



2019 Legislative Wrap Up

Final count of Bills: 2300

House: 1258

Senate 1042

Bills tracked: 161

Tracked Bills Enacted :25

WHAT WAS TRACKED TOPICS WITH UNSUCCESSFUL BILLS:

- Planning – micro economic zones, municipal board education, distributed generation,, Subdivisions, pl bd quorums, municipal infrastructure grant program, historic tax credits
- Energy – EFSB revisions, residential homeowners solar bill of rights
- Housing – multiple -low/moderate income items, accessibility, Landlords & tenants, fair housing
- State Government – Biennial Budget, open meetings,
- Zoning – medical marijuana, renewable energy & solar siting, neighborhoods character, smart growth
- Environment – climate change& resiliency , coastal adaptation, plastic waste, global warming solutions, geoengineering
- Transportation – RIPTA board expansion, RIAC board expansion, renaming Green Airport, commuter transportation benefits act,
- Water Supply – regionalization, water sales

Selected Bills of Interest Enacted:

PLANNING

House Bill No. [5151 SUB A as amended](#) Chapter 088 (Governor)

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MAKING APPROPRIATIONS IN SUPPORT OF FY 2020

Article 4 Reorganization of the SPC membership

CHAPTER 24.6 12 SPECIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

House Bill No. [5693](#) Chapter 191 (Dept. of Administration) / Senate Bill No. [586](#) Chapter 244

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS (Eliminates **division of planning** from evaluation process of future state prop. leases. Eliminates requirement of notice to local planning board's planning program of hearings and zoning changes.)

Senate Bill No. [150 as amended](#) Chapter 157

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES - JOHNSTON PLANNING BOARD (Authorizes the Johnston town council to add two (2) alternate members to its planning board.)

House Bill No. [6242](#) Chapter 216 / Senate Bill No. [994 SUB A](#) Chapter 257

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION - RHODE ISLAND INFRASTRUCTURE BANK (Expands the definition of "approved project" to include resiliency related infrastructure projects, and further prohibits the award of financial assistance for a water pollution abatement project.)

STATE GOVERNMENT

Senate Bill No. [109 SUB A](#) Chapter 037

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS - **MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE** (Provides that any minority business enterprise that is certified under the Federal Small Business Act shall be deemed certified by the department of administration as a minority business enterprise.)



TRANSPORTATION

Senate Bill No. [782](#) Chapter 261 (Dept. of Transportation)

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES (Codifies the lawful procedure for a bicyclist to follow when complying with traffic control signals.)

Senate Bill No. [785](#) Chapter 034 (Dept. of Transportation)

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MISCELLANEOUS (Provides **no** person may use wireless handset/personal wireless device for **texting while driving.**)

Senate Bill No. [1025](#) Chapter 253

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HIGHWAYS - CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF STATE ROADS (**Requires DOT** to establish rules, regulations, and minimum requirements for the use of steel plates on roadway surfaces, and for towns and cities to adopt the same for use on municipal highways.)

House Bill No. [5028 SUB A as amended](#) Chapter 170

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - THE RHODE ISLAND UTILITY FAIR SHARE ROADWAY REPAIR ACT (Requires public utilities or utility facilities to repave and repair roadways altered or excavated by them to the satisfaction of state or municipalities providing financial recovery for defective incomplete repairs.)

House Bill No. [5672 SUB A](#) Chapter 187 / Senate Bill No. [906](#) Chapter 249

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO AERONAUTICS -- THE PERMANENT AIR QUALITY MONITORING ACT (Extends the required air quality monitoring program at T.F. Green International Airport for two years to July 31, 2021.)



ZONING

House Bill No. [5484 SUB A](#) Chapter 104 / Senate Bill No. [689 SUB A](#) Chapter 144

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES (Revises the definition of **building height** by including in special flood hazard zones those areas identified by the CRMC.)

House Bill No. [6153 SUB A as amended](#) Chapter 118 / Senate Bill No. [673 as amended](#) Chapter 143

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- REDEVELOPMENT AGENCIES AND PROJECTS (Authorizes state and local incremental tax revenues generated in the arts district, the growth center district and the ballpark district in the city of **Pawtucket** to be allocated to finance improvements in the districts.)

House Bill No. [6219](#) Chapter 214 / Senate Bill No. [691 SUB A](#) Chapter 267

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES - ZONING ORDINANCES (Expands the definition of "family member" for purposes of zoning ordinances.)

SOLID WASTE

Senate Bill No. [1015](#) Chapter 295 / House Bill No. [5639](#) Chapter 298

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- RHODE ISLAND RESOURCE RECOVERY CORPORATION (Provides that any solid waste collected and disposed of by, or on behalf of the district, shall be charged the same tipping fee per ton as the municipal rate and require the waste hauler to certify the tonnage at the time of disposal.)

RESOLUTIONS

Senate Resolution No. [1005](#) Resolution 400 **BY** Lombardo

ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON HOUSING, TASKED WITH CONDUCTING A **COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF RHODE ISLAND'S HOUSING SYSTEM** (Creates a 15-member commission to review and provide initial recommendations and potential legislative proposals on Rhode Island's housing system by January 31, 2020, and final recommendation by October 16, 2020, and would expire on December 31, 2020.)



Senate Resolution No. [1006](#) Resolution 401 **BY** Sosnowski

ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE **COMMISSION TO STUDY** THE EFFECT AND PROCEDURES FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF THE RHODE ISLAND COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (**CRMC**) (Creates a fifteen-member special legislative commission whose purpose it would be to make a comprehensive study of, and provide recommendations for, the reorganization CRMC.)

House Resolution No. [5932](#) Resolution 274 **BY** Marszalkowski

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE **COMMISSION TO STUDY** AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENCOURAGE **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITHIN BLACKSTONE VALLEY** (Extends the reporting and expiration dates of the commission to study and make recommendations to encourage economic development within Blackstone Valley from February 5, 2019, to June 27, 2019, and would **expire on July 9, 2019.**)