



**General Assembly
Freedom Index
2013**

RHODE ISLAND CENTER FOR

FREEDOM & PROSPERITY

PRELIMINARY SCORED BILLS

June 2013

The RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity reviewed all legislation submitted this session (**as of June 21**), scoring each bill with regard to its effect on freedom and, particularly, whether it would further contribute to or would begin to alleviate Rhode Island's state of decline. In total, we are tracking **592** bills, with a total weighted score of **-323**, meaning that if all of the legislation were to pass, the overall effect on the state would be a negative one.

Note that this is a preliminary list. Upon the end of the legislative session, the Center will review all of the legislation for the accuracy of the descriptions. We will also present all bills that receive floor votes to a panel for final judgment concerning whether each bill is positive, negative, or neutral and what its weighting ought to be.

- Press ctrl-F to search for a bill. For vote tallies and bill travel, see RhodeIslandVotes.org.
- Red = likely negative; green = likely positive

Senate Bills (with House Companions)		
Senate bill	House bill	Summary
2-aa		to postpone the merger of the Board of Governors for Higher Education and the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education until March 7, 2013
9		to interfere with the relationship between merchants and electronic payment systems (mostly credit and debit cards) by forbidding negotiated contract terms such as pricing signage, discounts/incentives for using certain forms of payment, and selective use of the services at different locations
11	5269	to exempt new businesses from the franchise tax for their first 3 years, and then to give them a \$100 credit toward the tax for each employee, up to four. Those not organized as S-corps would still be liable for the \$500 min income tax; currently they do not pay franchise tax unless it exceeds the income tax
12-SubAaa		to allow public schools to host gender-specific activities (such as father-daughter dances), as long as "reasonably comparable" activities are hosted for the other gender
13	5055	to exempt school districts from paying the local share of a student's tuition to charter schools and other non-district public schools if the "comparable district school" outperforms it according to the state accountability system
16		to require the governor's proposed budget to justify expenditures beginning from a zero base (as if every department were requesting money for the first time). This bill would also create a three-legislator panel to review the proposed budget and review the requests
19-SubB	5364	to allow the state government or a public corporation to refund bonds, financing leases, or loan guarantees without the approval of the General Assembly
20	5137	to repeal the law transferring ownership of Sakonnet River Bridge and the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge to the Bridge and Turnpike Authority, adding language to explicitly forbid tolls on the Sakonnet River Bridge
21		to require cities and towns to follow a statewide system of accounting
22	5249	to free estates from taxation if their total value is less than \$2 million. (Currently, the threshold is \$850,000) The legislation would increase that threshold annually in accordance with the inflation
23	5194	to eliminate the state capital gains tax on ownership investments in Rhode Island companies greater than \$10,000 that are held for at least three years

Senate Bills (with House Companions)

Senate bill	House bill	Summary
26	5083-SubA	to impose a June 30, 2014, deadline by which Bryant University must negotiate a payment in lieu of taxes with the Town of Smithfield, or face property taxes in keeping with that paid by other local businesses
27		to impose a \$50 "public transportation fee" on all students attending Rhode Island's three public universities/colleges
29-SubA	5303, 5371 & 5748	to screen Medicaid, Rite Care, and Rite Share benefit claims and to analyze all transactions looking for fraudulent or incorrect claims
38	5015	to redefine marriage to include same-sex couples, with no protections for individuals or organizations who recognize only marriages between a man and a woman, except in extremely narrow religious circumstances
39	5496	to eliminate the option on state election ballots to vote for every candidate from a particular political party --- known as "master lever" and "straight party ticket" voting. This legislation is incomplete and therefore inferior to S0044
40	5284	to reduce the interest charged on civil action damages from 12% to 6% per year
41	5205	to collect DNA samples for any person arrested for a crime of violence (currently, DNA samples are only collected for those convicted) and expands the list of crimes for which a DNA sample is required
43	6231	to forbid Rhode Island courts from allowing a parent custody or visitation rights of a child conceived in an act of rape for which that parent was convicted, unless the "natural mother" or legal guardian consents to allowing limited, supervised visitation. The legislation would also apply to statutory rape of children under sixteen
44 & 653	5072 & 5778	to eliminate the option on state election ballots to vote for every candidate from a particular political party --- known as "master lever" and "straight party ticket" voting
46	5150 & 5533	to make it easier for the state to fine Rhode Islanders between \$350 and \$750 dollars for driving unregistered or uninsured automobiles. The system used for this purpose would include an "automatic license plate recognition system" that uses video cameras to identify a vehicle's license plate. It would also include a database to increase the ease with which government employees can request information about a vehicle and require all insurers to report to the state every day on customers who purchased or cancelled insurance or allowed their payments to lapse
49	5066	to move the deadline for notification that a teacher may be dismissed at the end of the school year from March 1 to June 1 if the reason is for a "fiscal exigency or program reorganization "
62		to make the general officers and board of directors of a private higher-education school personally liable for refunds of deposits and tuition payments if it closes without giving at least thirty days' notice
63		to give the state Renewable Energy Coordinating Board the authority and mandate to "provide a forum" for supporting "sustainable community development" and green jobs
65		to make the \$850,000 threshold for the estate tax into an exemption so that Rhode Islanders would only be taxed on assets above that amount. Currently, they are taxed on the entire estate if it is greater than that amount
66 & 195	5095 & 5117	to remove the sales tax from pet-care services
67 & 264	5218	to remove the sales tax from taxi services
68	5217	to use state taxpayer money as incentive for cities and towns to spend more local taxpayer money on senior services
71		to eliminate the minimum corporate income tax and minimum franchise tax on capital assets

