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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>



- **Governor submits FY2026 state budget proposal**
The FY 2026 state budget ([2025-H 5076](#)) proposed by Gov. Daniel McKee was introduced in the House by Finance Committee Chairman Marvin L. Abney (D-Dist. 73, Newport, Middletown). Over the next several months, the House and Senate finance committees will hold meetings to analyze the budget proposal.
- **General Assembly hears State of the State address**
The Senate and House of Representatives met in grand committee Tuesday to hear Gov. Daniel McKee's State of the State address. Governor McKee spoke of plans to raise per-capita income in Rhode Island, a funding stream for the homelessness crisis, the replacement of the Washington Bridge and a proposed ban on assault weapons. [Click here to see the State of the State address.](#)
- **Alzate and Murray plan to introduce 'millionaires' tax'**
Rep. Karen Alzate (D-Dist. 60, Pawtucket, Central Falls) and Sen. Melissa Murray (D-Dist. 24, Woonsocket, North Smithfield) plan to introduce legislation that would create an additional Rhode Island personal income surtax on taxable income over \$1 million. The tax would help fund education, the rehabilitation of infrastructure and crucial programs that help the most vulnerable Rhode Islanders. [Click here to see op-ed.](#)
- **Senate leaders join call for state of emergency to address homelessness**
Senate leadership, including President Dominick J. Ruggerio (D-Dist. 4, North Providence, Providence) joined with many of their colleagues, including every Senate Democrat, in calling on Gov. Daniel McKee to declare a state of emergency to assist

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in addressing the state's homelessness crisis. Rep. Teresa A. Tanzi (D-Dist. 34, South Kingstown, Narragansett) and Sen. Tiara T. Mack (D-Dist. 6, Providence) circulated a similar petition among General Assembly members that they sent to the governor the previous week.

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

▪ **Bennett introduces bill to raise minimum wage**

Rep. David A. Bennett (D-Dist. 20, Warwick, Cranston) has introduced legislation ([2025-H 5029](#)) to increase Rhode Island's minimum wage from \$15 to \$20 over a five-year period.

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

▪ **Pearson reintroduces primary care rate review**

Sen. Ryan W. Pearson (D-Dist. 19, Cumberland, Lincoln) reintroduced legislation requiring the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner to conduct a full review of Medicaid rates for primary care services.

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

▪ **Cotter bill would cap electric and gas utilities' profits**

Rep. Megan L. Cotter (D-Dist. 39, Exeter, Richmond, Hopkinton) has introduced legislation ([2025-H 5018](#)) to put a limit in state law on the profit that can be reaped by utilities distributing electricity and natural gas in Rhode Island. The legislation is intended to prevent utilities from making hefty profits at the expense of everyday Rhode Islanders who struggle under rapidly rising utility bills.

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

▪ **Gu to chair new Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies Committee**

Sen. Victoria Gu (D-Dist. 38, Westerly, Charlestown, South Kingstown) will chair the newly created Senate Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies for the 2025-2026 legislative session. The committee will consider legislation and matters relating to emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, and their societal, ethical and policy implications.

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

▪ **House commissions review RIPEC housing report**

Three special House commissions met with leaders of the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council for presentations on a RIPEC report, "[Housing Policy in Rhode Island – Analyzing Recent Investments.](#)" The commissions are studying housing affordability; the Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; and all aspects of land use, preservation, development, housing, environment and regulation.

[Click here to see Housing Affordability/Land Use joint meeting release.](#)

[Click here to see Landlord and Tenant Act release.](#)

▪ **Legislators rally in support of equity impact rule change**

Legislators joined advocates to support legislation ([2025-H 5010](#)) introduced by Rep. David Morales (D-Dist. 7, Providence) to establish the use of equity impact statements in the Rhode Island General Assembly. Equity impact statements are tools, like fiscal notes, that use data to measure how legislation could affect historical imbalances and other disparities in Rhode Island law and society.

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-30-

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