

Feb. 27, 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>



- **Speaker Shekarchi announces 2026 housing legislation**  
House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi (D-Dist. 23, Warwick) announced a nine-bill package of housing legislation, his sixth suite of housing bills since becoming Speaker in 2021. The bills tackle a wide range of issues with the aim of boosting housing production and affordability to address the state’s housing crisis.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Legislators announce funding secured for sale of Roger Williams and Fatima**  
House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi (D-Dist. 23, Warwick), Senate President Valarie J. Lawson (D-Dist. 14, East Providence), Gov. Daniel J. McKee and Attorney General Peter F. Neronha announced that the Centurion Foundation has received signed bond purchase agreements sufficient to finance and close on its purchase of Roger Williams Medical Center and Fatima Hospital. Earlier this month, the General Assembly passed legislation ([2026-H 7408Aaa](#), [2026-S 2340A](#)) to backstop the deal, to ensure that the two safety-net hospitals remain open to serve Rhode Islanders.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Ujifusa, Fogarty bills would protect health care from private equity ownership**  
Sen. Linda Ujifusa (D-Dist. 11, Portsmouth, Bristol) and Rep. Kathleen A. Fogarty (D-Dist. 35, South Kingstown) have filed two bills to protect Rhode Island’s health care system from abuses associated with private equity ownership and the corporate practice of medicine. The first bill ([2026-S 2492](#), [2026-H 7720](#)) addresses private equity ownership in health care. The second bill ([2026-S 2459](#), [2026-H 7721](#)) addresses the corporate practice of medicine, including corporate rollups that consolidate independent medical practices under centralized corporate ownership or

More...

management.

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- **Urso, Read bill would provide plates for vehicles adapted for disabilities**  
A bill ([2026-S 2178](#), [2026-H 7308](#)) from Sen. Lori Urso (D-Dist. 8, Pawtucket) and Rep. Earl A. Read III (D-Dist. 26, Coventry, West Warwick, Warwick) would create special license plates for disabled individuals whose vehicles are modified to accommodate their disability.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Lawson and Caldwell introduce bill to limit fees on school meals**  
Senate President Valarie J. Lawson (D-Dist. 14, East Providence) has introduced legislation ([2026-S 2635](#)) to limit transaction and processing fees for school meals. Rep. Justine Caldwell (D-Dist. 30, East Greenwich, West Greenwich) will shortly introduce companion legislation in the House.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Mass. stakeholders offer insight into transformative effects of funding civics ed**  
An [online panel discussion](#) of Massachusetts educators and researchers offered support to legislation sponsored by Rep. June S. Speakman (D-Dist. 68, Warren, Bristol) and Senate Education Committee Chairwoman Hanna M. Gallo (D-Dist. 27, Cranston, West Warwick) to fund civics education ([2026-H 7581](#), [2026-S 2233](#)) as a categorical program in Rhode Island's education funding formula, beginning with a \$1 million allocation in the FY 2027 budget. The panelists discussed how a similar funding initiative now successfully provides high-quality civics education across Massachusetts.  
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