Senate Bills (with House Companions)

Senate bill	House bill	Summary
79		to require metal-recycling businesses to apply for a license from the state, at a cost of \$70 per year. This bill would also impose stringent regulations concerning the identities of everybody from whom recyclers purchase metal and would make them liable for total damages if the metal was stolen and the regulations are not followed precisely
81	5470	to raise the threshold for the estate tax from \$850,000 to \$1 5 million, but would not make it an exemption. This means that estates over the threshold would be taxed on their total value, not just the value over the threshold
85	5413	to reduce the state gasoline tax from thirty-two cents per gallon to twenty-seven cents per gallon
87		to increase the income tax handout for the Earned Income Tax Credit from 15% of the amount that the credit exceeds the person's tax burden to 100%
89		to implement a \$5 co-payment for Rite Care/Rite Share members who utilize hospital emergency rooms and make urgent care visits
91		to require the General Assembly to include "legislative grants" in the state's annual budget. Currently, House and Senate leaders have near complete discretion in handing out this money
92		to forbid health insurance companies from seeking to lower costs by requiring members to use alternate prescription or over-the-counter drugs before using brand names, unless the alternate is a "therapeutically equivalent generic drug "
97		to free contractors from the requirement to notify clients of the contractor's right to file a mechanics lien on the property if they are not paid
98		to add "government assistance recipient" as a protected class in matters of housing discrimination. This legislation would not apply to rental properties with three or fewer residences, one of which is occupied by the owner.
100	5046 & 5301	to force tradesmen who maintain electrical wires and equipment to acquire electrician licenses
102		to require employers to pay transportation costs for employees receiving health care services related to a workers' compensation claim
103	5198	to present voters with a Constitutional amendment that would require all elected officers in the General Assembly and executive branch to pay 20% of their health insurance premiums
110		to force all financial institutions and credit unions to install security video cameras on their own premises at night deposit repository areas
111 & 309		to exclude wireless providers from the jurisdictions of the Public Utilities Commission and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers
112	5138	to allow Rhode Island public schools to increase their budgets by forcing parents above a certain income level to pay for students' extracurricular activities unless they can persuade the district that financial or personal hardship make payment impossible
113		to mandate musical performance instruction (including band, chorus, or other instruments) in all Rhode Island public secondary schools, without providing any funding
114		to make school bus monitors optional for district buses carrying students through fifth grade. The law currently requires districts to hire bus monitors to ride along with bus drivers
115		to postpone the merger of the Board of Governors for Higher Education and the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education until the General Assembly and governor approve an administrative plan
116-SubA		to give school districts the flexibility to extend their school days in order to shorten the number of days in the school year. The legislation also allows districts to exceed the number of total hours that would be required

Senate Bills (with House Companions)

Senate bill	House bill	Summary
117	5277	to forbid the Department of Education or any school district from using standardized testing as a criterion for graduation. Instead, the tests would only be used for school "accountability and improvement" and as a trigger to notify parents of their children's low performance
118-SubA	5252	to create a state "Teachers' Advisory Council" populated with teachers from every district appointed by their unions that would provide an additional platform for teachers' interests in front of the Board of Regents or equivalent committee
119	5475	to require recipients of public cash and medical assistance to ensure that their children have at least an 80% attendance rate at school, not including absences due to illness and injury
121		to impose new regulations on the sale and installation of outdoor wood-fired hydronic heaters
122	5378	to further implement separation of powers by removing members of the General Assembly from the Coastal Resource Management Council. Membership rules would also be simplified and changed with the intent of broadening the perspectives and experience on the council
123-SubA		to expand the duties and activities of the state Energy Efficiency and Resources Management Council and the state Renewable Energy Coordinating Board. The appointed members would more actively investigate energy activity in the state and advocate for renewable energy
136	5130	to use state taxpayer money to subsidize military installations by paying the city or town in which they are located 27% of the property taxes that they would pay if they weren't exempt
137	5552	to create "library assistance grants" that would send state taxpayer money to local libraries
138		to pressure law enforcement officers to lecture people smoking with children in the car when they pull them over
139		to force health care providers to use a brain monitor or pulse oximeter during any procedure for which the patient is put under general anesthesia
140	5461	to force all health insurers and medical plans to cover testing and treatment for temporomandibular joint disorder (which causes pain in the jaw)
141		to expand the role of the state Health Insurance Commissioner in pushing healthcare in the state away from a fee-for-service model in which providers are paid for services that they provide
146		to forbid landlords from asking potential tenants about their immigration status
149		to place on the next state election ballot an inquiry about whether employees should be free not to join unions or pay union dues
150		to give teachers the freedom to work without joining a union or paying any money in place of union dues. Individual teachers would have a right to negotiate their own terms with the schools in which they work
151		to present voters with a Constitutional amendment that would allow the passage of laws and Constitutional amendments by ballot initiative, bypassing the General Assembly and governor. The amendment would forbid voters from changing the state budget or limiting taxes within the Constitution, but it would not forbid them from increasing taxes and spending via statute
154		to require the House and Senate in the General Assembly to record video of all committee hearings and to post the videos online within 24 hours and for three years
171-SubA	5581	to give regulators the power to force dry cleaners to post prices for their services
172	5614	to create a "Port Marketing Collaborative" that would develop plans for ports across the state and determine ways to market them

