



Description of graphic: RI State Seal an anchor in gold behind a blue wheelchair logo. Just below is a blue banner with the state motto "Hope". All are in the center of a ring of 8 blue stars, in groups of 2 separated by the logos for Braille, hearing aids, low vision and amplified phone.

# Governor's Commission on Disabilities Legislation Committee

**Monday July 9, 2012 3-4:30 PM**

John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court,  
Cranston, RI 02920-3049

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 meeting graphic	<p><b>Attendees:</b> Linda Ward (Chair.); Heather Daglieri; Julie DeRosa; Linda Deschenes; Timothy Flynn; Kathleen Heren; &amp; Meredith Sheehan</p> <p><b>Absentees:</b> William R. Inlow (Vice Chair.); Sharon Brinkworth; Rosemary C. Carmody; Joseph Cirillo; Sarah Everhart Skeels; Elaina Goldstein; Roger Harris; Kate McCarthy-Barnett; Paula Parker; Arthur M. Plitt; Msgr. Gerard O. Sabourin; Angelina Stabile; &amp; Dawn Wardyga</p>
<b>Staff:</b>	Bob Cooper, Executive Secretary; Alyssa Sarault, Public Education Aide; & James Lincoln, Mary Brennan Public Policy Fellow

	Agenda Topics	Moderator/Leader	Time
 Clock graphic	<p><b>Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes</b></p> <p>Chair calls the meeting to order at 3:06 PM Introductions of Commissioners and guests</p>	Linda Ward, Chairperson	3:00
<p><b>MOTION:</b> To accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented/ JD/KH passed unanimously</p>			

 law graphic	<p><b>Commission's Legislative Package: End of the General Assembly Session Status</b></p>	<p><b>Bob Cooper, Executive Secretary</b></p>	<p><b>3:05</b></p>
<p>Purpose/Goal: To brief the Committee on the disposition of the Commission's Legislative Package</p>			

## Commission Supported or Recommended the Governor Sign into Law 15 Acts 6 Signed by the Governor

<u>Public Law 2012</u>			
12 S 2446 Sub A	AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES	Requested by the Governor's Commission on Disabilities	
Sen. Gallo		Testimony requested	Testified on:
House letter send on: 4 /4 /2012		Testified:	
Senate letter send on: 2 /16/2012		Testimony requested	Testified on: 3 /7 /2012
		Testified:	Bob Cooper
12 H 7739 Sub A as	AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES		
Rep. McNamara		Requested by the Governor's Commission on Disabilities	
House letter send on: 2 /21/2012		Testimony requested	Testified on: 4 /11/2012
Senate letter send on:		Testified:	Bob Cooper
		Testimony requested	Testified on:
		Testified:	

These acts would update some of the departments referenced in the original statute, as well as require one representative of service providers to adults with developmental disabilities and one representative of community-based providers of adult behavioral healthcare services, appointed by the director of BHDDH, to be present on the interagency transition council. Also, transition planning would be started by age 14, or younger if the individualized education plan (IEP) team deems it appropriate. This act shall take effect upon passage.

**From:** Open Meetings Admin <openMeetings@sos.ri.gov>  
**To:** openMeetings@sos.ri.gov; bcooper@gcd.ri.gov  
**Date:** 7/10/2012 3:54 PM  
**Subject:** SOS Open Meetings : Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2012

This is your electronic confirmation for the electronic filing of meeting minutes for the Disabilities - Legislation Committee, Governor's Commission on. The meeting minutes filed are in for the meeting held on: July 09, 2012 15:00:00.

This notice was electronically filed on the Secretary of State Open Meetings Website on: July 10, 2012 03:54:02 pm.

Please retain this message as your official proof of electronic filing.

Sincerely,

The Open Meetings Team at  
Office of Secretary of State A. Ralph Mollis  
State House Room 38  
Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 222-2357  
(401) 222-1404  
TTY: 711  
openmeetings@sos.ri.gov  
sos.ri.gov

Agenda Topics	Moderator/Leader	Time
<p>The Substitute deletes after the words "Department for Children, Youth, and Families" the words "Mental Health</p>		
<p>Services"- instead a representative will be from the Department for Children, Youth, and Families.</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: The Governor's Commission on Disabilities drafted this bill to improve the transition of students with disabilities from high school to adult services, college, or job training. To often support services abruptly end at graduation, leaving the young adult and family floundering for months, and ground gained through the education system is lost before the young adult connects up with the appropriate adult support systems.</i></p>		
<p><u>12 S 2605 As Amended AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS - SMALL DISABILITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES</u></p>		
<p>Sen. Gallo Requested by the Governor's Commission on Disabilities</p>		
<p>House letter send on: 4 /5 /2012 Testimony requested Testified on: Testified:</p>		
<p>Senate letter send on: 3 /5 /2012 Testimony requested Testified on: 3 /27/2012 Testified: Bob Cooper</p>		
<p><u>12 H 7628 As Amended AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS - SMALL DISABILITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES</u></p>		
<p>Rep. Walsh Requested by the Governor's Commission on Disabilities</p>		
<p>House letter send on: 2 /21/2012 Testimony requested Testified on: 2 /29/2012 Testified: Bob Cooper</p>		
<p>Senate letter send on: Testimony requested Testified on: Testified:</p>		
<p>These acts would clarify the definition of a small business for the purposes of "Disability Business Enterprises" to solely be a business owned and controlled by persons with disabilities. It also would amend regulations to regulation formulas for awarding contracts to businesses under this definition, on or before January 1, 2013. Also it would reduce the size of the committee from 9 members to 7.</p>		
<p>This act would take effect upon passage.</p>		
<p>The Floor Amendment deletes the definition of; "'Services' shall mean any services provided by persons with</p>		
<p>disabilities if not less than sixty percent (60%) of the work hours or direct labor required for the services are performed by persons with disabilities."</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: The Governor's Commission on Disabilities drafted this bill to refocusing the Disability Business Enterprise Program on assisting small businesses owned and controlled by person(s) with disabilities. People with disabilities want to work. Some of the responsibility of the Disability Business Enterprise program, is being shifted to the newly enacted Habilitation Procurement Program (RIPL 2011 Chapters 244 &amp; 261). This act would eliminate the duplication and allow the program to concentrate all its efforts on assistance entrepreneurs with disabilities.</i></p>		
<p><u>12 S 2730 Sub A AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- ASSAULTS</u></p>		
<p>Sen. McCaffrey Requested by the Governor's Commission on Disabilities</p>		
<p>House letter send on: 5 /14/2012 Testimony requested Testified on: Testified:</p>		
<p>Senate letter send on: 3 /8 /2012 Testimony requested Testified on: 3 /29/2012 Testified: Bob Cooper</p>		
<p><u>12 H 7839 Sub A as AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- ASSAULTS</u></p>		
<p>Rep. Naughton Requested by the Governor's Commission on Disabilities</p>		
<p>House letter send on: 3 /8 /2012 Testimony requested Testified on: 5 /15/2012 Testified: Bob Cooper</p>		
<p>Senate letter send on: Testimony requested Testified on: Testified:</p>		
<p>These acts would replace references to the department of mental health, retardation, and hospitals with the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals in the criminal assault and abuse laws protecting adults with severe impairments. The act would also require a statewide toll free, twenty-four (24) hour a day, seven (7) day a week telephone line, to report abuse, neglect, and exploitation and/or request crisis intervention and/or supportive services for adult victim with severe impairments. The act would clarify the right of an adult victim with severe impairments of an assault, to refuse crisis intervention and/or supportive services.</p>		
<p>This act would take effect on July 1, 2012.</p>		
<p>The Floor Amendment makes 2 changes: 1) retains "may" instead of "shall" with regards to police departments contacting the crisis intervention hotline, and 2) replaces "provide" with "recognize ... quality assurance hotline operated by the department of behavioral healthcare developmental disabilities and hospitals," the 24 hour crisis intervention hotline.</p>		
<p>The Substitute deletes in 10 places the duplication of the words "and hospitals".</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: The Commission drafted this bill. The 2009 Budget Act, RIPL 2009 Chapter 068 Article 05 Section 01, mandated the coordination of client protective services provided to adults with developmental and other disabilities in the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. This act implements that mandate by creating a single emergency hot line for reporting abuse, assaults, etc.; and establishing an immediate crisis intervention services at the Executive Office. It leaves in place the longer-term elderly protective services at DEA and adults with developmental and other disabilities at MHRH/BHDDH.</i></p>		

