

March 20, 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>



- **Senate Chamber dedicated to President Ruggerio**

The Senate welcomed the family of the late President of the Senate Dominick J. Ruggerio as the Senate Chamber was formally dedicated in his memory. The unveiling of the plaque designating the room as “The President Dominick J. Ruggerio Senate Chamber” was preceded by the adoption of a resolution ([2026-S 3124](#)) in Ruggerio’s honor.

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- **House OKs bill to ban denials of health claims caused by a third party**

The House has approved legislation ([2026-H 7002](#)) sponsored by Rep. Arthur Corvese (D-Dist. 55, North Providence) to protect patients by prohibiting insurers and health care providers from denying the payment of a medical bill solely because the bill may have arisen from a third party’s actions, such as another person who was driving under the influence. Existing law allows insurers to recover such funds from another party who is found responsible. The bill now goes to the Senate, where Sen. Stefano V. Famiglietti (D-Dist. 4, North Providence, Providence) is sponsoring its companion ([2026-S 3028](#)).

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- **House OKs Casimiro bill to require school districts to cooperate with the courts**

The House passed legislation ([2026-H 7036](#)) sponsored by Rep. Julie A. Casimiro (D-Dist. 31, North Kingstown, Exeter) that would require school districts to cooperate more with the courts regarding children in state care and their education. The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration, where Majority Whip David P. Tikoian (D-

More...

Dist. 22, Smithfield, North Providence, Lincoln) has introduced the legislation ([2026-S 2057](#)).

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- **Patalano, Solomon bill would give first responders quick access to schools**
Sen. Todd M. Patalano (D-Dist. 26, Cranston) and Rep. Joseph J. Solomon Jr. (D-Dist. 22, Warwick) have introduced legislation to give first responders quick access to public and private schools in an emergency. The legislation ([2026-S 2280](#), [2026-H 7897](#)) would require all schools and educational institutions to develop and implement a school safety plan that would provide for such access.
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- **Ciccone bill would ensure constitutional rights of Rhode Island residents**
Senate Majority Leader Frank A. Ciccone (D-Dist. 7, Providence, Johnston) has introduced two bills to ensure federal officers operating in Rhode Island comply with the rights and protections guaranteed by the United States Constitution. The first bill ([2026-S 2605](#)) would allow Rhode Island residents to file civil lawsuits in state court against federal officials who, while acting under federal authority, violate their constitutional rights, and it would restrict these officials' ability to invoke legal immunity. The second bill ([2026-S 3116](#)) reinforces that immigration enforcement is primarily a federal responsibility.
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Bills address connection between fossil fuel industry and rising insurance costs**
Representatives June S. Speakman (D-Dist. 68, Warren, Bristol), Terri Cortvriend (D-Dist. 72, Portsmouth, Middletown) and Jennifer Boylan (D-Dist. 66, Barrington, East Providence) have introduced a package of legislation to enable insurers and individuals to hold petroleum companies liable for property damage from climate-related disasters ([2026-H 7752](#)) they knowingly caused with their products, encourage insurers to pursue such claims ([2026-H 7340](#)), and require major insurers to cease profiting from underwriting and investing in companies that have contributed to climate change ([2026-H 8219](#)).
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- **Gu, Cortvriend introduce legislation to strengthen shoreline access**
Rep. Terri Cortvriend (D-Dist. 72, Portsmouth, Middletown) and Sen. Victoria Gu (D-Dist. 38, Westerly, Charlestown, South Kingstown) have introduced a trio of bills ([2026-H 7776](#), [2026-S 2704](#), [2026-H 8107](#), [2026-S 2135](#), [2026-H 8110](#), [2026-S 2734](#)) to protect Rhode Islanders' access to the shoreline.
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- **Bill would lower carbon emissions from state and municipal buildings, hospitals**
Rep. Jennifer Boylan (D-Dist. 66, Barrington, East Providence), Sen. Meghan E. Kallman (D-Dist. 15, Pawtucket, Providence) and Sen. Lori Urso (D-Dist. 8, Pawtucket) have introduced a pair of bills ([2026-H 7081](#), [2026-S 2529](#), [2026-H 7541](#), [2026-S 2569](#)) to ensure state and municipal buildings and major hospitals meet clean energy standards.
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- **Morales bill would limit facilities' charging rent to families after loved ones die**
The House Health and Human Services Committee heard testimony on legislation ([2026-H 7929](#)) introduced by Rep. David Morales (D-Dist. 7, Providence) that would prevent assisted living facilities from charging additional rent to families after a loved one's death. Sen. Jacob E. Bissaillon (D-Dist. 1, Providence) has introduced companion legislation ([2026-S 2566](#)) in the Senate.
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- **RIBLIA Caucus unveils immigration legislative priorities**
The Rhode Island Black, Latino, Indigenous, Asian-American and Pacific Islander (RIBLIA) Caucus announced its 2026 immigration legislative package at a press conference held at the State House. Sen. Tiara T. Mack (D-Dist. 6, Providence) and Rep. Karen Alzate (D-Dist. 60, Pawtucket, Central Falls) are the co-chairs of the caucus.
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