Senate Bills (with House Companions)

Senate bill	House bill	Summary
175		to allow employees performing snow removal for the state to receive overtime pay even if they haven't put in a full week of work due to sick time
176		to allow school committees to sell advertising space on school buses. The legislation would also remove the requirement that all vans and other "pupil transportation vehicles" must have stop arms
177	5426	to forbid landlords from refusing to rent, or even discouraging people from seeking to rent, on the grounds that the potential tenants' pets are not "declawed or devocalized " The bill provides for a fine up to \$1,000, a period of probation during which the offender cannot own any pets or live on the same property as a pet owner, and forced "humane education "
178	5287	to force pitbull owners to take additional precautions for keeping their dogs, to forbid them from walking the dogs within 100 feet of a school, and to require them to carry liability insurance for the dog, with fines up to \$1,500
179		to free professional employer organizations of the requirement to remain bonded for an amount of \$50,000 if they have been registered with the state for at least two years
180		to adjust the state funding formula to redistribute state taxpayer money to lower-income cities and towns
181	5906	to add \$5 to traffic tickets to be given to the Department of Transportation for highway repair and maintenance
183	5088	to restrict state fiscal overseers, budget commissions, or receivers working in a city or town to financial matters, forbidding them from passing ordinances, resolutions, or charter revisions
188	5359	to end the seven-year phase-in of increased state aid for school districts that are scheduled to receive more, giving them the full amount immediately. The bill would also allow the municipalities to reduce their local "maintenance of effort" contributions to education by the amount of additional funding
190	5875	to increase the "tipping fee" for non-municipal vehicles disposing of waste at the Resource Recovery Corporation dump by \$2, with the money going to the town of Johnston
191	5090	to allow public charter schools access to state reimbursements for school housing costs independently of the school districts with which they may be associated
194		to force non-resident contractors working for the state to pay union-level wages to employees working on the project and to increase additional payment withholdings for any nonresident contractors doing business within the state from 3% to 5%, from which resulting taxes will be taken
199	5154	to force retailers of tobacco to post signage about the minimum age in Spanish, as well as English, and to add a sign in both languages concerning the health risks of the products
200	5613	to force health care insurers to calculate payments for mental illness and substance abuse treatment providers in the same way as other health care providers
201-SubA	5243	to forbid health insurance providers from considering gender when setting premium rates
207		to allow municipalities to tax new low-income housing at a rate higher than the state maximum if the city or town exceeds state requirements for the amount of such housing
212		to allow municipalities to count mobile homes when determining their percentages of low or moderate income housing
215		to limit the liability of government entities and employees in civil actions
216		to permit government employees to run for elective government office provided that they leave their jobs upon entering office

Senate Bills (with House Companions)

Senate bill	House bill	Summary
218		to substantially increase the fines for texting while in a vehicle that is not parked, from \$85 to \$500 for a first offense, from \$100 to \$1,000 for a second, and from \$125 to \$1,500 for a third
219	5184	to prevent public school employees from promoting political candidates or other campaign causes in school or sending campaign materials home with students
220		to make it illegal to talk on a mobile phone without a hands-free headset, with the opportunity to avoid the \$100 fee on a first offense by purchasing a hands-free headset
226, 366, 475	5341 & 6009	to make it more difficult to become a hoisting engineer by requiring three years of apprenticeship, with 6,000 hours of on-the-job training and 432 hours of training
227 & 476	5300	to force people who work with underground utilities, sewer lines, and storm drainage lines to become licensed by the state, with standardized testing and a biannual fee of \$200. They would also have to carry insurance and bonds
228	5598	to remove the requirement that an employee document a change in medical condition when applying for a resumption of workers' compensation benefits based on a recurrence of a prior condition
229		to increase the rate of pay that an employer must pay to an injured employee who is partially incapacitated from 75% to 85%
230 & 367	5508	to require employers to give 60 days notice before any transfer or mass layoff, with penalties of back pay or fines for a failure to comply
231	5889	to expand the state's temporary disability insurance program, paid for by taxes on Rhode Island workers' pay, to cover people who take time off from work to care for seriously ill family members or "to bond with a new child." In such cases, the employers must maintain health benefits for the employee and must return him or her to the prior job or its equivalent
232		to impose the same licensing requirements on microbreweries as apply to brewpubs
234	5105	to present voters with a Constitutional amendment that would limit elected officials in the Rhode Island House of Representatives and the Rhode Island Senate to three consecutive four-year terms
242	5416	to fix the price of tolls on the Newport Pell Bridge and forbid tolls on the Sakonnet River, Mount Hope, and Jamestown bridges, but to raise the funds for maintenance by increasing vehicle emissions inspection fees by \$20
243	5227	to exempt motorcycle trade-in values and insurance claims on damaged or stolen motorcycles from the state sales tax
246	5365	to completely eliminate the state sales tax, effective October 1, 2013
247		to increase the tax on cigarettes by approximately \$1.00 per pack, to impose a one-time "floor stock tax" on cigarette retailers and distributors that is 80% higher than the similar tax imposed in 2009, and to change the tax that distributors pay for cigarette stamps. This legislation would also create a fund of \$3.6 million paid to state agencies for a "tobacco control program"
249	5132	to expand the state's childcare subsidy to cover working families whose income increases above the cut-off point of 180% of the poverty level once they're enrolled. The new limit for such families would be 225% of the poverty level, which is currently around \$52,000 per year
252		to provide a \$99,600 credit on estate taxes, which is the equivalent of three times an exemption on taxes for estates up to \$1 million. This bill would also prevent the state tax from increasing along with the U.S. government's rate
253		to require state contracts to go to the lowest responsible bidder
254		to repeal recent sales tax impositions and increases on taxicabs and other transportation services, pet care services, and high-end clothing

