

March 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>



- **Assembly OKs bill protecting electronic ballots for disabled, military voters**
The General Assembly passed legislation ([2026-H 7007aa](#), [2026-S 2341A](#)) sponsored by Rep. William W. O'Brien (D-Dist. 54, North Providence) and Sen. Matthew L. LaMountain (D-Dist. 31, Warwick, Cranston) that continues to let disabled and military voters utilize electronically transmitted ballots. The existing law, which expired on Dec. 31, 2025, states that eligible disabled voters shall be entitled to electronically receive and return their mail ballot using the same electronic transmission system used by voters covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. The legislation now heads to the governor for consideration.
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **House OKs bill to allow app that reports cars parked in accessible spaces**
The House of Representatives approved legislation ([2026-H 7050](#)) introduced by Rep. Evan P. Shanley (D-Dist. 24, Warwick, East Greenwich) that would allow people to use an app to report cars that are illegally parked in accessible spaces, and would update new signage for those spaces. The measure now moves to the Senate, where similar legislation ([2026-S 2995](#)) has been introduced by Sen. Louis P. DiPalma (D-Dist. 12, Middletown, Newport, Tiverton, Little Compton).
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Senate passes DiPalma student health and safety bills**
The Senate passed two bills sponsored by Sen. Louis P. DiPalma (D-Dist. 12, Middletown, Little Compton, Newport, Tiverton) that will enhance student health and safety at Rhode Island's schools. The first ([2026-S 2873](#)) would require inspections

More...

and evaluations of the indoor air quality of each school building. Rep. Megan L. Cotter (D-Dist. 39, Exeter, Richmond, Hopkinton) has introduced the legislation ([2026-H 7582](#)) in the House. The second ([2026-S 2350](#)) would require the Department of Education and the Department of Health to adopt policies, rules and regulations for the administration of seizure rescue medications to students. Rep. Kathleen A. Fogarty (D-Dist. 35, South Kingstown) has introduced the legislation ([2026-H 7481](#)) in the House.

[Click here to see news release.](#)

▪ **Senate passes Murray bills aimed at improving health while saving state money**

The Senate passed two bills sponsored by Health and Human Services Committee Chairwoman Melissa Murray (D-Dist. 24, Woonsocket, North Smithfield), one to streamline blood lead test analyses for children ([2026-S 2870](#)), and the other to provide self-measured blood pressure monitoring for pregnant and postpartum individuals eligible for RIte Start or Medicaid ([2026-S 2871](#)). Both bills now go the House, where Rep. Jennifer A. Stewart (D-Dist. 59, Pawtucket) is sponsoring a companion to the blood-pressure monitoring bill ([2026-H 7310](#)).

[Click here to see news release.](#)

▪ **Senate OKs Lauria's bill for fund to assist children with catastrophic illnesses**

The Senate has passed legislation ([2026-S 2110](#)) sponsored by Sen. Pamela J. Lauria (D-Dist. 32, Barrington, Bristol, East Providence) to establish a special fund to provide financial assistance to families with children stricken by a catastrophic illness for medical expenses not covered by state or federal programs or insurance. The legislation now goes to the House, where Rep. Matthew S. Dawson (D-Dist. 65, East Providence) is sponsoring its companion ([2026-H 7965](#)).

[Click here to see news release.](#)

▪ **House approves Read bill to create electric car database to aid firefighters**

The House of Representatives approved legislation ([2026-H 7135A](#)) introduced by Rep. Earl A. Read III (D-Dist. 26, Coventry, West Warwick, Warwick) that would create a database for electric cars to aid in firefighting efforts. The measure now moves to the Senate where a companion bill ([2026-S 2181](#)) has been introduced by Sen. John Burke (D-Dist. 9 West Warwick).

[Click here to see news release.](#)

▪ **Ajello introduces Lila Sapinsley Compassionate Care Act**

Rep. Edith H. Ajello has reintroduced the Lila Manfield Sapinsley Compassionate Care Act ([2026-H 7760](#)), which would guarantee a terminal patient's right to end their suffering and protect health care providers from being held liable for providing the prescription they use. Sen. Meghan E. Kallman (D-Dist. 15, Pawtucket, Providence) is sponsoring the bill ([2026-S 2051](#)) in the Senate.

[Click here to see news release.](#)

▪ **McNamara bill would make Hope Scholarship Program permanent at RIC**

Rep. Joseph M. McNamara (D-Dist. 19, Warwick, Cranston) has introduced legislation ([2026-H 8336](#)) to make the Hope Scholarship Program permanent. The scholarship provides the cost of two years of tuition and mandatory fees for eligible students during their junior and senior years at Rhode Island College. Similar

legislation ([2026-S 2807](#)) has been introduced in the Senate by Sen. Ryan W. Pearson (D-Dist. 19, Cumberland, Lincoln).

[Click here to see news release.](#)

- **LaMountain bill would mandate coverage of scalp cooling for cancer patients**
Sen. Matthew L. LaMountain (D-Dist. 31, Warwick, Cranston) introduced legislation ([2026-S 2455](#)) to require health insurance plans to cover scalp cooling therapy, an evidence-based treatment that helps prevent hair loss for patients undergoing chemotherapy. Similar legislation ([2026-H 7537](#)) has been introduced in the House by Rep. Karen Alzate (D-Dist. 60, Pawtucket, Central Falls).
[Click here to see news release.](#)

- **Euer legislation to ban data-driven pricing heard in committee**
The Senate Committee on Commerce heard testimony on legislation ([2026-S 2428](#)) introduced by Sen. Dawn Euer (D-Dist. 13, Newport, Jamestown) to protect consumers from unexpected price increases by banning data-driven pricing practices.
[Click here to see news release.](#)

-30-

For an electronic version of this and all press releases published by the Legislative Press and Public Information Bureau, please visit our website at www.rilegislature.gov/pressrelease.