



RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
Executive Department
**GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON
DISABILITIES**

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John J. MacDonald, Jr., Chairperson / Bob Cooper, Executive Secretary / Julie DeRosa, Editor

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Legislative Letter

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Status

Referred to Committee

Location **House Finance Committee, Steven M. Costantino, Chairperson**

Next Action on

Hearing Time and Room or Calendar #

09 H 5019 Article 23 RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS - SCHOOL NURSES

Introduced by Rep. Watson Requested by the Governor

Introduced on 1/7/2009 Last Action taken on 1/7/2009

Description This article amends section 16-21-7 to require the board of regents to develop policies, procedures, and regulations to ensure a healthful school environment section and maintains the requirement that schools have nurses while section 16-21-8 repeals the need for school nurses to be certified as teachers.

Votes: House

Senate

2nd House

2nd Senate

Public Law #

Effective Date

09 H 5019 Article 45 RELATING TO MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT

Introduced by Rep. Watson Requested by the Governor

Introduced on 1/7/2009 Last Action taken on 1/7/2009

Description This article makes a variety of changes to municipal pension plans both for plans administered by the state and plans administered by municipalities. Changes include a reduction in disability pensions for those not totally disabled, years of service and age limitation eligibility for both regular and public safety employees, increased employee contributions, and mandatory cost sharing for retiree health insurance.

Votes: House

Senate

2nd House

2nd Senate

Public Law #

Effective Date

09 H 5019 Article 46 RELATING TO POLICE OFFICERS ND FIREIGHTERS – INJURED ON DUTY

Introduced by Rep. Watson Requested by the Governor

Introduced on 1/7/2009 Last Action taken on 1/7/2009

Description This article limits injured on duty compensation to eighty percent of salary, wages and benefits for municipal police officers and firefighters as well as state quasi-public agency fire fighting and law enforcement officers

Votes: House	Senate	2nd House	2nd Senate
Public Law #			Effective Date

Location **House Health, Education, & Welfare Committee, Joseph McNamara, Chairperson**

Next Action on

Hearing Time and Room or Calendar #

09 H 5038 AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - CHILDREN'S PRODUCT SAFETY ACT

Introduced by Rep. Rice & Reps. Segal, Malk, Giannini, McNamara

Introduced on 1/8/2009 Last Action taken on 1/8/2009

Description This act would prohibit the manufacturing, sale or distribution of certain toys or child care articles containing bisphenol-A or certain phtalates; requiring a person to use the least toxic alternative and prohibiting a person from using certain carcinogens or certain reproductive toxicants in child care articles and/or toys.
This act would take effect upon passage.

Votes: House	Senate	2nd House	2nd Senate
Public Law #			Effective Date

Status **Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration**

Location **House Finance Committee, Steven M. Costantino, Chairperson**

Next Action on 1/15/2009

Hearing Time and Room or Calendar # @ 1 pm in rm 35

09 H 5019 Article 32 RELATING TO PENSION REFORM

Introduced by Rep. Watson Requested by the Governor

Introduced on 1/7/2009 Last Action taken on 1/7/2009

Description This article sets minimum retirement age of 59 for state employees and teachers, and eliminates cost of living adjustments for state employees, teachers, judges and state police who retire after April 1, 2009. It also modifies wage base for the pension benefit calculation for state police to be comparable to other state employees. It provides that public employees who receive a disability pension after April 1, 2009 in accordance with 36-10-14 will either receive 66 2/3% or 50% of their allowance depending on a finding by the retirement board of whether the individual is entirely disabled from further employment; This article also authorizes the transfers to the Employee Retirement System from State and Local governments be made from February 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009 at 25 percent of the rate that was determined by the actuary in June 2008.