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<p><i>The adult crisis intervention center would coordinate crisis intervention services for dependant adults during the immediate hours and days following: (i) the arrest or removal of the caregiver of a dependant adult who is the alleged victim of abuse, neglect or exploitation by that caregiver; or (ii) the unplanned absence of the caregiver of a dependant adult, due to accident, illness, or death of that caregiver; and (iii) crisis intervention services are necessary to ensure the immediate health and safety of the dependant adult.</i></p>		
<p><b>1 Referred to Committee (never had a hearing)</b></p>		
<p><u>Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee</u></p>		
12 S 2443	<p><u>AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PESTICIDE CONTROL</u></p>	
Sen. Jabour	Requested by the Governor's Commission on Disabilities	Identical to
House letter send on:	Testimony requested	Testified:
Senate letter send on: 2 /21/2012	Testimony requested	Testified:
<p>This act would establish a neighborhood pesticide notification registry for occupants of a dwelling who want prior notification of any commercial lawn application of a pesticide. The act would require at least forty-eight (48) hours notice prior to any commercial lawn application of a pesticide.</p>		
<p>This act would take effect on January 1, 2013.</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: The Governor's Commission on Disabilities drafted this bill to protect the health of people with multiple chemical sensitivity, pulmonary, asthma and other breathing disorders. It is modeled after laws in New York that simply required notification prior to chemical pesticide lawn treatments of people who register with the Department of Environmental Management 48 hours prior to applying chemical pesticides in the immediate neighborhood of a registrant.</i></p>		
<p><b>7 Held for Further Study, Continued, or Heard</b></p>		
<p><u>House Corporations Committee</u></p>		
12 H 7573	<p><u>AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE - PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS</u></p>	
Rep. Keable	Similar to S 2360, S 2428,	
House letter send on: 2 /21/2012	Testimony requested	Testified: Christine
Rancourt-Bruzzi		
Senate letter send on:	Testimony requested	Testified:
<p>This act would prohibit insurers from requiring a patient to pay more than 500% of the lowest co-pay available for tier IV, tier V or specialty medications. Furthermore, these expenses shall either be counted towards a total out-of-pocket limit for benefits or shall not exceed \$1,000 for an individual and \$2000 for a family per year. This provision does not apply to limited benefit plans.</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: Life sustaining medications that are unaffordable are of no use to people with severe impairments. With affordable medicines they can remain productive members of their community. Without the medicine they will end up needing government financial support and healthcare services.</i></p>		
<p><u>House Finance Committee</u></p>		
12 H 7237	<p><u>AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND HOUSING RESOURCES ACT OF 1998</u></p>	
Rep. Ucci		
House letter send on: 2 /14/2012	Testimony requested	Testified: Bob Cooper
Senate letter send on:	Testimony requested	Testified:
12 H 7265	<p><u>AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND HOUSING RESOURCES ACT OF 1998</u></p>	
Rep. Slater		
House letter send on: 2 /14/2012	Testimony requested	Testified: Bob Cooper
Senate letter send on:	Testimony requested	Testified:
<p>These acts would appropriate out of a dedicated funding stream of money in the treasury appropriated for the fiscal year 2012-2013, the sum of \$12.5 million dollars for the purpose of establishing the neighborhood opportunities program to address the housing and revitalization needs of the state's deteriorating neighborhoods.</p>		
<p>This act would also authorize at the general election to be held on Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, 2012 to be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection the proposition of whether by action of the general assembly which would authorize the issuance of bonds refunding bonds and temporary notes in the amount of \$75,000,000 million dollars to provide funds to the housing resources commission.</p>		
<p>Section 1, Section 2 and Section 4 would take effect upon passage. Section 3 of this act would take effect upon the approval of this act by a majority of those voting on the question at the election presented by the foregoing section..</p>		
<p>This act would take effect upon passage.</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: A permanent supportive housing program, would create additional housing for individuals with</i></p>		

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<p><i>disabilities and the services needed for those individuals to remain in the community. This act would add to the assistive living options currently available. It would provide services and case management to stabilize homeless individuals in permanent housing at affordable rents for persons receiving Supplemental Security Income. It is a much lower cost option to repeated hospitalization.</i></p>		
<p>12 H 7581 AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC TRANSIT INVESTMENT</p>		
<p>Rep. O'Grady  House letter send on: 3 /5 /2012      Testimony requested Testified on: 5 /9 /2012      Testified: Bob Cooper  Senate letter send on:                      Testimony requested Testified on:                      Testified:  This act would include public transit in the Rhode Island highway maintenance fund and accelerate the surcharges that support the fund. The funds received would be apportioned as follows 65% for highway maintenance and 35% for RIPTA (including RIde paratransit).  This act would take effect on July 1, 2012.</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: A more stable funding mechanism is needed to ensure a save statewide transportation system that serves all Rhode Islanders. A great many persons with disabilities are dependent on public transit buses and paratransit vans to get to work, job training, health care, shopping, and being involved in their community. The imposition of a transportation fund surcharge for the maintenance of RIPTA &amp; RIde paratransit services would provide a more stable funding source for services that a vital to every day living for many people with disabilities and seniors.</i></p>		
<p>House Health, Education, &amp; Welfare Committee</p>		
<p>12 H 7650 AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES - MEDICAL ASSISTANCE</p>		
<p>Rep. Corvese                      Requested by the Governor's Commission on Disabilities  House letter send on: 2 /21/2012      Testimony requested Testified on: 3 /14/2012      Testified: Bob Cooper  Senate letter send on:                      Testimony requested Testified on:                      Testified:  This act would prohibit Medicaid from requiring the failure of a generic, alternate or over the counter prescription drug prior to authorizing the use of a brand name medication. They will be allowed to require the use of a therapeutically equivalent drug before authorizing a brand name drug, unless the prescriber indicates that brand name is necessary.  This act would take effect July 1, 2012.</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: The Governor's Commission on Disabilities drafted this bill to restore the right to medically necessary brand name drugs without requiring two generic failures before allowing brand name drugs. For certain medical conditions, requiring the use of generics first can cause a deterioration of the patient's health and jeopardize the patient's ability to remain in the community, especially in the area of psychotropic medicines.</i></p>		
<p>12 H 7928 AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES - SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS</p>		
<p>Rep. Palumbo                      Requested by the Governor's Commission on Disabilities  House letter send on: 3 /8 /2012      Testimony requested Testified on: 4 /11/2012      Testified: Bob Cooper, Jessica  Senate letter send on:                      Testimony requested Testified on:                      Testified:  This act would provide for a change in the definition of developmentally disabled adults to include adults with autism spectrum disorder.  This act would take effect on July 1, 2012.</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: The Commission drafted this bill to ensure young adults with autism spectrum disorders receive the necessary independent living support services to remain productive members of the community, following graduation from high school.</i></p>		
<p>House Labor Committee</p>		
<p>12 H 7616 AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - RE-EMPLOYMENT OF WORKERS WHO BECOME DISABLED</p>		
<p>Rep. Ehrhardt                      Requested by the Governor's Commission on Disabilities  House letter send on: 2 /21/2012      Testimony requested Testified on: 3 /1 /2012      Testified: Tim Flynn, Judi Drew,  Senate letter send on:                      Testimony requested Testified on:                      Testified:  This act would specify that a government employee must be unable to carry out their job duties with or without reasonable accommodation to be transferred or asked to retire. The employee can ask to be placed on a "reemployment list" which will be the primary means used to fill vacancies that are comparable to the position they originally held. It also would amend the definition of an employee to include active service an on leave of absence due to injury.  This act would take effect January 1, 2013</p>		

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<p><i>GCD Reason: The Governor's Commission on Disabilities, drafted this bill to refocus state and municipal disability pension systems into reemployment systems. People with disabilities, want to work. The Commission has received a number of complaints from state &amp; municipal workers who acquired a disability while working, asked to return to work with minor accommodations or to fill another vacant (and often lower paid) position that they were qualified and capable of doing, and were instead steered to the disability pension system.</i></p>		
<p align="center"><b>1 Postponed by sponsor</b></p>		
<p><u>House Environmental and Natural Resources</u></p>		
<p>12 H 7802 Rep. Handy House letter send on: 3 /5 /2012 Senate letter send on:</p>	<p><u>AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PESTICIDE CONTROL</u> Requested by the Governor's Commission on Disabilities Testimony requested Testimony requested</p>	<p>Identical to Testified on: 3 /12/2012 Testified: Bob Cooper Testified:</p>
<p>This act would establish a registry for those wishing to have advance notice of pesticide application to a lawn in their neighborhood. At least 48 hours before the application is to take place, the person or business applying the pesticide must notify, in writing, occupants of abutting properties within 150', as well as the owner, their agents and others in a position of authority for the premises. This will not apply to anti-microbial pesticides, or aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 oz or less, being used to protect individuals from imminent threat of stinging or biting insects. In an emergency application, the person applying the pesticide should make a good faith effort to make notification. This act would take effect January 1, 2013</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: The Governor's Commission on Disabilities drafted this bill to protect the health of people with multiple chemical sensitivity, pulmonary, asthma and other breathing disorders. It is modeled after laws in New York that simply required notification prior to chemical pesticide lawn treatments of people who register with the Department of Environmental Management 48 hours prior to applying chemical pesticides in the immediate neighborhood of a registrant.</i></p>		
<p align="center"><b>Commission Supports if amended 2 Budget Articles 1 Signed by the Governor (not amended)</b></p>		
<p><u>Public Law 2012</u></p>		
<p>12 H7323 Article 05 Sub A Rep. Melo House letter send on: 2 /14/2012 Senate letter send on:</p>	<p><u>AN ARTICLE RELATING TO CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM</u> Requested by the Governor Testimony requested Testimony requested</p>	<p>Testified on: 3 /20/2012 Testified: Bob Cooper Testified: Bob Cooper</p>
<p>This article authorized placing questions on the ballot on November 6, 2012, to the people for their approval or rejection the following propositions: (1) Higher Education Facilities \$109,900,000; of which \$65,200,000 is for the construction of a new University of Rhode Island/Rhode Island College nursing education building and \$44,700,000 is for renovations and modernization of academic buildings at Rhode Island College. (2) Transportation \$21,500,000; of which \$20,000,000 to match federal funds for improvements to the state's highways, roads, and bridges and \$1,500,000 to purchase buses and other vehicles for the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority. (3) Clean Water Finance Agency \$20,000,000; of which \$12,000,000 for financing wastewater infrastructure projects and \$8,000,000 for finance drinking water infrastructure projects. (4) Environmental Management \$25,000,000 of which: (a) Narragansett Bay and Watershed Restoration \$4,000,000; (b) State Land Acquisition - Open Space \$2,500,000; (c) Farmland Development Rights \$4,500,000; (d) Local Land Acquisition Grants \$2,500,000; (e) Local Recreation Grants \$3,500,000; (f) Historic/Passive Parks \$1,000,000; (g) Local Recreation - Distressed Communities \$2,000,000; and (h) State Recreation Facilities \$5,000,000. (5) Affordable Housing \$25,000,000 Approval of this question will allow the State of Rhode Island to issue general bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) for affordable housing.</p>		
<p>The Substitute authorized placing questions on the ballot on November 6, 2012, to the people for their approval or rejection the following propositions: (1) Higher Education Facilities: \$50,000,000 for renovations and modernization of academic buildings at Rhode Island College. (2) Veterans' Home \$94,000,000 for the construction of a new Veterans' Home and renovations to existing facilities. (3) Clean Water Finance Agency \$20,000,000; of which \$12,000,000 for financing wastewater</p>		

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infrastructure projects and \$8,000,000 for finance drinking water infrastructure projects.  
 (4) Environmental Management \$20,000,000 of which: (a) Narragansett Bay and Watershed Restoration \$4,000,000; (b) State Land Acquisition - Open Space \$2,500,000; (c) Farmland Development Rights \$4,500,000; (d) Local Land Acquisition Grants \$2,500,000; (e) Local Recreation Grants \$5,500,000; (f) Historic/Passive Parks \$1,000,000; and  
 (5) Affordable Housing \$25,000,000 Approval of this question will allow the State of Rhode Island to issue general obligation bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) for affordable housing.

