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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>



- **General Assembly receives state budget proposal**

The FY 2023 state budget proposal ([2022-H 7123](#)) was unveiled by Gov. Daniel McKee and introduced by House Finance Committee Chairman Marvin L. Abney (D-Dist. 73, Newport, Middletown). The supplemental budget for FY 2022 ([2022-H 7122](#)) was also introduced by Chairman Abney. Both bills have been referred to the House Finance Committee where they will be analyzed and reviewed over the coming months.

- **Governor delivers State of the State address to General Assembly**

Governor Daniel McKee delivered the State of the State address on Jan. 18 in the House chamber. House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi (D-Dist. 23, Warwick), Senate President Dominick J. Ruggiero (D-Dist. 4, North Providence, Providence) and members of their legislative leadership teams attended the event. Governor McKee presented key policy proposals for the upcoming legislative session to help Rhode Island recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and several aspects of his proposed FY 2023 budget. House Minority Leader Blake A. Filippi (R-Dist. 36, New Shoreham, Charlestown, South Kingstown, Westerly) delivered the Republican response.

- **Redistricting Commission approves new district maps**

The Special Commission on Reapportionment approved new House, Senate and congressional district maps during its final meeting. Legislation enumerating the district boundaries will now be drafted and introduced in the House and Senate chambers. These bills will be assigned to committees and go through the same

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process as other bills.

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- **Kennedy bill seeks to curtail fraudulent online sales**
House Speaker Pro Tempore Brian Patrick Kennedy (D-Dist. 38, Hopkinton, Westerly) has introduced legislation ([2022-H 7013](#)) to curtail the growing threat of the online sale of counterfeit and stolen goods, which has become a \$509 billion criminal enterprise.
[Click here to see news release.](#)

- **McNamara bills address mental health challenges in education**
Rep. Joseph M. McNamara (D-Dist. 19, Warwick, Cranston) has introduced two bills that focus on the unique educational challenges that the pandemic has generated. The first ([2022-H 6648](#)) would direct that services provided by school social workers and certified school psychologists would be included as health care-related services eligible for federal Medicaid reimbursement. The second ([2022-H 7062](#)) would provide that in developing alternative-learning plans, consideration would be given to the unique difficulties and interruptions that many students are experiencing because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
[Click here to see news release.](#)

- **Commission studying CRMC takes public testimony**
The special House commission studying the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC), led by Rep. Deborah Ruggiero (D-Dist. 74, Jamestown, Middletown), collected public testimony on suggestions for improving the procedures or organization of the CRMC, the state's lead agency for reviewing developments in coastal areas.
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- **Sen. Calkin sponsors bills aimed at reducing PFAS exposure**
Sen. Jeanine Calkin (D-Dist. 30, Warwick) is sponsoring several bills aimed at protecting Rhode Islanders from the dangers of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The bills would require PFAS testing and removal in public water supplies, and prohibit PFAS from clothing, food packaging and carpeting sold or produced in Rhode Island. PFAS, which are linked to cancer and may cause adverse effects on the immune system and other tissues and organs, are found in hundreds of consumer products as well as firefighting foam and other applications.
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