Votes: House	Senate	2nd House	2nd Senate
Public Law #			Effective Date

Next Action on 1/16/2009

Hearing Time and Room or Calendar # @ 1 pm in rm 35

09 H 5019 Article 30 RELATING TO MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES

Introduced by Rep. Watson Requested by the Governor

Introduced on 1/7/2009 Last Action taken on 1/7/2009

Description This article amends sections 40-8.4-4, 40-8.4-12 and 42-12.3-4 in order to provide for a \$10,000 resource test for family or child receiving Rite Care. The article changes the law such that no family or child shall be eligible for medical assistance coverage if the combined value of the child's or the family's liquid resources exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). "Katie Beckett" children and pregnant woman are exempted. There are no other changes included. Please note that a similar budget article was introduced and passed in 2006, but was subsequently repealed based upon significant issues jeopardizing Title XXI and SCHIP funding. The Department is uncertain whether or not these issues still exist.

Votes: House	Senate	2nd House	2nd Senate
Public Law #			Effective Date

09 H 5019 Article 33 RELATING TO MEDICAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS

Introduced by Rep. Watson Requested by the Governor

Introduced on 1/7/2009 Last Action taken on 1/7/2009

Description This article amends sections 40-8-15 to provide for specific Notice of DHS liens to appropriate family members, and adds 40-8-15.1 and 40-8-15.2, certain provisions for lifetime liens and no recording fees to be paid by the Department of Human Services.

Votes: House	Senate	2nd House	2nd Senate
Public Law #			Effective Date

09 H 5019 Article 36 RELATING TO MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

Introduced by Rep. Watson Requested by the Governor

Introduced on 1/7/2009 Last Action taken on 1/7/2009

Description This article adds section 48-8--30 of the RIGL authorizing the Department of Human Services to seek waivers and /or state plan amendments permitting the state to alter the requirements of the Katie Beckett option to: (1) require families of children who receive services the to contribute to the cost of coverage based on the ability to pay; and (2) develop consumer directed care options.

Votes: House	Senate	2nd House	2nd Senate
Public Law #			Effective Date

09 H 5019 Article 37 RELATING TO NURSING FACILITIES

Introduced by Rep. Watson Requested by the Governor

Introduced on 1/7/2009 Last Action taken on 1/7/2009

Description This article amends sections 48-8-19 of the RIGL and would delay the next cost of living adjustment for nursing facilities from April 1, 2009 to July 1, 2009.

Votes: House	Senate	2nd House	2nd Senate
Public Law #			Effective Date

09 H 5019 Article 38 RELATING TO MEDICAL ASSISTANCE - OUT OF STATE HOSPITALS

Introduced by Rep. Watson Requested by the Governor

Introduced on 1/7/2009 Last Action taken on 1/7/2009

Description This article amends sections 48-8-13.1 of the RIGL and would reduce the reimbursement rates paid to out of state hospitals under the Medical Assistance Program.

Votes: House	Senate	2nd House	2nd Senate
Public Law #			Effective Date

09 H 5019 Article 39 RELATING TO HOSPITAL PAYMENTS

Introduced by Rep. Watson Requested by the Governor

Introduced on 1/7/2009 Last Action taken on 1/7/2009

Description This article repeals sections 48-8.3-5 Hospital payments, 40-8.3-6 Outpatient adjustment payments and 40-8.3-7 Inpatient adjustment payments of the RIGL and eliminates payments scheduled to be made to certain qualifying hospitals in SFY 2009. In effect, this article repeals Article 19, Section 2 of the FY 2009 Appropriations Act.

Votes: House	Senate	2nd House	2nd Senate
Public Law #			Effective Date

Next Action on 1/20/2009

Hearing Time and Room or Calendar # @ 1 pm in rm 35

09 H 5019 Article 12 RELATING TO GROSS PREMIUMS TAX ON HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANIES

Introduced by Rep. Watson Requested by the Governor

Introduced on 1/7/2009 Last Action taken on 1/7/2009

Description This article increases the tax on gross premiums on contracts of insurance written by Nonprofit Hospital Service Corporations, Nonprofit Medical Service Corporations, Nonprofit Dental Service Corporations, and Health Maintenance Organizations from one and three-quarters percent (1.75%) to two percent (2.0%).