*GCD Reason: The Commission recommends the General Assembly add to the Bond Referendums in Article 5 accessibility renovation projects at:  
 Section 1 Rhode Island College \$2,720,000 and University of Rhode Island \$8,800,000;  
 Section 2 Department of Transportation \$650,000;  
 Section 4 subsection (h) State Recreation Facilities \$870,000 and adding a subsection (i) state owned facilities, Department of Administration \$13,800,000.  
 The Commission also supports Section 5 Affordable Housing - \$25 million, which should be designated for the Neighborhood Opportunities Program.*

**1 Withdrawn by sponsor**

House Finance Committee

12 H 7323 Article 19 AN ARTICLE RELATING TO RHODE ISLAND VETERANS' HOME

Rep. Melo Requested by the Governor

House letter send on: 2 /14/2012 Testimony requested Testified on: 3 /20/2012 Testified: Roger Harris

Senate letter send on: Testimony requested Testified on: 2 /29/2012 Testified: Bob Cooper

This article would require the Governor and General Assembly to carefully consideration the results from the Special House Commission to Undertake a Comprehensive Study of the R.I. Veterans' Home in Bristol and Develop a Master plan for the Overall Future Direction of the Facility's proposal to construct a new Veterans' Home and associated assisted living residence on the property at Bristol, and to reach a final decision as to the proposed bond issue no later than June 30, 2012.

Governor's Budget Amendment 13: **In Article 5, adds to the November 2012 ballot question to fund a new long term care facility for the RI Veterans' Home.** The new question would authorize the issuance of \$49.5 million of general obligation bonds to design and construct a modern long-term care facility on the campus of the Rhode Island Veterans' Home in Bristol. The new facility would replace the building that currently houses the Rhode Island Veterans' Home, which is antiquated and inefficient.

As a result of this addition to the ballot, the Governor also recommends that Article 19 Relating to the Rhode Island Veterans Home be withdrawn from the appropriations act.

*GCD Reason: The Commission supports the need to replace the Veterans' Home facilities and to create an assisted living facility, but believe it should be more centrally located; with greater access to public transportation, an the current location in Bristol. With an increasing population of elders, including family of the veterans residing (or who will reside in the future) at the Veterans' Home, the facility needs better access to both public transit and Rhode's para-transit services. RIPTA (Route 60) is limited in 7 AM and 5 PM week days with no week end service. The Rhode service limited to an hour before and after RIPTA service (6 - 8 AM and 4 - 6 PM) weekdays.*

**Commission Opposes and/or Recommends the Governor Veto**

**5 Budget Articles and Acts**

4 Signed by the Governor

Public Law 2012

12 H 7323 Article 18 Sub A AN ARTICLE RELATING TO OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. Melo Requested by the Governor

House letter send on: 2 /14/2012 Testimony requested Testified on: 2 /28/2012 Testified: Bob Cooper

Senate letter send on: Testimony requested Testified on: 2 /7 /2012 Testified: Bob Cooper

This article would remove references for the Department of Elderly Affairs and replaces references to the Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals with the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities And Hospitals in the law establishing the office.

It shifts the administration of Medicaid to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and the management and operations of programs or services approved for federal financial participation under the authority of the Medicaid state agency.

It also requires the Secretary to review and ensure the coordination of any Global Consumer Choice Compact Waiver requests and renewals as well as any initiatives and proposals requiring amendments to the Medicaid

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<p>state plan or category II or III changes, as described in the special terms and conditions of the Global Consumer Choice Compact Waiver with the potential to affect the scope, amount or duration of publicly-funded health care services, provider payments or reimbursements, or access to or the availability of benefits and services as provided by Rhode Island general and public laws.</p> <p>The Substitute transfers the HIV/AIDS care and treatment programs from the Department of Human Services to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, while retaining within the Department of Health all functions and resources associated with the HIV surveillance and prevention programs. It also updates the "Medical Assistance and Public Assistance Caseload Estimating Conferences" by deleting references to the Department of Human Services reporting on the temporary assistance to needy families, SSI federal program, state food stamps, and weatherization and replacing those with "RI Works". The Executive Office of Health and Human Services will be responsible for reporting on medical assistance (Medicaid) programs, including hospitals, long-term care, managed care, pharmacy, and other medical services.</p> <p>The Supplemental cash assistance payments for disabled and elderly individuals residing in assisted living facilities will be increased by \$206/month, for individuals who are not eligible to receive federal SSI benefits.</p> <p><i>GCD Reason: The shifting of the administration, management and operations of Medicaid to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services.</i></p> <p><i>The Executive Office of Health and Human Services was created to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(1) Improve the economy, efficiency, coordination, and quality of health and human services policy and planning, budgeting and financing;</i></li> <li><i>(2) Design strategies and implement best practices that foster service access, consumer safety and positive outcomes;</i></li> <li><i>(3) Maximize and leverage funds from all available public and private sources, including federal financial participation, grants and awards;</i></li> <li><i>(4) Increase public confidence by conducting independent reviews of health and human services issues in order to promote accountability and coordination across departments; and</i></li> <li><i>(5) Ensure that state health and human services policies and programs are responsive to changing consumer needs and to the network of community providers that deliver assistive services and supports on their behalf.</i></li> </ol> <p><i>Shifting the administration, management and operations of Medicaid to EOHHS creates an internal conflicts of interest. EOHHS would no longer be the "honest broker", ensuring proper resource allocation within the 4 health and human service departments, since it would now be competing with the departments to fund direct operations.</i></p> <p><i>The shift also creates another silo, by separating health care from the rest of the human service safety net of human service programs; SNAP (food stamps); RI Works; child care; child support enforcement; Supplemental Security Income; General Public Assistance; and elder services. Rather than creating more silos the Commission recommends adopting an individual and family-centered multi-disciplinary team approach. As an example, the state in the immediate aftermath of the Station Fire created a temporary one stop individual and family-centered entry system that was effective, efficient and caring. We should recreate that approach inclusive of all services to all Rhode Islanders including those with disabilities. Please review the attached report "Promoting Independence and Employment First".</i></p> <p><u>12 H7323 Article 19 (Formerly 31) Sub A as Amended AN ARTICLE RELATING TO MEDICAID REFORM ACT OF 2008</u></p> <p>Rep. Melo Requested by the Governor</p> <p>House letter send on: 2 /14/2012 Testimony requested Testified on: 2 /28/2012 Testified: Bob Cooper</p> <p>Senate letter send on: Testimony requested Testified on: 2 /7 /2012 Testified: Bob Cooper</p> <p>This article requests general assembly approval of the following proposals to amend the demonstration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Elimination of Adult Dental Services. The Medicaid agency proposes to eliminate the optional dental benefit coverage for Medicaid beneficiaries aged twenty-one (21) and older. Emergency and palliative services dental services would be retained when deemed medically necessary.</li> <li>(b) Nursing Home Rate Reduction. The Medicaid agency proposes, at its discretion, to reduce nursing home per-diem reimbursement rates that would otherwise be in effect for FY 2012 and FY 2013, however, the decrease would be no greater than 1.8 percent. It clarify that the reduction taken in FY 2010 impacted the base rate assumed for the facilities. The FY 2012 enacted budget assumed this reduction, but without this legislation it appears approximately \$5.9 million from all sources would be required in both years.</li> <li>(c) Medicaid Managed Care Plan Refinements - New Components. The Medicaid single state agency proposes to reduce hospital readmissions, promote better health and nutrition and encourage non-invasive approaches to address obesity by incorporating a nutritional education and exercise component into the benefit package offered to certain Medicaid beneficiaries.</li> </ol> <p>This article shall take effect upon passage.</p>		

Agenda Topics	Moderator/Leader	Time
<p>The Substitute restores the (a) Adult Dental Services, and (b) Nursing Home Rates, The Substitute authorizes the implementation of (c) Medicaid Managed Care Plan Refinements, and adds Medicaid Rate Change - Durable Medical Equipment, and the Medicaid Requirements and Opportunities under the US Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.</p>		
<p>The Floor Amendment requires "The executive office of health and human services shall provide a report to the chairpersons of the house and senate finance committees by January 1, 2013 that analyzes and evaluates the current dental benefits program for Medicaid eligible individuals and includes the number of recipients, types of services provided, reimbursement rates and the settings. The report shall also examine the opportunities for improved quality, access and value of potential partnerships with private entities and shall propose a five (5) year plan for dental services for Medicaid-eligible adults."</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: The Commission opposes the elimination of adult dental services, for the reasons cited in our testimony on Article 17.</i></p>		
<p><i>Our concern with the nursing home rate reductions as proposed is how do we maintain quality care; good preventative care; and individualized care to each resident. All nursing home residents are not alike. One-size will not fit all. A 3.6% rate reduction on top of the change in the methodology of nursing home reimbursement, will have a negative impact of services, as we are seeing with the changes brought about by the reimbursement of services to adults with developmental disabilities.</i></p>		
<p><i>Regarding the Medicaid Managed Care Plan Refinements - New Components; the Commission supports the goal of reducing hospital readmissions by promoting better health and nutrition and encourage non-invasive approaches to address obesity by incorporating a nutritional education and exercise component into the benefit package. Will the nutritional and exercise components be mandatory? How can we eliminate oral health care at the same time we are promoting better life style choices.</i></p>		
<p><u>12 S 2652 Sub A as Amended AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC RECORDS - ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS</u></p>		
Sen. Sheehan	Requested by the Attorney General	Identical to H 7838 & Sim
House letter send on:	Testimony requested	Testified on:
Senate letter send on: 3 /13/2012	Testimony requested	Testified:
<p><u>12 H 7555 Sub A as AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC RECORDS - ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS</u></p>		
Rep. Marcello		Similar to H 7838 &
House letter send on: 3 /13/2012	Testimony requested	Testified on: 4 /3 /2012
Senate letter send on:	Testimony requested	Testified: Bob Cooper
<p>These acts would make various amendments to the access to public records act, including: making public all records which are identifiable to an individual applicant for benefits, client, patient, student, or employee, including, but not limited to, personnel, medical treatment, welfare, employment security, pupil records, all records relating to a client/attorney relationship and to a doctor/patient relationship, including and all personal or medical information relating to an individual in any files, including information relating to medical or psychological facts, personal finances, welfare, employment security, student performance, or information in personnel files unless individually-identifiable records, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.</p>		
<p>This act would take effect on September 1, 2012.</p>		
<p>The Substitute adds a timeline for processing public records requests - 10 business days with an additional 20 business days if the custodian of records asserts in writing that the delay is due to the voluminous nature of the request. It also requires the release of records of the arrest of an adult within 3 days the date of the arrest, for arrests made within 5 days of the request.</p>		
<p>The Floor Amendment deletes "(5) 'Records or reports reflecting the initial arrest' means the initial face sheet of the law enforcement department's report pertaining to the arrest of an adult together with the written statement recounting the arrest, as prepared by the arresting officer."</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: Repealing the existing exemption from public inspection of records that identify individual patients, school students, or clients will devastate health, human services and education and will have a direct impact on people with disabilities and public and private agencies.. Confidentiality is critical to establishing a level of trust, that is essential to proper treatment, in health care and counseling. Without an assurance that confidentiality will be honored, vital information is withheld and it is impossible to ensure that proper course of treatment is prescribed. The bill's post-facto revocation of confidentiality will scare families away from seeking critical services in times of crisis. Rather than seeking assistance early, they will wait until too late, until serious harm or death occurs.</i></p>		
<p><b>1 Withdrawn by sponsor</b></p>		
<p><u>House Finance Committee</u> <u>12 H7323 Article 17 AN ARTICLE RELATING TO MEDICAL ASSISTANCE - DENTAL BENEFITS</u></p>		
Rep. Melo	Requested by the Governor	

