

May 23, 2025

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 approves Tikoian bill to require video monitoring on all new school buses**  
The Senate approved legislation ([2025-S 0568](#)) introduced by Senate Majority Whip David P. Tikoian (D-Dist. 22, Smithfield, Lincoln, North Providence) that would require all new school buses to be equipped with digital video systems that monitor school bus violations. The measure now moves to the House where similar legislation ([2025-H 5421](#)) has been introduced by Rep. Thomas E. Noret (D-Dist. 25, Coventry, West Warwick).  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **House OKs Stewart bill to add protective hairstyles to racial discrimination law**  
The House of Representatives passed legislation ([2025-H 5841](#)) introduced by Rep. Jennifer A. Stewart (D-Dist. 59, Pawtucket) that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of race by expanding the definition to include traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and protective hairstyles. The measure now moves to the Senate where similar legislation ([2025-S 0519](#)) has been introduced by Sen. Tiara T. Mack (D-Dist. 6, Providence).  
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- **House OKs Solomon bill to permit utilities to purchase clean nuclear power**  
The House of Representatives approved legislation ([2025-H 5575A](#)) introduced by Rep. Joseph J. Solomon Jr. (D-Dist. 22, Warwick) that would allow public utilities to purchase clean, safe nuclear power at a competitive cost from out-of-state facilities. The measure now moves to the Senate where similar legislation ([2025-S 0318](#)) has been introduced by Sen. David P. Tikoian (D-Dist. 22, Smithfield, Lincoln, North

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Providence).

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- **House OKs Spears ‘PURPLE alert’ bill for missing individuals with disabilities**  
The House approved legislation ([2025-H 6165A](#)) sponsored by Rep. Tina L. Spears (D-Dist. 36, Charlestown, New Shoreham, South Kingstown, Westerly) and drafted in collaboration with Rep. Christopher G. Paplauskas (R-Dist. 15, Cranston) to establish a “PURPLE alert” system to help quickly find missing adults with serious disabilities whose health and safety is at risk. The bill now goes to the Senate where Sen. Todd M. Patalano (D-Dist. 26, Cranston) has introduced similar legislation ([2025-S 0983](#)).  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **House OKs Noret legislation to require changing stations in new public buildings**  
The House of Representatives approved legislation ([2025-H 5611](#)) introduced by Rep. Thomas E. Noret (D-Dist. 25, Coventry, West Warwick) that would require an enclosed changing facility accessible to people of all ages and genders in new public buildings. The measure now moves to the Senate, which has already approved companion legislation ([2025-S 0387](#)) introduced by Sen. Peter A. Appollonio Jr. (D-Dist. 29, Warwick).  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Senate OKs DiMario bill to cover community health worker services**  
The Senate voted to approve legislation ([2025-S 0705](#)) from Sen. Alana M. DiMario (D-Dist. 36, Narragansett, North Kingstown, New Shoreham) to provide stable funding for community health workers by requiring private insurance to cover their services. The bill now heads to the House where Rep. Teresa A. Tanzi (D-Dist. 34, South Kingstown, Narragansett) has introduced companion legislation ([2025-H 6117](#)).  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **Senate OKs Lawson legislation on Medicare supplement consumer protections**  
The Senate approved legislation ([2025-S 0610A](#)) sponsored by Senate President Valarie J. Lawson (D-Dist. 14, East Providence) to establish several consumer protections related to Medicare supplemental insurance plans. The bill now goes to the House where Rep. Kathleen A. Fogarty (D-Dist. 35, South Kingstown) has submitted similar legislation ([2025-H 5494](#)).  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **House approves Hull bill requiring utility customer service facilities in state**  
The House passed legislation ([2025-H 6033A](#)) sponsored by Deputy Speaker Raymond A. Hull (D-Dist. 6, Providence, North Providence) that would require all public utilities to maintain a customer service facility within the state to perform services such as addressing customer inquiries and accepting bill payments. The legislation now heads to the Senate for consideration.  
[Click here to see news release.](#)
- **House passes Dawson Human Trafficking Prevention Notice and Training Act**

The House passed the Human Trafficking Prevention Notice and Training Act ([2025-H 5563](#)) sponsored by Rep. Matthew S. Dawson (D-Dist. 65, East Providence). The legislation would require hotel employees and short-term rental property operators to annually receive human trafficking awareness training. The bill now heads to the Senate where Sen. Andrew R. Dimitri (D-Dist. 25, Johnston) has introduced the legislation ([2025-S 0549](#)).

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▪ **Senate OKs Urso bill to mandate insurance coverage for infertility**

The Senate voted to approve legislation ([2025-S 0103](#)) from Sen. Lori Urso (D-Dist. 8, Pawtucket) that would mandate that insurance cover the expense of diagnosing and treating infertility for women who use preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) in conjunction with in vitro fertilization (IVF). The measure now moves to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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