Senate Bills (with House Companions)

Senate bill	House bill	Summary
255	5273	to forbid health care facilities from selling cigarettes
256-SubAaa	5079	to make it unlawful for any employer to pay less than \$8.00 per hour beginning January 1, 2014, increased from \$7.75. (Senate SubA)
257	5548	to give an additional \$2 million of taxpayer money to the state Human Resource Investment Council for workforce skills programs
258	5454	to exclude wireless providers from the jurisdictions of the Public Utilities Commission and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers and to allow any telephone company that is required to offer local exchange services to use various technologies for that purpose
260	5019	to ban the practice of "payday loans," which allow borrowers to borrow money against their future paychecks by writing a check that the lender will cash later, often at high interest rates
261	5799	to add a fee to all mattresses sold in Rhode Island in order to fund a mattress disposal program
265		to require the state auditor general to review the financial activities of all government entities, with an eye toward cost savings, efficiencies, internal management, and other possible adjustments
266, 612, 689	5363	to create an office of the Inspector General to seek out waste, fraud, and abuse in government activities
267	5408	to provide a \$99,600 credit on estate taxes, which is the equivalent of three times an exemption on taxes for estates up to \$1 million
268	5272	to give state taxpayer money intended to offset the motor vehicle excise tax to cities and towns based on their proportion of all vehicles, without regard to the tax rates that they impose on their residents' vehicles
269	5469	to expand eligibility for certain Medicare programs to disregard income up to 185% of the federal poverty level
270		to increase the state reimbursement rate for private developmental disability organizations' salaries from \$11.30 to \$12.03 per hour and adjust it by some measure of inflation going forward
271		to double the maximum part-time pay that retired public-sector nurses can receive as nurses or nursing instructors, to \$24,000
272	5411 & 6132	to prevent people from using, or stores from accepting, cash assistance funds for alcohol, lottery tickets, tobacco, pornography, guns, vacations, tattoos or piercings, jewelry, gambling, or government fees or fines and to make "food stamp trafficking" a crime
273		to increase the tax on cigarettes by approximately \$1.00 per pack. It is currently \$3.46
277 & 317	5818	to force all movie theaters that have at least ten screens to provide captioning for the deaf on at least one screen and audio descriptions for the blind
278		to expand the state's "parent deinstitutionalization subsidy programs" for those providing home care to include other family members than parents
279	5204-aa	to force all licensed "healthcare organizations" to put in place systems for "identifying patients or residents who could benefit from palliative care." This legislation would also create a new advisory board for palliative care within the Department of Health
280	5312 & 5976	to repeal the surcharge (tax) on medical imaging services
281	5418	to remove the authority of the Department of Health Board of Licensure to approve physician assistant training programs
282		to screen Medicaid, Rite Care, and Rite Share benefit claims and to analyze all transactions looking for fraudulent or incorrect claims; this bill would also add protections for technical software errors resulting in wasted money

Senate Bills (with House Companions)

Senate bill	House bill	Summary
284-aa	5456	to force wireless communications companies to give any "law enforcement agency" call location information for any phone or device on their networks if the agency states a "risk of death or serious physical harm " This legislation does not define "law enforcement agency" or establish any standards for review and accountability
287	5289	to begin interest payments on civil action judgments from the date that the actions are filed, not the date of the cause of action
288-aa		to give the Rhode Island Senate "advice and consent" authority over members of the parole board, and to limit those members to three terms of office
289		to allow city, town, or state police departments, or divisions of drug control, to keep any funds that they have confiscated and that have not been claimed within six months. This legislation would also remove the requirement that confiscated funds be kept in an interest-bearing account
290	5384	to add "juvenile program workers and shift coordinators" of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to the definition of "peace officer," giving them the authority to detain, search, question, and arrest people whom they suspect of committing or intending to commit a crime
291	5180	to require police to obtain search warrants before they may search for information on portable electronic devices, with previously established exceptions
293-SubA	5472	to forbid any contractor that does not participate in an apprenticeship program, or that has not graduated at least three apprentices to journeyman status in the prior five years, from bidding on any local, state, or quasi-governmental public works projects over \$1,000,000
303-SubA	5451 & 5530	to ban "discretionary authority" clauses in health-related insurance contracts
304		to force telephone companies to delay international calls with a message that the "call may cost an additional surcharge or fee" and that other "service plans may be available that offer reduced rates "
305		to forbid banks from charging overdraft fees to clients' accounts when they write checks that their balances can't cover
306		to forbid health insurance companies from increasing their rates by more than the rate of inflation, without regard to the underlying causes of the increase
310	5917	to force state taxpayers to subsidize the tuition of illegal immigrants at Rhode Island public universities and colleges if they graduated from a Rhode Island high school or received a high school equivalency diploma from the state and if they pledge to seek citizenship
312	5911	to require mayors wishing to start "mayoral academy" charter schools in their cities or towns to procure the express approval of the city or town's school committee and municipal council
314	5874	to ban the placement of recyclable materials in the state central landfill and direct the Resource and Recovery Corporation to decide on the rules and regulations to enforce the mandate
318	5376	to force local school districts to provide students with CPR and defibrillator training, without any provision of additional state aid
322	5394	to exempt new construction from property taxes until a certificate of occupancy has been issued and somebody moves in to it
324	5151	to limit the time and reasons for which alcohol distributors can lend each other money and to require the lending company. to track delinquency and send notices. The legislation also requires businesses on a state delinquency list to pay for subsequent shipments in cash until the debt is paid
329		to reduce the length of time before a primary election within which a voter can switch party affiliations from 90 days to 29 days

