

March 6, 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>



- **Bill would permit negligence lawsuits against gun industry**  
Sen. Pamela J. Lauria (D-Dist. 32, Barrington, Bristol, East Providence) and House Health and Human Services Committee Chairwoman Susan R. Donovan (D-Dist. 69, Bristol, Portsmouth) have introduced legislation ([2026-H 7557](#), [2026-S 2611](#)) intended to protect public safety by enabling civil lawsuits at the state level against firearms sellers or manufacturers who fail to take reasonable controls to prevent the illegal acquisition or modification of their products.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Legislative leaders mark sale of Roger Williams, Fatima hospitals**  
Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi (D-Dist. 23, Warwick) and Senate President Valarie J. Lawson (D-Dist. 14, East Providence) joined Gov. Dan McKee and Attorney General Peter Neronha to mark the official closing of the sale of Roger Williams Medical Center and Fatima Hospital at a ceremony today at Roger Williams, which resulted from legislation enacted by the General Assembly, House. The legislation ([2026-H 7408Aaa](#), [2026-S 2340A](#)) dedicates \$18 million from the state’s supplemental rainy-day fund to support Centurion’s acquisition of the two hospitals. It includes several safeguards to support the acquisition while protecting taxpayers.
- **Cotter and DiPalma again push to make ‘green bond’ greener**  
Just as they did before the 2024 state election, Sen. Louis P. DiPalma (D-Dist. 12, Middletown, Little Compton, Newport, Tiverton) and Rep. Megan L. Cotter (D-Dist. 39, Exeter, Richmond, Hopkinton) have introduced legislation ([2026-H 8144](#)) to add land preservation programs to the “green bond” proposed for November’s ballot.  
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More...

- **Cruz bill to ensure pet medication safety heard by committee**  
The House Corporations Committee heard testimony on legislation ([2026-H 7841](#)) sponsored by Rep. Cherie L. Cruz (D-Dist. 58, Pawtucket) that would ensure that veterinarians provide crucial medication information to pet owners. Sen. Robert Britto (D-Dist. 18, East Providence, Pawtucket) has introduced the bill ([2026-S 2653](#)) in the Senate.  
[Click here to see news release](#)
- **Hull introduces Homeowner Casualty Insurance Bill of Rights**  
Deputy Speaker Raymond A. Hull (D-Dist. 6, Providence, North Providence) has introduced the Homeowner Casualty Insurance Bill of Rights. The legislation ([2026-H 7478](#)) would summarize in simple, nontechnical terms, Rhode Island law regarding the rights of a personal residential property insurance policyholder who files a claim of loss.  
[Click here to see news release](#)
- **Casimiro introduces bill to crack down on ‘super speeders’ on the road**  
Rep. Julie A. Casimiro (D-Dist. 31, North Kingstown, Exeter) has introduced legislation that would keep Rhode Islanders safe on roadways by cracking down on reckless and dangerous driving. The legislation ([2026-H 8098](#)) would establish the Super Speeder Accountability Act to be used as a sentencing option or enhancement for drivers charged with certain driving violations, including reckless driving and multiple moving offenses.  
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- **DiMario bill addresses workforce shortages through loan assistance**  
Sen. Alana M. DiMario (D-Dist. 36, Narragansett, North Kingstown, New Shoreham) has introduced legislation ([2026-S 2662](#)) to attract and retain much-needed workforce talent by establishing a fund to provide partial loan repayments to Rhode Island workers employed in high-need professions.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Potter bill would make digital platforms more transparent about content**  
Rep. Brandon Potter (D-Dist. 16, Cranston) has introduced legislation ([2026-H 7954](#)) to make social media companies and other large digital platforms operating in Rhode Island more transparent with their users about the content they are shown, including content manipulated or generated by artificial intelligence tools.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Ciccone, Sanchez introduce legislation to make electrical bills easier to read**  
Senate Majority Leader Frank A. Ciccone III (D-Dist. 7, Providence, Johnston) and Rep. Enrique George Sanchez (D-Dist. 9, Providence) have introduced legislation ([2026-S 2074](#), [2026-H 7885](#)) to make electrical bills easier to understand by requiring that they provide a visual illustration clearly showing all the components of the total bill and their individual costs.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)

- **Spears, Gu introduce legislation to support mobile community medicine**  
Rep. Tina L. Spears (D-Dist. 36, Charlestown, New Shoreham, South Kingstown, Westerly) and Sen. Victoria Gu (D-Dist. 38, Westerly, Charlestown, South Kingstown) are introducing legislation ([2026-H 7485](#), [2026-S 2685](#)) to establish sustainable funding and reimbursement rates for ambulance services to practice community paramedicine and “treatment in place” programs.  
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