Agenda Topics	Moderator/Leader	Time
<p>House letter send on: 2 /14/2012      Testimony requested Testified on: 2 /28/2012      Testified: Bob Cooper  Senate letter send on:                      Testimony requested Testified on: 2 /7 /2012      Testified: Bob Cooper</p> <p>This article would authorized the executive office of health and human services to eliminate dental services for low income adults age 21 years and older who are enrolled in Medicaid. Medicaid eligible individuals under age 21 will still maintain dental coverage through the Rlte Smiles or fee-for service Medicaid programs. The budget assumes general revenue savings of \$2.7 million for the final nine months of FY 2013.</p> <p>Governor's Budget Amendment 14: The Governor requests that Article 17 - Relating to Medical Assistance - Dental Benefits be removed from the FY 2013 Appropriations Act. This will require the restoration of general revenue appropriations of \$2.7 million and federal funds appropriation of \$2.9 million, both of which will be reflected in amendments to Article 1 to be submitted as a separate request. Subsequent to the submission of the Governor's original budget, the Office of Health and Human Services was able to obtain an agreement with Neighborhood Health Plan to provide a contribution to the state in the amount of \$1.8 million for the adult dental program. As a result of this contribution and the important nature of this service, the Governor requests that this program be restored in its entirety.</p> <p>GCD Reason: Access to proper dental care is important in preventing greater and more expensive health care needs. A quick review of studies posted on the U.S. National Library of Medicine of the National Institutes of Health, website shows the importance of maintaining good oral hygiene.</p>		

**Commission Neutral now that it has been Amended on 1 Act  
Recommend Passage**

Senate Desk  
12 S 2904 Sub A      AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT  
Sen. McCaffrey      Requested by the Attorney General      Identical to H 7806

House letter send on:                      Testimony requested Testified on:                      Testified:  
Senate letter send on: 5 /15/2012      Testimony requested Testified on:                      Testified:

This act would require all employees with direct patient access within a facility such as a long term care hospital, nursing facility or otherwise providing personal care services , paid or unpaid, to undergo a criminal background check prior to employment. Those already employed would be exempt in their current position of employment. Disqualifying information would be divided into two levels, level 1 and level 2. Level 1 offenses include but are not limited to, felony assault, felony drug convictions, and sexual assault. An applicant can only dispute the accuracy of their record, and disqualification stands if they cannot prove their record is incorrect. Level 2 offenses would be felony drug possession and third degree sexual assault. An applicant can appeal based on the following factors: passage of time since the conviction, extenuating circumstances surrounding the conviction, demonstration of rehabilitation and relevancy of disqualifying information to the position the applicant applied for.

This act would take effect January 1, 2013.

The Substitute would expand the type of criminal records check required for persons applying to be direct patient access employees in a long-term facility or provider. It does not create a new chapter "CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK ACT" of law. It does not create Level 1 or Level 2 offenses. Instead it expands the current criminal offenses to include "felony obtaining money under false pretenses, felony embezzlement, abuse, neglect and/or exploitation of adults with severe impairments, exploitation of elders, felony" ... "or a crime under section 1128(a) of the social security act..." The Substitute continues to cover individuals seeking employment having routine contact with an clients, in adult day care facilities, nursing facility, home nursing care, assisted living residence, or nursing service agencies. It expands the existing criminal records review to include hospice providers and long-term care hospitals. The employer would make a judgment regarding the continued employment of the employee, not the state government.

This act would take effect on July 1, 2013.

*GCD Reason: The employer should have the discretion to hire someone who committed a crime years ago and hasn't done so again. This is especially important in reintegrating persons who abused substances (and may have sold drugs to support their addiction) into society. Prior drug users may be the most effective people to work in recovery programs.*

**Legislation Committee Found 33 Acts Beneficial  
8 Signed by the Governor**

Public Law 2012  
12 S 2052 Sub B      AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY - RHODE ISLAND FAIR HOUSING  
PRACTICES ACT  
Sen. Tassoni

House letter send on:                      Testimony requested Testified on:                      Testified:  
Senate letter send on: 2 /14/2012      Testimony requested Testified on:                      Testified:

12 H 7173 Sub A      AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY - RHODE ISLAND FAIR HOUSING

Agenda Topics	Moderator/Leader	Time
<u>PRACTICES ACT</u>		
Rep. Blazejewski		
House letter send on: 2 /14/2012	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
Senate letter send on:	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
These acts would create a Homeless Bill of rights in order to provide all residents with an equal opportunity to live in decent, safe and sanitary accommodations regardless of housing status.		
This act would take effect upon passage.		
Substitute A makes changes to the stated intent of the bill, rephrases some of the requirements, adds damages and attorney fees,		
Substitute B deletes "(4) Has the right not to be subject to criminal sanctions for resting or sleeping in a public place in a non-obstructive manner when there is no available and accessible shelter space;" It also changes references to "law enforcement agencies" with "state and municipal agencies".		
<i>GCD Reason: Unfortunately many people with disabilities find themselves homeless, often for extended periods of time. Simply being homeless should not exclude you from the right to rent, to be a tenant. The lack of safe, affordable, and accessible housing leads to homelessness. A history of being homeless in the past need not and should not condemn a person to being homeless in the future.</i>		
<u>12 S 2321 AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES - EQUAL RIGHTS OF BLIND AND DEAF PERSONS TO PUBLIC FACILITIES</u>		
Sen. Gallo		
House letter send on:	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
Senate letter send on: 2 /14/2012	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
<u>12 H 7445 AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES - EQUAL RIGHTS OF BLIND AND DEAF PERSONS TO PUBLIC FACILITIES</u>		
Rep. Handy		
House letter send on: 2 /14/2012	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
Senate letter send on:	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
These acts would require all public places, upon request, to keep closed captioning activated on any television in use during regular hours in any public area. Televisions unable to provide closed captioning are exempt.		
This act would take effect upon passage.		
<i>GCD Reason: Closed captioning provides a critical link to news, entertainment and information for individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. For individuals whose native language is not English, English language captions improve comprehension and fluency. Captions also help improve literacy skills. You can turn on closed captions through your remote control or on-screen menu.</i>		
<i>Closed captioning allows persons with hearing disabilities to have access to television programming by displaying the audio portion of a television program as text on the television screen. Beginning in July 1993, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) required all analog television receivers with screens 13 inches or larger sold or manufactured in the United States to contain built-in decoder circuitry to display closed captioning. As of July 1, 2002, the FCC also required that digital television (DTV) receivers include closed captioning display capability.</i>		
<i>In 1996, Congress required video programming distributors (VPDs) (cable operators, broadcasters, satellite distributors and other multi-channel video programming distributors) to close caption their television programs. This act provides equal access to good and bad TV shows, while people are waiting - whether its in a doctor's office, the hairdressers, DMV or watching the game at the local sports bar. All that is required is using remote control or on-screen menu to click on the captioning. It is a no-cost, 2 clicks of the remote service for any entity with a TV purchased since 1993.</i>		
<u>12 S 2560 Sub A as AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS</u>		
Sen. O'Neill		
House letter send on:	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
Senate letter send on: 3 /13/2012	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
<u>12 H 7165 Sub A AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE - AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS</u>		
Rep. Palumbo		
House letter send on: 3 /13/2012	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
Senate letter send on:	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
<u>12 S 2076 AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE - AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS</u>		
Sen. O'Neill In Senate Health and Human Services Cmte.		
House letter send on: 3 /13/2012	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
Senate letter send on:	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
These acts would mandate that insurance for Autism spectrum disorders include coverage for pharmaceuticals and for psychological and psychiatric services. This act would also require individuals providing behavior		