Senate Bills (with House Companions)

Senate bill	House bill	Summary
337	5498	to present voters with a Constitutional amendment that would give the state Ethics Commission jurisdiction over the General Assembly, modifying the "speech in debate" clause
342	6027	to intervene in the agreements between landowners and the homeowners who lease their land, including setting terms for the compensation paid for demolished homes and providing for binding arbitration of disputes
346	5575	to invalidate the votes of the people of Rhode Island in a presidential election if the national popular vote goes to the candidate whom Rhode Island's electorate did not choose by their own, usual methods
351	5599	to prevent litigants from determining the appropriate rate at which to pay back money that they've borrowed to pursue a lawsuit, without regard to the risk that lenders accept with regard to the outcome of the case
352	5140	to make permanent the law that allows police to pull people over for not wearing a seatbelt as a primary offense
357		to forbid employers from asking potential employees whether they've ever been convicted of a crime
359		to allow anybody to vote, provided they know the name of a registered voter, by repealing the recently passed law requiring voters to show identification
362		to allow prior owners and tenants of a foreclosed property to remain on the premises until the property is sold
363	5078	to force a group of public employees to become unionized if a labor organization procures "authorization cards" from 70% of the group, also known as "card check " Employers and labor organizations would be permitted to file complaints alleging coercion of employees
364	5340	to force school departments to follow the commands of arbitration boards when they cannot come to agreement with labor unions about financial matters in a contract, commonly known as "binding arbitration "
365 & 777	5699	to automatically extend all government union contracts for firefighters, municipal police, teachers, and municipal employees for as long as it takes for a new contract to be negotiated
368	5388 & 5577	to make it more difficult for businesses to claim those doing work for them as "independent contractors" and to set "employee" as the assumed default for "any person performing work for or on behalf of another "
371	5468	to force mayoral academy charter schools to enroll their teachers in the state retirement plan, but to forbid them from enrolling their administrators
375	5471	to force state colleges and universities to provide hospital care and surgical-medical services benefits to adjunct faculty with at least a 50% course load
382	5298 & 5723	to give the Public Utilities Commission broad authority to regulate wireless companies in response to customer complaints about billing, sales, and quality
383	5401	to ease the security mandates for check cashers such that bulletproof glass and steel partitions would not be mandated in the law
388		to expand the definition of "alarm system" to include wireless systems and to change the fee structure for technicians' licenses, including fees for trainees and apprentices and a shorter period between mandatory renewals. This bill would also create a state Board of Examiners of Security Professionals to investigate licensing and renewals
391	5479	to seek a federal waiver that would allow the state government to raise the income limit for "family planning services and supplies" to 250%, or just under \$60,000 for a family of four
392	5412	to allow new companies tax deductions if they hire two employees. The legislation would allow a business to reduce a tax of its choice by 50% in its first three years of operation and 25% in its second three years

Senate Bills (with House Companions)

Senate bill	House bill	Summary
393		to give a tax credit against state personal income taxes to taxpayers living and working in Rhode Island who have student loan debt from the successful completion of degree programs. The credit would be available for 10 years and would be for 10% of the person's remaining debt, with a maximum of \$1,000 to \$6,000, depending on the level of degree
395	5550	to double the state's matching funds for local public libraries, based on local expenditures and private endowments
399		to make Social Security income that is taxable by federal laws not taxable in RI
401	5815	to force taxpayers to subsidize the income and training of new low-to-moderate-income employees who were previously unemployed by providing grants to their employers for up to six months
403	5939	to require the Department of Labor and Training to upgrade its online employment services, with tools to identify the gaps between participating candidates' skills and participating employers' needs
404	5403	to ban plastic bags in retail stores and require them to charge at least ten cents per paper bag used instead
406	5264	to force businesses that supply consumer products that have packaging to put together a detailed plan and achieve a recycling rate for their packaging of 80% by 2020. The Department of Environmental Management will be able to confiscate up to \$1 million dollars from each business that does not comply
407 & 484	5494	to give the government power to determine whether pet owners are providing "adequate living conditions" to their pets
411		to require law enforcement personnel to acquire a warrant before using an "unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)" (i. e , drone) to collect information on a person in Rhode Island
412	5103	to allow prior owners and tenants of a foreclosed property to remain on the premises until the property is sold
414		to require that a person convicted of committing a crime knew his or her action to be against the law, unless the law violated says otherwise
415		to expand the circumstances under which a court must provide interpretation/translation services to people who are deaf or hard of hearing. The bill would also provide for the video recording of proceedings for the purpose of verification
418	5106 & 5236	to require private-sector Rhode Island employers with three or more employees to participate in the E-Verify program to ensure that all workers are legally eligible to live and work in the United States
421	5660	to make multiple changes to the voting process, including provisions to maximize the number of votes counted from ballots that contain mistakes and made by voters who go to the incorrect polling place or district. The legislation would also provide for increased scrutiny and audits of voting machines and would forbid people present in a polling place to wear or display election-related materials unless they are in the process of voting.
422		to give illegal immigrants the ability to receive drivers' licenses that would be valid for two years and cost \$100
425	5576	to make it illegal for people under 18 years old "to possess" firearms unless under adult supervision or engaged in specified activities
427	5515	to intervene in the agreements between insurers, nonprofit hospitals, and other nonprofit medical service organizations and optometrists to forbid the requirement that the optometrist offers discounted benefits in order to participate in the insurer's provider panel
428	5354	to force health insurance companies to offer coverage to oral anticancer medicines, explicitly forbidding them to increase patient cost sharing

