Rhode Island Environmental Education Association (RIEEA) supports H-6093, and respectfully urges its passage. Creating a procedure for parking modifications near shoreline rights of way and creating a shoreline access improvement fund ensures that Rhode Island protects public access to the shoreline.

RIEEA stands in strong support of environmental justice across our state, ensuring that every Rhode Islander enjoys access to safe, clean outdoor places to play, work, and learn. Time in nature provides opportunity for physical activity, critical and creative thinking, interaction with and connection to community members, and so much more. Research<sup>1</sup> shows that unstructured play and interaction with the natural world are important for healthy development in children as well as the physical, mental, and social and emotional health of both children and adults. We also know that those of us who have access to outdoor spaces are more likely to be engaged in protecting those spaces and feel less anxiety about the climate crisis and environmental concerns than those who do not have such access.

The RIEEA membership includes over 400 individuals including educators, scientists, advocates, students, and parents as well as more than 60 organizations<sup>2</sup>. RIEEA's membership and supporters care deeply about Rhode Island's natural places, our health, and environmental and economic stability. I encourage you to pass this important legislation, H-6093.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://research.childrenandnature.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rieea.org/about-us/organizational-members/>