Agenda Topics	Moderator/Leader	Time
<p>analysis treatment be licensed by the department of health and credentialed by an insurer. Medicaid would be exempt from these provisions.  This act would take effect upon passage.  The Substitute deletes the requirement that individuals providing behavior analysis treatment be credentialed by an insurer. It also extends coverage to include a licensed applied behavior assistant analyst.  Floor Amendment expands the credentials provision for individual providing or supervising applied behavior analysis treatment to include individuals licensed by the department of health as a psychologist practicing within their scope of practice.  <i>GCD Reason: The Commission is concerned about exempting Medicaid from providing physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, psychological, psychiatric and pharmaceutical treatments for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. All health insurers, public and private, should be held to the same standard. The Substitute while not including Medicaid will provide benefits to individuals with autism spectrum disorders.</i></p> <p><u>12 H 7323 21 (formerly 24) Sub A as AN ARTICLE RELATING TO TAXATION AND REVENUES</u></p> <p>Rep. Melo Requested by the Governor</p> <p>House letter send on: 2 /14/2012 Testimony requested Testified on: Testified:  Senate letter send on: Testimony requested Testified on: Testified:</p> <p>Section 1. Hospital Licensing Fee. This section extends the hospital licensing fee in FY 2013 at a rate of 5.43 percent of hospitals' net patient services revenue for the hospital fiscal year ending on or after September 30, 2010. It also includes the due date for filing returns and making the payment. The budget assumes total revenue collected from the hospitals will be \$143.8 million including \$138.0 million from the community hospitals and \$5.8 million from Eleanor Slater Hospital at the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals. This article appears annually in the Appropriations Act.  Sections 8 and 9. Tobacco Tax. Section 8 of Article 24 increases the maximum tax on cigars from \$0.50 to \$1.00 for ach cigar. Cigars would continue to be taxed at 80 percent of cost; thus this affects only cigars with a wholesale cost of more than \$0.625 per cigar. Section 9 includes an inventory tax on cigarettes on hand July 1 upon which the current rate of \$3.46 per pack had been paid for the tax stamps. Whenever rates change, a tax on the differential rate on existing inventory that had been taxed at the old rate is levied. This differential rate is often called an inventory or floor tax. Article 11 includes a floor tax adjustment of \$0.04 per stamped but unsold pack on hand at 12:01 a.m. on July 1, 2012. These sections have a combined revenue impact of \$2.2 million.  Section 10. Little Cigars. This section of Article 24 changes the definition of little cigars to ensure they remain subject to the cigarette sales tax. Currently, many little cigars exceed the weight threshold in statute, which allows them to be taxed like other cigars, which is 80.0 percent of their wholesale cost up to a maximum of \$0.50 per cigar. The Budget assumes new revenues of \$2.1 million from this change.  Section 13. Beverage Container Fee. This section extends the \$0.04 per case litter control fee to all beverage containers. The current definition excludes sports drinks, fruit beverages and ready to drink tea and coffee. The legislation retains the exemption for milk containers. The Budget assumes \$0.2 million in revenues.  Section 14. Effective Date. This section establishes the effective date of the article as July 1, 2012.  The Substitute extends the hospital licensing fee at a rate of 5.35%. The tax imposed on smokeless tobacco, cigars, and pipe tobacco products remains at \$0.50 for each cigar, rather than \$1/cigar.  The Floor Amendment does not change the Hospital Licensing Fee.  <i>GCD Reason: Sections 8 and 9. Tobacco Tax: Preventing disabilities is the most cost effective disability service the state could provide. Any action that reduces the number of children and youth who start smoking is good public policy. These 3 subsections in SECTION 8. do just that: 44-20-12. Tax imposed on cigarettes sold; 44-20-13. Tax imposed on unstamped cigarettes and 44-20-13.2. Tax imposed on smokeless tobacco, cigars, and pipe tobacco products. - increases the tax from fifty cents (\$.50) to one dollar (\$1.00) for each cigar.</i></p> <p><b>1 Transferred (did not have a hearing)</b></p> <p><u>House Finance Committee</u></p> <p>12 H 7327 AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE-ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES</p>		
<p>Rep. Corvese</p> <p>House letter send on: 3 /14/2012 Testimony requested Testified on: Testified:  Senate letter send on: Testimony requested Testified on: Testified:</p> <p>This act would prohibit any insurance contract, policy, plan or other entity that provides prescription drug coverage from requiring the insured to use any alternate brand name or over-the-counter drug, before allowing them to use a brand name prescription as written by a prescribe. They may however, require the use of a therapeutically equivalent drug, unless the prescriber indicates "brand name necessary" on the prescription form, or gives oral directions of that effect to the dispensing pharmacist.  This act would take effect upon passage.</p>		<p>Similar to S 2428 &amp;</p>

Agenda Topics	Moderator/Leader	Time
<p><i>GCD Reason: When a doctor determines it is medically necessary for a patient to use a brand name prescription, that person should not be required to first use a generic substitute that in the prescriber judgment will harm the person. Especially in the area of psychotropic medicines, it can be very dangerous for that person to be forced to get sicker before being able to use the medically necessary prescription.</i></p>		
<p align="center"><b>14 Referred to Committee or Held for Further Study, Continued, or Heard</b></p>		
<p><u>House Health, Education, &amp; Welfare Committee</u></p>		
<p>12 H 7986</p>	<p align="center"><u>AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- CHILDREN'S PRODUCT</u></p>	
<p><u>SAFETY ACT</u></p>		
<p>Rep. Tanzi</p>		
<p>House letter send on: 4 /9 /2012</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on:</p>	<p>Testified:</p>
<p>Senate letter send on:</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on:</p>	<p>Testified:</p>
<p align="center">This act would ban the use of cadmium, mercury or lead in children's products.</p>		
<p align="center">This act would take effect upon passage.</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: Young Young children exposure to cadmium, mercury or lead show signs of significant disabilities as children and require financial, special education, and Medicaid services for many years. Prevention of disabilities, is the most cost-effective disability service program.</i></p>		
<p><u>Senate Finance or House Finance Committees</u></p>		
<p>12 S 2037</p>	<p align="center"><u>AN ACT RELATING TO MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF</u></p>	
<p><u>THE STATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2012</u></p>		
<p>Sen. Tassoni</p>		
		<p align="right">Similar to H 7033 and</p>
<p>House letter send on:</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on:</p>	<p>Testified:</p>
<p>Senate letter send on: 3 /8 /2012</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on:</p>	<p>Testified:</p>
<p>12 S 2466</p>	<p align="center"><u>JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$15,000,000 FOR</u></p>	
<p><u>SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED</u></p>		
<p>Sen. Doyle</p>		
		<p align="right">Similar to H 7033 and</p>
<p>House letter send on:</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on:</p>	<p>Testified:</p>
<p>Senate letter send on: 2 /21/2012</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on:</p>	<p>Testified:</p>
<p>12 H 7028</p>	<p align="center"><u>AN ACT RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL</u></p>	
<p><u>DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS -RIGHTS FOR PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES</u></p>		
<p>Rep. O'Grady</p>		
		<p align="right">Similar to H 7035 Section</p>
<p>House letter send on: 2 /21/2012</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on:</p>	<p>Testified:</p>
<p>Senate letter send on:</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on:</p>	<p>Testified:</p>
<p>12 H 7033</p>	<p align="center"><u>JOINT RESOLUTION RELATING TO MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE</u></p>	
<p><u>SUPPORT OF THE STATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2012</u></p>		
<p>Rep. McNamara</p>		
		<p align="right">Similar to H 7034 and</p>
<p>House letter send on: 2 /21/2012</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on:</p>	<p>Testified:</p>
<p>Senate letter send on:</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on:</p>	<p>Testified:</p>
<p>12 H 7034</p>	<p align="center"><u>JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$15,000,000 FOR</u></p>	
<p><u>SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED</u></p>		
<p>Rep. O'Grady</p>		
		<p align="right">Similar to H 7033 and</p>
<p>House letter send on: 2 /21/2012</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on:</p>	<p>Testified:</p>
<p>Senate letter send on:</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on:</p>	<p>Testified:</p>
<p>12 H 7035</p>	<p align="center"><u>AN ACT RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL</u></p>	
<p><u>DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS - RIGHTS FOR PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES</u></p>		
<p>Rep. Gurthrie</p>		
		<p align="right">Similar to H 7032</p>
<p>House letter send on: 2 /21/2012</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on: 4 /25/2012</p>	<p>Testified: Bob Cooper</p>
<p>Senate letter send on:</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on:</p>	<p>Testified:</p>
<p>These resolutions would appropriate \$24,000,000/ \$15,000,000 from the general fund of the state, for the purpose of restoring any reduction made in said act (chapter 151 of the public laws of 2011) to the budget of services for individuals who are developmentally disabled.</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: The impact of the reduction in funding for services to adults with development disabilities have created hardships for families:</i></p>		
<p><i>* the loss of transportation from home to work or day treatment facilities have required parents and other family members to arrive late at their own workplace and/or leave work early - resulting in lost wages or possible loss of employment;</i></p>		
<p><i>* reduced services and/or reduced hours of service;</i></p>		
<p><i>* lose of experienced staff due to cut in hours, cut in pay rate, these staff changes have a major impact individuals with disabilities specifically those who need consistency and stability of programs, to remain contributing members of the community.</i></p>		