Senate Bills (with House Companions)

Senate bill	House bill	Summary
439		to forbid casualty insurance companies from using members' credit reports or ratings for underwriting or risk assessment
441	5318	to expand the administrative activities that school committees can join together, or with colleges or universities, to provide
443		to force local property owners to subsidize arts-related nonprofit organizations by exempting them from property taxes
444	5682 & 5500	to allow electoral ballots to be invalidated if there is a "defect" in the voter's markings, even if the intention is clear
445	5568	to remove the requirement that people requesting emergency mail ballots certify that the reason "manifested twenty (20) days or less prior to the election "
447	5567	to remove the requirement that people requesting emergency mail ballots explain why they need them
450	5504	to eliminate the requirement that voters who received, but did not use, mail ballots turn them in before 9:00 p.m. on election day
452		to increase political contribution limits and make other changes to the rules for them, as well as to cap the fines for inadequate reporting at \$2,000. This legislation would also prevent people with 4 or more delinquent reports or \$2,000 in unpaid fines from running for office or collecting contributions
453	5672	to limit the ability of the Board of Elections to recount mail ballots
457	5058	to allow the state to seize proceeds from any criminal commercial sexual activities. Currently, only proceeds from a specific act of prostitution are forfeited
458	5539	to create a state fingerprint registry and to expand the criminal background checks required for long-term care providers
459		to require the release of confidential healthcare information to authorities if it "appears necessary" to provide information about a crime
461	5538	to force anybody offering personal care of other people, whether professionally or not, to register with the state (for a fee), take state-approved training and continuing education, and make themselves and the people for whom they care subject to "inspections and investigations," with up to \$1,000 in fines and one year of imprisonment for failure to comply
465	5263	to forbid automobile insurance providers from designating a car to be "a total loss" unless the repair costs would be more than 75% of the vehicle's fair market value, unless the owner requests that it be done
466	5382	to implement standards by which people in police custody can be made to undergo strip and body cavity searches
467	5827	to force parents of drivers education students to take a course. Currently, the course is optional
469		to forbid any government agent from looking into the immigration status of anybody who is a complainant or witness in an investigation, and to prevent the sharing of such information, if collected, with any other government agency
472	5522	to allow autobody shops the right to file a civil action against insurers that won't agree to their charges, with penalties up to \$5,000 to insurers for not negotiating in good faith, but no penalties for autobody shops
473	5022	to allow the governor, not the Superior Court, to nominate judicial magistrates for approval by the Rhode Island Senate
485	5662	to increase the fees for Superior Court arbitration between 50-70%
493	5255-SubA	to forbid public and private schools, as well as all employers, from asking students or employees to divulge any information about their use of social media that is not already publicly available
494	5554	to use \$3,250,000 of state taxpayer money to subsidize the price of rent for homeless shelter residents and to expand winter shelters

Senate Bills (with House Companions)

Senate bill	House bill	Summary
495-SubA	5677	to give the Department of Environmental Management the ability to issue citations with penalties up to \$2,500 through an "expedited" process skirting due process. The target of the citation would have no right to appeal the decision until DEM renews it after its 60 day expiration
496	5657	to force Rhode Island public schools to devote class time in grades kindergarten through eight to "courses of study in prevention of child abduction, child sexual exploitation, and child sexual abuse "
508		to forbid landlords and tenants from agreeing to the terms by which the tenant may invite contractors and repairmen onto the premises to do work, including on docks, piers, and marina slips
509		to require the Education Commissioner to expend resources in order to investigate school districts for evidence of racial profiling in student discipline. The legislation would also limit the student conduct that would allow for out-of-school suspension
511-SubA		to make it possible for students in four-year programs at universities and colleges to transfer credits amounting to up to 80% of the requirements for a two-year associates degree
514		to transfer final budget authority of school districts to their municipal budget authorities and increase state oversight of school spending
517	5739	to expand the authority of the Department of Environmental Management to regulate and generally involve itself with agriculture in Rhode Island, through a new Division of Agriculture
522		to give the General Treasurer authority to withhold state aid from municipalities that do not make the annual required contributions (ARCs) to their locally run pension plans
525	5414	to expand the limited 62% increase in supplemental security income (SSI) for individuals living in assisted living residences to all such individuals and to repeal the rule that reduces state SSI payments by the amount that the federal government adjusts its payments for inflation
527	5196, 5374 & 5751	to force taxpayers with income over \$250,000 to pay an additional 2% in taxes above that amount, bringing the top tax bracket to 7.99%, and to impose a minimum amount of state aid that the state must give to cities and towns next year
528	5221	to give 3% cost of living adjustments (COLAs) to retirees in the state pension plan whose defined benefit payments are less than 150% of the federal poverty level. The legislation would not consider any additional income, including from the defined contribution portion of their pensions, when determining eligibility
529		to end the moratorium on state aid for school construction on unnecessary projects by diverting 1% of sales, use, and meals taxes to a new fund for that purpose
530		to end the moratorium on state aid for school construction on unnecessary projects
531	5410	to allow cash assistance (welfare) recipients to collect all four years of their lifetime limit consecutively, without the currently required break between periods, and to remove the requirement that they have "rehabilitation employment plans" after two years
532	5600	to create a Prudence Island Ferry Authority consisting of the appointees of the Portsmouth and Bristol governments that would have a monopoly on any ferry services to and from Prudence Island

