

April 10, 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>



- **House approves McEntee clergy sex abuse bills**

The House approved a legislative package introduced by Rep. Carol Hagan McEntee (D-Dist. 33, South Kingstown, Narragansett) that would deliver accountability for victims of childhood sexual abuse. The bills ([2026-H 7200](#), [2026-H 8086A](#), [2026-H 8093A](#)) were recently recommended within the [Attorney General's report on clergy sex abuse](#). The three bills now head to the Senate, where Majority Leader Frank A. Ciccone III (D-Dist. 7, Providence, Johnston) has introduced two of the bills ([2026-S 3105](#), [2026-S 3106](#)).  
[Click here to see news release.](#)

- **House OKs McNamara bill to create policies for school sports hazing incidents**

The House of Representatives passed legislation ([2026-H 7003](#)) introduced by Rep. Joseph M. McNamara (D-Dist. 19, Warwick, Cranston) that would compel the Department of Education, in conjunction with the Rhode Island Interscholastic League, to establish zero tolerance for hazing and ensure discipline that is transparent and consistent. The measure now moves to the Senate, where similar legislation ([2026-S 2495](#)) has been introduced by Sen. Matthew L. LaMountain (D-Dist. 31, Warwick, Cranston).  
[Click here to see news release.](#)

- **House, Senate pass bills to allow nurses to provide home foot care**

The House and Senate passed bills ([2026-H 7029A](#), [2026-S 2116A](#)) from Rep. Jennifer Boylan (D-Dist. 66, Barrington, East Providence) and Sen. Lori Urso (D-Dist. 8, Pawtucket) respectively to help homebound patients access routine foot care at home. Each bill now moves to the opposite chamber for consideration.

More...

[Click here for Boylan release.](#)

[Click here for Urso release.](#)

- **Senate passes DiPalma bill that makes disarming a police officer a felony**  
The Senate passed legislation ([2026-S 2292](#)) sponsored by Sen. Louis P. DiPalma (D-Dist. 12, Middletown, Little Compton, Newport, Tiverton) that would make it a felony to disarm or attempt to disarm a police officer. The measure now heads to the House, where Rep. Earl A. Read III (D-Dist. 26, Coventry, West Warwick, Warwick) has introduced the legislation ([2026-H 7753](#)).  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **House approves Read bill to include crisis contact numbers on student ID cards**  
The House of Representatives approved legislation ([2026-H 7026A](#)) introduced by Rep. Earl A. Read III (D-Dist. 26, Coventry, West Warwick, Warwick) that would include crisis contact information on middle and high school-issued student identification cards. The measure now moves to the Senate, where similar legislation ([2026-S 2348](#)) has been introduced by Sen. Victoria Gu (D-Dist. 38, Charlestown, Westerly, South Kingstown).  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **House OKs Lombardi bill that would protect pets in domestic abuse situations**  
The House passed legislation ([2026-H 7133A](#)) introduced by Rep. John J. Lombardi (D-Dist. 8, Providence) that would protect household pets in domestic abuse situations that are being heard by the Family Court. The bill would permit the Family Court to award possession of household pets to the plaintiff in a domestic abuse complaint. The legislation now heads to the Senate for consideration.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **House approves O'Brien dyslexia bill**  
The House approved legislation ([2026-H 7909](#)) sponsored by Rep. William W. O'Brien (D-Dist. 54, North Providence) that would redefine "dyslexia" to mean a specific learning disability characterized by difficulties in word reading and/or spelling that involve accuracy, speed or both and vary depending on the orthography. The bill now heads to the Senate, where Sen. Robert Britto (D-Dist. 18, East Providence, Pawtucket) has introduced the legislation ([2026-S 3078](#)).  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Commission recommends return of Central Falls schools to local control**  
The Special Joint Legislative Commission to Study the Return of Central Falls Schools to Local Governance has recommended a return to local control in its final report. Created last session by a joint resolution ([2025-S 1156](#), [2025-H 6255A](#)) sponsored by Sen. Jonathon Acosta (D-Dist. 16, Central Falls, Pawtucket) and Rep. Joshua J. Giraldo (D-Dist. 56, Central Falls), the commission met nine times to examine the issue. During its final meeting, the commission voted unanimously to adopt its final report and recommendations. The report can be found [here](#).  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Legislators hold press conference on drunken and reckless driving legislation**

Sens. Leonidas P. Raptakis (D-Dist. 33, Coventry, West Greenwich), David P. Tikoian (D-Dist. 22, Smithfield, Lincoln, North Providence), John P. Burke (D-Dist. 9, West Warwick), Mark McKenney (D-Dist. 30, Warwick), Todd M. Patalano (D-Dist. 26, Cranston), Andrew R. Dimitri (D-Dist. 25, Johnston), Stefano V. Famiglietti (D-Dist. 4, North Providence, Providence), Peter A. Appollonio Jr. (D-Dist. 29, Warwick) and Brian J. Thompson (D-Dist. 20, Woonsocket, Cumberland), and Rep. Stephen M. Casey (D-Dist. 50, Woonsocket), held a press conference at the State House to call attention to several bills that strengthen the penalties for drunken, impaired and reckless driving offenses.

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- **Bill would create tax credit to encourage investment in local small businesses**  
Sen. Bridget Valverde (D-Dist. 35, North Kingstown, East Greenwich, South Kingstown) and Rep. Mary Ann Shallcross Smith (D-Dist. 46, Lincoln, Pawtucket) have introduced legislation to help small businesses grow while incentivizing Rhode Islanders to keep their investments local. Their bill ([2026-S 2833](#), [2026-H 8195](#)) would create the Rhode Island Local Investment Tax Credit, which would provide Rhode Island taxpayers a refundable income tax credit of up to \$3,000 for half their qualified investment in a local small business.

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