Agenda Topics	Moderator/Leader	Time
<p><i>* smaller homes ( with fewer than 4 residents) have closed and individuals have moved to larger homes, again causing disruption and confusion in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.</i>  <i>* reduced work-hours at DD work sites, reduces the individual's earned income and increases the individual's reliance on government financial assistance.</i></p>		
<p>12 S 2041 AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- DEVELOPMENTAL  <u>DISABILITIES FUNDING</u></p>		
Sen. Tassoni		Similar to H 7032
House letter send on:	Testimony requested	Testified on:
Senate letter send on: 2 /21/2012	Testimony requested	Testified on:
<p>12 S 2467 AN ACT RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL  <u>DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS - RIGHTS FOR PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES</u></p>		
Sen. Doyle		Similar to H 7035 Section
House letter send on:	Testimony requested	Testified on:
Senate letter send on: 2 /21/2012	Testimony requested	Testified on:
<p>These acts would restore the authorized individual program plan rate for adults with developmental disabilities for the period of October 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011 to the rate in effect for the period of July 1, 2011 to September 30, 2011. It would also restore the monthly share of supplementary assistance to the supplementary security income program for individuals living in state licensed assisted living residence: from \$332 to \$538.</p> <p>This act would take effect upon passage.</p>		
<p>GCD Reason: 12 H 7032 AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- DEVELOPMENTAL  <u>DISABILITIES FUNDING</u></p>		
Rep. Hull		Similar to H 7035 S
House letter send on: 2 /14/2012	Testimony requested	Testified on: 4 /25/2012
Senate letter send on:	Testimony requested	Testified on:
<p>12 H 7106 AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- DEVELOPMENTAL  <u>DISABILITIES FUNDING</u></p>		
Rep. Bennett		Similar to H 7032
House letter send on: 3 /8 /2012	Testimony requested	Testified on: 4 /25/2012
Senate letter send on:	Testimony requested	Testified on:
<p>This act would restore the monthly share of supplementary assistance to the supplementary security income program for individuals living in state licensed assisted living residence: from \$332 to \$538.</p> <p>This act would take effect upon passage.</p> <p><i>GCD Reason: The reduction in amount of SSI payments for assistive living residences has already resulted in the closing of one facility and the potential for addition closings in the months to come. For many residents with behavioral health disabilities, the only assistance they need to remain in the community is supportive housing. Assistive living facilities is a lower cost option than group homes or homeless shelters.</i></p>		
<p>12 S 2638 AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE - INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MENTAL  <u>ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE</u></p>		
Sen. Doyle		Identical to
House letter send on:	Testimony requested	Testified on:
Senate letter send on: 3 /13/2012	Testimony requested	Testified on:
<p>12 H 7785 AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE - COVERAGE FOR MENTAL ILLNESS  <u>AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE</u></p>		
Rep. Ajello		in House Corporation
House letter send on: 3 /13/2012	Testimony requested	Testified on:
Senate letter send on:	Testimony requested	Testified on:
<p>This act would require health insurers to reimburse mental health and substance abuse practitioners in the same way practitioners in other fields are reimbursed.</p> <p>This act would take effect upon passage.</p> <p><i>GCD Reason: There are not enough behavioral health specialists currently practicing to meet the need, especially for children. The state should follow the law of supply and demand by increasing the rate of reimbursement to bring the supply side up to meet the demand.</i></p>		
<p>Senate Judiciary Committee</p>		
<p>12 S 2338 AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- RHODE ISLAND FAIR HOUSING  <u>PRACTICES ACT</u></p>		
Sen. Metts,		
House letter send on:	Testimony requested	Testified on:
Senate letter send on: 2 /14/2012	Testimony requested	Testified on:

Agenda Topics	Moderator/Leader	Time
<p>This act would prohibit potential landlords from discriminating against individuals receiving government assistance. There is an exception for owners with a property that has 3 or less units and having one of the units occupied by the owner.</p>		
<p>This act would take effect upon passage.</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: The source of your rent money should not be grounds for preventing you from being a tenant. As long as the source is legal, it should not matter if your income is from Social Security Disability Income, Supplemental Security Income, or Section 8 Rental Subsidy.</i></p>		
<p><b>10 Held for Further Study, Continued, or Heard</b></p>		
<p><u>House Corporations Committee</u></p>		
<p><u>12 H 7795 AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS</u></p>		
<p>Rep. Gallison</p>		
<p>House letter send on: 3 /13/2012</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on:</p>	<p>Testified:</p>
<p>Senate letter send on:</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on:</p>	<p>Testified:</p>
<p>This act would allow consumers the right to decline the installation of a wireless electric meter and substitute a wired smart meter.</p>		
<p>This act would take effect upon passage.</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: The Commission has heard complaints about the difficulty living with electromagnetic sensitivity in a wireless world. As the testimony below from a hearing conducted by the US Department of Justice's ADA Office shows, people across the country are having the same difficulties.</i></p>		
<p><u>House Finance Committee</u></p>		
<p><u>12 H 7420 JOINT RESOLUTION RELATING TO MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE STATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2012</u></p>		
<p>Rep. Gordon</p>		
<p>House letter send on: 2 /14/2012</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on: 5 /9 /2012</p>	<p>Testified: Bob Cooper</p>
<p>Senate letter send on:</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on:</p>	<p>Testified:</p>
<p>This Joint Resolution would appropriate \$1,500,000 for the purpose of restoring any reduction made in said act to the budget of Rhode Island public transit authority (RIPTA).</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: Many people with disabilities rely on RIPTA and RIde (paratransit service) to get to work, job training, grocery shopping, health care facilities, visiting friends and being active in their community. Every cut back in RIPTA service also means a cut back in hours of service or geographic area of service for RIde. Cuts in RIPTA &amp; RIde service results in greater isolation of people who are transit dependant. People with disabilities who are stuck at home, are not productive, contributing members of the community.</i></p>		
<p><u>House Health, Education, &amp; Welfare Committee</u></p>		
<p><u>12 H 7540 AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - ACCESS TO TELEPHONE INFORMATION SERVICES FOR DISABLED PERSONS</u></p>		
<p>Rep. Naughton</p>		
<p>House letter send on: 2 /21/2012</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on:</p>	<p>Testified:</p>
<p>Senate letter send on:</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on:</p>	<p>Testified:</p>
<p>This act would extend the adaptive telephone equipment loan program for persons with certain disabilities, to include wireless telephones.</p>		
<p>This act would take effect upon passage.</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: The field of accessible cell phones for the persons who are blind, have low vision, hard of hearing, quadriplegic, or physically disabled or elderly has blossomed. The state's adaptive telephone loan program needs to include wireless telephones. The reasons for expanding the program comes down to: Safety: Cell phones can be taken and used anywhere. Although everyone in the industry has a disclaimer that cell phones should not be relied on in an emergency, especially voice recognition, that is usually one of the main reasons that cell phones are so important; and Independence: It's increasingly difficult to find public phones much less carry exact change. For people who rely on public transportation, cell phones provide a means of calling for and checking on their transportation. Cell phones also give people the confidence to get out and go places, knowing that they can get help if needed.</i></p>		
<p><u>12 H 7734 AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES - PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT PROGRAM</u></p>		
<p>Rep. Naughton Requested by the Attorney General</p>		
<p>House letter send on: 2 /21/2012</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on: 3 /14/2012</p>	<p>Testified: Linda Ward</p>
<p>Senate letter send on:</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on:</p>	<p>Testified:</p>
<p><u>12 S 2866 Sub A AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES - PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT PROGRAM</u></p>		
<p>Sen. McCaffrey Requested by the Attorney General In Senate Judiciary</p>		
<p>House letter send on:</p>	<p>Testimony requested Testified on:</p>	<p>Testified:</p>

Agenda Topics	Moderator/Leader	Time
Senate letter send on: 5 /10/2012	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
<p>These acts would require that individuals who are providing personal care attendant services (assistance with daily living, homemaking and companionship that allow an individual with a disability to live at home) be certified. A complaint process would be established, as well as penalties for practicing without certification and providing false information when applying for a certificate. It also would require that the consumer is made aware of their rights when services begin and on an annual basis thereafter. Individuals who have a clean criminal background check and have worked 300 hours or more in Rhode Island before January 31, 2013 will be issued a certificate. This act does not apply to individuals who are providing similar services on an unpaid basis.</p>		
<p>This act shall take effect on January 1, 2013.</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: In-home personal care assistance is often provided with no-one in the home other than the consumer and the provider. The potential for abuse is great. Ensuring properly trained providers who have undergone a criminal background check, may reduce that potential.</i></p>		
<p><u>12 H 7933 AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- DISABLED CHILDREN'S MEDICAID BUY-IN</u></p>		
Rep. Naughton		Identical to
House letter send on: 4 /9 /2012	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
Senate letter send on:	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
<p><u>12 S 2755 AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- DISABLED CHILDREN'S MEDICAID BUY-IN</u></p>		
Sen. DiPalma		Senate Finance Co
House letter send on:	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
Senate letter send on: 4 /9 /2012	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
<p>This would establish a framework for disabled children to buy into the federal Medicaid program. The goal and purpose would be to require the office of health and human services (OHHS) and its Medicaid office to provide access to children that meet the social security administration's definition of disability.</p>		
<p>The OHHS and its Medicaid office would be to authorized and directed to amend (a) its title XIX state plan to initiate a Medicaid buy-in program for children with disabilities and (b) (b) its title XIX state plan to initiate community choice first (Section 2401 in the Affordable Care Act Section 1915 (k) in the Social Security Act).</p>		
<p>This provision would provide the state additional federal medical assistance program (FMAP) for personal care services for individuals with disabilities in order that parents can be employed and continues employment.</p>		
<p>This act would take effect upon passage.</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: Health insurance for a child with a disability, for non-employer based insurance, can be very expensive. Small businesses that have 1 or 2 employees with children who have severe impairments are faced with more expensive health insurance premiums for all their employees. Allowing families to purchase secondary coverage through Medicaid will help the small employer maintain affordable premiums.</i></p>		
<p><u>Senate Health and Human Services Committee</u></p>		
<p><u>12 S 2327 AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES - EQUAL RIGHTS OF BLIND AND DEAF PERSONS TO PUBLIC FACILITIES</u></p>		
Sen. Walaska		Identical to Enacted bills S 2321 &
House letter send on:	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
Senate letter send on: 2 /14/2012	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
<p>This act would require all public places, upon request, to keep closed captioning activated on any television in use during regular hours in any public area. Televisions unable to provide closed captioning are exempt. This act would take effect upon passage.</p>		
<p><u>12 S 2360 AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE-ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES</u></p>		
Sen. Nesselbush		
House letter send on:	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
Senate letter send on: 2 /14/2012	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
<p><u>12 S 2428 AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE - COVERAGE FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS</u></p>		
Sen. Crowley		Similar to H 7327
House letter send on:	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
Senate letter send on: 2 /28/2012	Testimony requested Testified on:	Testified:
<p>This act would prohibit any insurance contract, policy, plan or other entity that provides prescription drug coverage from requiring the insured to use any alternate brand name or over-the-counter drug, before allowing them to use a brand name prescription as written by a prescribe. They may however, require the use of a therapeutically equivalent drug, unless the prescriber indicates "brand name necessary" on the prescription</p>		