Senate Bills (with House Companions)

Senate bill	House bill	Summary
533		to give the RI House of Representatives Finance Committee responsibility for an annual audit of all agencies and quasi-public organizations and cities and towns, through the auditor general. The legislation would also transfer the Bureau of Audits from the Department of Administration to a legislator-nominated bureau and expand its powers
535		to allow businesses to sell unused tax credits from "net operating loss carryover" or "research and development "
537	5983	to force insurers that provide coverage of prescription drugs to allow early refills of prescription eye drops up to the total amount prescribed
538	5400	to add three years to the moratorium on new nursing facility licenses that is scheduled to end on July 1, 2013
540		to add new reporting requirements for various health-related boards to the General Assembly; to start a pilot program allowing state employees and retirees with frequent hospital visits to enter into patient-centered medical homes; to require a study of the possibility of forcing insurers to provide toll-free numbers and Web sites that members can use to get detailed information about their program benefits; to develop standards for the certification of "accountable care organizations (ACOs); to force insurers and HMOs to provide the state with information about rates to facilitate price fixing by the Insurance Commissioner; to force hospitals to provide detailed financial and other reports annually to the state
549	5490	to forbid vendors contracted with the state government for more than \$5,000 per year from giving campaign contribution to people in the offices, or running for the offices, with which they do business
551	5854	to charge an additional \$46 for marriage licenses, with \$2 for the city or town and \$44 to fund grants to the Coalition Against Domestic Violence
552	5483	to create a Public Corruption and White Collar Crime unit within the Department of the Attorney General to investigate "abuse of the public trust "
553 & 769	5683	to extend early voting to three Thursdays before the actual election
555	5519	to force anybody dealing in precious metals, tools, or electronics to operate within a commercial zone and to require them to be fingerprinted for a national criminal records search
556	5497	to expand on laws prohibiting bribery of public officials, sale of political endorsements, and other means by which officials are able to profit through their public authority. The legislation would set the statute of limitations for violations at 10 years and allow for penalties up to 10 years in prison and \$150,000
559		to allow city, town, or state police departments, or divisions of drug control, to keep any funds that they have confiscated and that have not been claimed within six months.
561		to add quasi-public corporations to the list of organizations that must file contract and vendor payment information with the Secretary of State and to require all government entities to post the reports on their own Web sites and on the Secretary of State's Web site
562		to keep a list of all people convicted of driving without insurance for five years for the purpose of randomly checking up on whether they now have insurance
563	5149 & 5338	to allow and sometimes require judges and magistrates to force people convicted of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol to install ignition interlock systems on their cars. Such devices detect alcohol on a driver's breath and prevent starting the car. The legislation also extends the maximum time that drivers can be forced to have the devices up to five years
567		to create an online system for the state to verify that drivers have car insurance, funded by an additional \$1 fee on car registrations

Senate Bills (with House Companions)

Senate bill	House bill	Summary
571-SubA	5526	to force employers participating in the state work-sharing program to continue to offer health insurance to employees as if their hours hadn't been reduced and to open up the program to government employers
572		to make it more difficult for businesses to claim those doing work for them as "independent contractors" and to set "employee" as the assumed default for "any person performing work for or on behalf of another "
574	5121	to forbid businesses and their employees to agree to arrangements in which tips and service charges are distributed in any way except directly to the specific employee who received them
576	5856	to require colleges and universities in the state to evaluate whether a student's military training qualifies for academic credits, to require schools offering two-year associates degrees to accept credits earned at four-year institutions, and to give combat veterans opportunity to register early for college courses
578	5841	to allow manufacturers and wholesalers of alcoholic beverages also to have direct financial interest in retail stores, as long as does not exclude competitors' brands
580		to spend \$1.75 million of state taxpayer money to fund 69 units of housing for homeless veterans
581	6126	to allow up to five nights a week of bingo at senior centers
592	5666	to increase the maximum imprisonment for driving under the influence of alcohol with a child under 13 years of age in the car from one year to five and to add up to \$5,500 in fines. The legislation would also require his or her license to be immediately suspended, even prior to prosecution
599		to forbid banks from charging overdraft fees when the amount overdrafted is less than \$10 or to impose more than three overdraft fees in one calendar day when the total amount overdrafted is less than \$100. The legislation would also require banks to offer an optional service that prevents transactions from being ordered from largest to smallest
603		to allow the state Resource Recovery Corporation to consider incineration technologies while planning for the future. This legislation would also allow glass and uncontaminated out-of-state soil for use as cover material at the state dump
605	5743	to make it easier for a municipality or school district to borrow money, without state approval, if a major rating agency gives it an A score or better
608		to increase the maximum part-time pay that retired college/university professors can receive for teaching classes from \$15,000 to \$18,000
609	6258	to increase the government oversight, transparency, and auditing of quasi-public corporations
610		to add \$0.25 to the tax on a pack of cigarettes to increase maintenance funding for the Turnpike and Bridge Authority
611	5791	to make local fire districts subject to the law capping tax levy increases, but to require towns to assume responsibility for fire districts liquidated by voters and allow them to impose special taxes to pay for them
615	5155-SubA	to expand the reach of the Department of Human Services so that it can create an assessment of the personal and financial circumstances of people who help to care for their elderly or disabled family and friends
618	5838	to limit health insurers and providers' ability to mutually agree to terms for "timely notification" of necessary services that have been provided to clients
640	5192	to forbid Rhode Islanders acting through their city or town governments to implement local rules that are "more restrictive" than those of the Department of Environmental Management or the Coastal Management Resources Council
642	5812	to allow the state to divert profits from the state's "cap and trade" scheme, which auctions permits for emitting carbon dioxide, to other green programs of the Dept. of Environmental Management or Office of Energy Resources