Votes: House	Senate	2nd House	2nd Senate
Public Law #			Effective Date

Next Action on 1/21/2009

Hearing Time and Room or Calendar # @ 1 pm in rm 35

09 H 5019 Article 22 RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION OF PUPILS

Introduced by Rep. Watson Requested by the Governor

Introduced on 1/7/2009 Last Action taken on 1/7/2009

Description This article amends Sections 16-21-1, 16-21.1-7 and 16-21.1-8 to require that effective upon the implementation of the statewide system of transportation for special needs students and the eventual implementation the transportation system for all students, each school committee must utilize the statewide transportation system unless it fulfills its transportation obligations primarily through the use of district-owned buses and district employees in which case it may continue to do so. This article also adds Section 16-21.1-9 to provide that management and oversight of the statewide transportation system shall be the responsibility of the department of elementary and secondary education. Should the department of elementary and secondary education deem outsourcing of the management function to be more efficient, an outside consultant will be retained. Analysis of data under this proposal reveals that approximately \$3.5 - \$5.0M in savings will be achieved during the initial phase of this project and additional savings of \$8.0 - \$10.0M will accrue as this is applied statewide, both in-district and out-of-district.

Additionally, an amendment to Section 16-21-1 adds subsection © which requires districts entering into transportation contracts pending implementation of the statewide transportation system to ensure that such contracts permit eventual participation in the statewide transportation system without penalty to the district. This article will allow districts to achieve cost savings through shared transportation services.

Note that if this Article and Article 18 are both enacted, then Section B of this Article needs to be repealed

Votes: House	Senate	2nd House	2nd Senate
Public Law #			Effective Date

Next Action on 1/22/2009

Hearing Time and Room or Calendar # @ 1 pm in rm 35

09 H 5019 Article 02 RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL AUTHORITY

Introduced by Rep. Watson Requested by the Governor

Introduced on 1/7/2009 Last Action taken on 1/7/2009

Description This article provides the Governor with the authority needed to manage through the economic crisis. It includes four discrete items, restoring the Governor's power to reduce or suspend appropriations for the purpose of maintaining a balance budget; authorizing the Governor to make recommendation on the legislative and judicial budgets; authorizing inter-fund borrowings to the General Fund beyond the close of the fiscal year; authorizing inter-fund transfers to the Employment Security Fund during FY 2009 and FY 2010, and providing for emergency rules and regulations in order to achieve budgetary savings in FY 2009 or FY 2010.

Votes: House	Senate	2nd House	2nd Senate
Public Law #			Effective Date

Location House Veterans Affairs Committee, Kenneth Carter, Chairperson

Next Action on 1/26/2009

Hearing Time and Room or Calendar # @12:30 Rm 35

Special Hearing1 Study Potential Administrative and Functional Improvements at the Rhode Island Veterans' Home

Introduced by

Introduced on Last Action taken on 1/1/2009

Description Final Report of Special House Commission of Study Potential Administrative and Functional Improvements at the Rhode Island Veterans' Home

Votes: House	Senate	2nd House	2nd Senate
Public Law #			Effective Date

For daily updates on the status of bills, committee hearings, etc. call the General Assembly's Legislative Hot-Line at 401-751-8833 (v), 401-222-2466 (tty) or Computer Bulletin Board at 401-222-2910. Additionally, visit their website at <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us> (which provides links to the complete texts of all bills).

Notices of meetings of the Commission's Legislation Committee, minutes of prior meetings, and copies of the Commission's Legislative Package are available on our website at <http://www.disabilities.ri.gov>. The Legislative Letter is a weekly listing of bills filed in the RI General Assembly, committee hearings, and actions by the House and Senate relevant to people with disabilities and disabilities issues. It is available by subscription for \$20 annually. For an additional \$5 annually, the Legislative Letter will be delivered along with all Commission Reports. Both are available in standard print, large print, audiocassette, computer diskette, Braille. E-mail versions are available at no charge.

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