Agenda Topics	Moderator/Leader	Time
<p>form, or gives oral directions of that effect to the dispensing pharmacist.  This act would take effect upon passage.  <i>GCD Reason: When a doctor determines it is medically necessary for a patient to use a brand name prescription, that person should not be required to first use a generic substitute that in the prescriber judgment will harm the person. Especially in the area of psychotropic medicines, it can be very dangerous for that person to be forced to get sicker before being able to use the medically necessary prescription.</i></p>		
<p><b>Legislation Committee Found 5 Acts Beneficial if amended  5 Held for Further Study, Continued, or Heard</b></p>		
<p><u>House Health, Education, &amp; Welfare Committee</u>  12 H 7446 AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION</p>		
<p>Rep. Naughton  House letter send on: 2 /15/2012      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  Senate letter send on:                      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  12 S 2707 AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION</p>		
<p><u>Sen. Gallo</u> <span style="float: right;">In Senate Corporation</span>  House letter send on:                      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  Senate letter send on: 3 /8 /2012      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  This act would allocate \$80,000 annually to the Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing for emergency communication and public telephone access accommodations within the state. These funds will also be used for enhancing the emergency communication system to alert individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing to any type of emergencies within the state. The commission will work the with Department of Public Safety and any other agencies needed to ensure emergency communication.  This act would take effect upon passage.  <i>GCD Reason: Access to critical emergency alerts is a vital public safety tool. Rhode Island should make use of existing emergency telecommunications devices to ensure all Rhode Islanders receive timely notice of emergencies.</i></p>		
<p><i>The bill should be expanded to include adaptation of cellular phones on page 1 line 11 after the word "line" by inserting "and cellular telephone" and on page 1 line 18 after the word "residential" by inserting ",cellular ,".</i>  12 H 7992 AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - RHODE ISLAND PREVENTION, HEALTH PROMOTION, AND PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL</p>		
<p>Rep. Naughton,  House letter send on: 4 /9 /2012      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  Senate letter send on:                      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  This act would create the Rhode Island prevention, health promotion and public health council. There would be 21 members, with the director of the Department of Health serving as the chairperson. The mission of this council would be to provide state level coordination and leadership, among all state departments and agencies on the topics of prevention, wellness and health promotion practices, public health system and integrative healthcare. They also would be tasked with developing a statewide strategy in those areas, to improve overall health in the state and reduce the incidence of preventable illness, as well as providing recommendations to the Governor.  This act would take effect upon passage.  <i>GCD Reason: Coordination of state prevention, wellness and health promotion, public health system and integrative healthcare is key to reducing the rate of growth of healthcare. The coordination council should be expanded to include 1 representative from the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals, and 3 public members from community based agencies and patient advocates.</i></p>		
<p><u>House Labor Committee</u>  12 H 7862 AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - TEMPORARY DISABILITY INSURANCE - BENEFITS</p>		
<p>Rep. Coderre  House letter send on: 3 /13/2012      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  Senate letter send on:                      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  This act would create a temporary caregiver insurance benefit as part of the temporary disability insurance law.  This act would take effect upon passage.  <i>GCD Reason: The concept of TDI for the caregiver, would address a major need that currently exists. The process for melding this with the Family Medical Leave Act and other administrative concerns from small businesses needs to be worked through. The Commission recommends the creating of a study commission with representatives of persons with chronic health conditions, small businesses, the Department of Labor and</i></p>		

Agenda Topics	Moderator/Leader	Time
<p><i>Training's Temporary Disability Insurance program and others for re-introduction next year of a consensus bill. The Commission would be interested in participating in such an effort.</i></p>		
<p>12 H 7935 AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- ESTABLISHING BACK TO WORK RHODE ISLAND PROGRAM</p>		
<p>Rep. Hern  House letter send on: 4 /9 /2012      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  Senate letter send on:      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  This act would assist employers and potential employees by creating the back to work Rhode Island Program Act of 2012. The department of labor and training would provide workers compensation coverage for participating claimants.  This act would take effect on January 1, 2013.</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: Small businesses are the backbone of RI's economy. Assist employers, especially small employers, train potential employees without the small employer being responsible of workers' compensation insurance during the training period, will reduce small employers' resistance to employing a worker with disabilities. The worker with a disability needs the chance to demonstrates she/he is capable of being a good employee.</i></p>		
<p><b>Legislation Committee Found 8 Acts Harmful 5 Held for Further Study, Continued, or Heard</b></p>		
<p><u>House Corporations Committee</u></p>		
<p>12 H 7797 AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE - MANDATED BENEFITS</p>		
<p>Rep. Morgan  House letter send on: 3 /13/2012      Testimony requested Testified on: 3 /21/2012      Testified: Jessica Burrows  Senate letter send on:      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  This act would create a commission, of 6 members of the general assembly, to review mandated healthcare coverage and eliminate those determined not to be critical, unless the general assembly chooses to re-enact them.  This act would take effect upon passage.</p>		
<p><i>GCD Reason: Any review of mandated healthcare coverage should include people with chronic health impairments, medical professionals, and other stake holders. Most healthcare mandates were established for very sound medical practices that were being excluded from coverage, i.e. 48 hour recovery from child birth, pre-existing conditions, etc.  The best way to ensure all parties are heard is through the existing committee process. Bills should be proposed to repeal a mandated coverage, the appropriate committee should conduct hearings, then make a recommendation to the whole House (or Senate), the chamber should then vote on that proposal, etc. Rather than a small number of legislators repeal many provisions at once.</i></p>		
<p><u>House Judiciary Committee</u></p>		
<p>12 H 7838 AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC RECORDS - ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS</p>		
<p>Rep. Lally      Requested by the Attorney General      Identical to S 2652 which was  House letter send on: 3 /13/2012      Testimony requested Testified on: 4 /3 /2012      Testified: Bob Cooper  Senate letter send on:      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  This act would make various amendments to the access to public records act, including: making public all records which are identifiable to an individual applicant for benefits, client, patient, student, or employee, including, but not limited to, personnel, medical treatment, welfare, employment security, pupil records, all records relating to a client/attorney relationship and to a doctor/patient relationship, including and all personal or medical information relating to an individual in any files, including information relating to medical or psychological facts, personal finances, welfare, employment security, student performance, or information in personnel files unless individually-identifiable records, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.  This act would take effect on September 1, 2012.</p>		
<p><u>Senate Judiciary Committee</u></p>		
<p>12 S 2250 AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- PARKING FACILITIES AND PRIVILEGES</p>		
<p>Sen. Kettle  House letter send on:      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  Senate letter send on: 3 /5 /2012      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:</p>		
<p>12 H 7200 AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- PARKING FACILITIES AND PRIVILEGES</p>		
<p>Rep. Costa      In House Health, Education, &amp; Welfare</p>		

Agenda Topics	Moderator/Leader	Time
<p>House letter send on: 2 /14/2012      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  Senate letter send on:      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  12 S      2363      <u>AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- PARKING FACILITIES AND PRIVILEGES</u>  Sen. Doyle      In Senate Housing and Municipal Governmen  House letter send on:      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  Senate letter send on: 2 /14/2012      Testimony requested Testified on: 3 /27/2012      Testified: written testimony only  These acts would allow the use of parking placards by visiting nurse associations or agencies employing nurses and therapists, who are visiting clients, instead of just transporting them.  This act would take effect upon passage.  <i>GCD Reason: At most multi-family &amp; apartment buildings there are not enough disability parking spaces to service people who truly can not walk or walk any distance. To have nurses and therapists who are able to walk into a building occupy the limit number of disability parking spaces forces those who are disabled to either wait until the nurse/therapist leaves or park further away and compromise their health. The current law also the use of the disability parking permit when transporting someone who has the placard. It should never be used just for the convenience of the nurse or therapist.</i></p>		
<b>3 Held for Further Study, Continued, or Heard</b>		
<p><u>House Corporations Committee</u>  12 H      7572      <u>AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- STATE PURCHASES</u>  Rep. Trillo  House letter send on: 3 /13/2012      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  Senate letter send on:      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  This act would require any state-funded purchases of prosthetic devices be made by a vendor or manufacturer that has a headquarters or primary place of business within the state of Rhode Island.  This act shall take effect upon passage.  <i>GCD Reason: The fitting of prosthetic devices can be a very intrusive process. The fitting of artificial legs, arms and other prosthetic devices should be done by a trusted professional. Not all prosthetic devices are made or sold by Rhode Island based vendors or manufacturers.</i></p>		
<p><u>House Health, Education, &amp; Welfare Committee</u>  12 H      7655      <u>AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES</u>  Rep. Naughton  House letter send on: 3 /13/2012      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  Senate letter send on:      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  This act would allow school districts to refer to and place special education students in non-public schools with educators who do not meet the Department of Education's certification requirements for public school regular or special education certification.  This act would take effect upon passage.  <i>GCD Reason: Why are only students in special education singled out for services by a non-credential teacher or other educator? The state has a process for emergency certification in cases where there aren't enough providers available. This would be a more appropriate avenue.</i></p>		
<p><u>House Judiciary Committee</u>  12 H      8044      <u>AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - MISCELLANEOUS RULES</u>  Rep. Nunes  House letter send on: 4 /9 /2012      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  Senate letter send on:      Testimony requested Testified on:      Testified:  This act would amend the sunset provision of the 2011 seatbelt law that made violations a primary offense. The date of expiration will change from June 30, 2013 to June 30, 2012. Violations occurring after that date will be a secondary offense.  This act would take effect upon passage.  <i>GCD Reason: Seatbelts save lives and reduce the chance of a person in an automobile crash surviving but severely disabled. One of the major ways of reducing the rate of growth of health care, is by preventing disabilities.</i></p>		
<b>Legislation Committee Found 1 Act Harmful unless Amended</b>		
<b>1 Held for Further Study, Continued, or Heard</b>		
<p><u>House Finance Committee</u>  12 H      7806      <u>AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT</u></p>		

Agenda Topics	Moderator/Leader	Time
<p>Rep. Naughton Requested by the Attorney General  House letter send on: 3 /13/2012 Testimony requested Testified on: 5 /9 /2012  Senate letter send on: Testimony requested Testified on:  This act would create a new chapter entitled "Criminal Background Check Act" that would provide for national background checks for all persons applying to be direct patient access employees in a long-term care facility or provider, including, but not limited to, those facilities licensed under chapters 23-17, 23-17.4, 23-17.7.1 and 40.1-24.  This act would take effect on January 1, 2013.  <i>GCD Reason: The employer should have the discretion to hire someone who committed a crime years ago and hasn't done so again. This is especially important in reintegrating persons who abused substances (and may have sold drugs to support their addiction) into society. Prior drug users may be the most effective people to work in recovery programs.</i>  <i>The act should be amended on page 5:</i>  <i>line 3 deleting the word "burglary";</i>  <i>line 5 deleting the words "sale or delivery of a";</i>  <i>line 6 deleting the words "sale or delivery of a"; and</i>  <i>line 10 by after the word "possession" inserting the words "involving sale or delivery of a controlled substance, or possession with intent to sell or deliver a controlled substance; burglary,"</i></p>	<p>Identical to S 2904  Testified: Bob Cooper  Testified:</p>	

	<b>Public Forums</b>	<b>Bob Cooper</b>	<b>3:40</b>
<b>Purpose/Goal: To plan the Public Forums</b>			
Discussion: About 115 organizations received email solicitations to co-sponsor the public forums were sent out June 27 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> . Have asked Dorcas Place & International Institute if they would host the South Providence Public Library Forum Tuesday, July 24, 2012 6-8 PM			
<b>Pledges</b>			<b>Amount</b>
Statewide Independent Living Council			\$800
Office of Rehabilitation Services			CART Recorders
Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing			Interpreters
<b>Received</b>			<b>Amount</b>
RI Disability Law Center			\$100
In-Sight			\$100
Perspectives Corporation			\$100
Brain Injury Association of RI			\$100
James L. Maher Center			\$100
Ocean State Center for Independent Living			\$100
United Healthcare Services			\$500
National Federation of the Blind of Rhode Island			\$100
Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island			\$100
			\$1,300
<b>Projected cost of the advertisements are:</b>			<b>Amount</b>
<b>RI Newspaper Group:</b> Wednesday July 18 <sup>th</sup> Barrington Times; Warren Times-Gazette; and Valley Breeze - N. Providence & Pawtucket Thursday July 19 <sup>th</sup> Bristol Phoenix; Cranston Herald; Johnston Sun Rise; Newport This Week; North*East Independent; Sakonnet Times; South County Independent; Valley Breeze & Observer; Warwick Beacon Valley Breeze - Cumberland/Lincoln & Valley			\$1,600.00

	Agenda Topics	Moderator/Leader	Time
	Breeze, N. Smithfield/Woonsocket Friday July 20 <sup>th</sup> East Providence Post		
	Providence American Friday July 20 <sup>th</sup>		\$360.00
	Providence en Espanol		\$560.00
	Newport Daily News		??
	Westerly Sun		\$235.00



## State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations Public Forums to Identify the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families

Every year during the week of the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (July 26<sup>th</sup>) the Governor's Commission on Disabilities and over 20 other state and non-profit agencies conduct a week long series of public forums to hear the concerns of people with disabilities and their families. The forums are open for anyone to come in and speak; representatives of the sponsoring agencies will be there to listen. It is important for state policy makers and planners to hear from people with disabilities and their families, their concerns about current services, needs that are not being addressed, and suggestions for improving services and expanding opportunities.

### Monday July 23, 2012 6 - 8 pm

Warwick Public Library's Community Room, 600 Sandy Lane, Warwick  
Hosted by the Ocean State Center for Independent Living

### Tuesday July 24, 2012 3 - 5 pm

Barrington Public Library's Gallery Room, 281 County Road, Barrington  
Hosted by the Brain Injury Association of RI

### Tuesday, July 24, 2012 6-8 PM

South Providence Library, 441 Prairie Avenue, Providence  
Hosted by ????? DARE, Prov. Ctr, Amos House

### Wednesday July 25, 2012 3-5 pm

South Kingstown Public Library, 1057 Kingstown Road, Peace Dale  
Hosted by the National MS Society, Rhode Island Chapter

### Thursday July 26, 2012 3- 5 pm

Woonsocket Harris Public Library, 303 Clinton Street, Woonsocket  
Hosted by Perspectives Corporation

### Friday July 27, 2012 3 - 5 pm

Middletown Public Library's Community Room, 700 West Main Road, Middletown  
Hosted by Looking Upwards &  
Opportunities Unlimited for People with Differing Abilities

The RI Statewide Independent Living Council requests your assistance.

**Your Voice Matters - please take a 10 minute survey - [www.RISILC.org/survey](http://www.RISILC.org/survey)**

Comments may be made in person during the hearing, or you can e-mail [disabilities@gcd.ri.gov](mailto:disabilities@gcd.ri.gov),  
fax 462-0106 or mail them by August 2<sup>nd</sup> to

### Governor's Commission on Disabilities

John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court,  
Cranston, RI 02920-3049

We ask that you use unscented personal care products. Please realize that what may seem to you to be a mild fragrance can constitute a toxic exposure for a person with an environmental illness.

CART Recorders (real-time captioning) and assistive listening devices will be at all sites, courtesy of the Office of Rehabilitation Services / Assistive Technology Access Partnership.

The RI Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will provide sign language interpreters; contact the CDHH (voice) 222-1204 or (tty) 222-1205 to confirm which forums will have interpreters.

When making the ADA reservation with RIde to get to and from the public forum, tell the RIde reservationist (1-800-479-6902) that this trip is for the Governor's Commission's Public Forums in order to guarantee your return trip, after normal RIde hours of operation. The ADA fare is still applicable.

For more information or to request accommodation needed, please call: 462-0100 at least 3 business days in advance; arrangements will be provided at no cost.

Requests for language interpreting should be made to 462-2130 at least 3 business days in advance.

	Agenda Topics	Moderator/Leader	Time
<b><u>Public Forum Guidance to Hosts/Panelists</u></b>			
<p><b>Host:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Determine the order of speakers (divide speakers by amount of time available (leaving time 10-15 minutes for - questions, wrapping up, misc.)</li> <li>2. Start the meeting on time by Welcome everyone, state your name;</li> <li>3. Mention location of public phone and restrooms;</li> <li>4. Read - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ "The purpose of these public forums is to identify the concerns of people with disabilities and their families in order to assist the State develop programs to improve the quality of live of people with disabilities.</li> <li>➤ "To ensure everyone who wants to speak gets a chance, please keep your comments short and to the point. If you have a critical problem that needs to be addressed, the panel members will be available at the end of the hearing to direct you to the proper agency for help.</li> <li>➤ "After the public forums are completed in early August, the sponsoring agencies will review the testimony and prepare recommendations, which will also be posted on the website, by the end of the November. The recommendations and the transcripts will be printed and sent to state and congressional officials, and to the members of the General Assembly; and The recommendations will be used to develop policy &amp; legislative initiatives for the next year or until they are accomplished.</li> <li>➤ "The RI Disability Vote Project's voter registrars are available to register anyone who is a citizen and not currently registered to vote where they live, to vote. People can also file a change of address, if they moved since that last election. <del>You can also try out the accessible voting equipment."</del></li> </ul> </li> <li>5. Ask each of the panel members to introduce themselves and their affiliation.</li> <li>6. If the group is small, asking the attendees to introduce themselves and maybe move up closer (even have everyone gather around a table)</li> <li>7. Remind everyone present to sign the attendance sheet and pickup materials (handouts) available</li> <li>8. Mention that there are Assistive Listening Devices available (direct them to the "greeter")</li> <li>9. When all the people who initially signed up to speak have spoken, check with the greeter to see if additional people have signed up to speak.</li> <li>10. Once everyone who has signed up to speak has spoken, ask if anyone who didn't sign up wants to speak. After they have spoken, get folks a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance to speak.</li> </ol> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your job is to listen, and ask questions to clarify the speaker's concerns and ideas. Don't get into a debate with the speaker.</li> <li>• If a speaker is not aware of an existing service, suggest that speaker meet you at the end of the testimony so you can give the speaker contact information about that service.</li> <li>• Remember lack of knowledge about services demonstrates a need for better outreach!</li> </ul> <p><b>Timekeeper:</b></p> <p>The host needs someone to sit next to her/him and keep track of the time of each speaker, to ensure everyone has an equal chance to speak. Remember people can arrive at any time during the two hours, and sign up to speak.</p> <p><b>Greeter (Commission staff member):</b></p> <p>Ask everyone to sign in and indicate whether they want to speak or just listen. Give the first signup sheet to the host at the beginning of the forum. And as soon as the next signup sheet is filled up give that one to the host.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SINCE THE FORUMS ARE SCHEDULED FOR 2 HOURS, DON'T LEAVE AFTER THE INTIAL ARRIVEES HAVE ALL SPOKEN, OTHERS MAY ARRIVE JUST BEFORE THE END OF THE 2 HOURS, THEY HAVE A</p>			

	Agenda Topics	Moderator/Leader	Time
RIGHT TO BE HEARD.			
Location		Committee Member Panelists	
Monday July 23, 2012 6 - 8 pm Warwick Public Library		Julie DeRosa	
Tuesday July 24, 2012 3 - 5 pm Barrington Public Library		Sharon Brinkworth	
Tuesday, July 24, 2012 6-8 pm South Providence Library		Linda Ward	
Wednesday July 25, 2012 3-5 pm South Kingstown Public Library		Meredith Sheehan	
Thursday July 26, 2012 3- 5 pm Woonsocket Harris Public Library			
Friday July 27, 2012 3 - 5 pm Middletown Public Library		Linda Ward	
 announcer graphic	<b>Announcements</b>	Linda Ward	4:20
 calendar graphic	<b>Agenda and Scheduling the Next Meeting</b>	Linda Ward	4:25
Items to be placed on the next meeting's agenda: FY 13 Goals & Objectives			
Next meeting will be on: Monday August 20 <sup>th</sup> 3 - 4:30 PM			
 alarm clock graphic	<b>Adjournment</b>	Linda Ward	4:30
 voting check off graphic	<b>MOTION:</b> To adjourn at 3:41 PM, KH/JD passed unanimously		