Senate Bills (with House Companions)

Senate bill	House bill	Summary
647-SubA	5756-SubA	to create a state-controlled electronic prescription database storing all information related to electronically distributed medical prescriptions. The legislation also expands the types of prescriptions that may be transmitted electronically
648-SubAaa	5714	to force all people offering professional massages to become "massage therapists," licensed and tracked by a state board, and to engage in continuing education every year. The legislation would also increase the fine for violation from \$1,000 to \$5,000, for owners
649	5769	to require organizations holding medical patients' records to provide information to the patient or his/her representative within ten days of request, and to give patients access to reports about those with whom the organizations have shared the information
656	5770	to give the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) power over the property and winnings of anybody who applies for medical assistance from the state, and gives EOHHS new subpoena powers for investigations that "may assist to secure financial and other information necessary for administrating" its programs
662	5465	to eliminate the Workers' Compensation Investigations Unit of the State Police, which is charged with the investigation of "fraud, abuse, and mismanagement"
666	5459	to limit the ability of stop-loss insurance companies and their clients to agree to the size of liabilities that will be covered. This legislation would also limit the ability of insurers and their clients from agreeing to language concerning the terms and standards of review in their contracts
669	5441	to leave "standards for evaluation" of education personnel under local control, but to require them to be subject to collective bargaining and to limit the amount that "student growth and achievement" can count in the evaluation to one-third of the total evaluation rating
671		to create a permanent Climate Change Advisory Committee to review statewide plans for their effect on climate change effects
672	5425	to forbid Rhode Islanders acting through their city or town governments to implement local rules that are "more restrictive" than those of the Department of Environmental Management or the Coastal Management Resources Council.
674	5934	to make it more difficult for municipalities to privatize the services that they offer to residents by requiring cost comparisons to include such things as employee benefits, by setting notification requirements for current employees, and by granting government labor unions the right to offer competing bids and appeal the decisions
675	5790	to limit judgments against Burrillville for "over-assessment of property" to \$100,000
680	5020	to provide a subsidy to qualified relatives of behaviorally or developmentally disabled people in order to remove them from institutional hospitals or centers. Currently, only the parents of the patient qualify
682-aa	5207	to create a committee of senators and representatives to review statutes (called the Joint Committee of the Repealer), regulations, and executive orders with an eye toward repealing those that aren't "business friendly" or are out of date
684	5625	to force state taxpayers to spend at least 3% of every contract governed by "minority-owned enterprise" laws on small businesses owned by military veterans. Contractors hired by the state that do not follow that instruction face non-payment, contract termination, 10% recovery of the contract price, and being banned from state projects for three years
685	5626	to require employees of the state Board of Education and their dependents to agree to public disclosure before they are eligible for tuition waivers from the state's public colleges and universities

Senate Bills (with House Companions)

Senate bill	House bill	Summary
687	5704	to remove the restriction on life insurance payments by retired teachers so that they pay the actual annual cost of the policy. Currently, the teachers never pay more than the cost of the policy the year they retire
688		to automatically transform private contractors working for the state for more than 3 years into regular state employees, whether or not they wish to be
692	5546	to create an office of the "developmental disabilities ombudsperson" within the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals to investigate claims related to the care provided to people with developmental disabilities
696	5633	to use state grants and matching funds to pressure cities and towns to create "community preservation committees," which would research and implement land purchase and development deals in keeping with ideals of "sustainable development." The legislation would allow cities and towns to impose (with a majority vote from residents) up to an additional 3% tax ("surcharge") on local property that would not be counted in calculations or limits on the tax levy. The state would provide matching funds up to 100% of the surcharge, with the money coming (among other places) from an additional \$20 fee on all real estate recording instruments (e.g., deeds).
698		to give the governor authority to appoint all members of the state Ethics Commission with the advise and consent of the state Senate
702		to eliminate the general magistrate position in the state family court and increase the number of associate justices on the court by one
709		to increase the risk assessment and reporting requirements for all insurers with above a certain size
711-SubA	5610	to shift authority from boards within the Division of Design Professionals to the director of Business Regulation, to change testing requirements for land surveyors and engineers, to indemnify members of boards and the department against legal proceedings, and to expand the director's authority to issue cease and desist orders against people suspected of engaging in the activities of engineering, land surveying, architecture, and landscape architecture without licenses
712-aa		to give unelected members of the Economic Development Corporation and state Division of Planning a mandate to develop "a written long-term economic development vision and policy" for the state. Subsequently, every new governor would grant the power to review the plan to unelected members of a new Economic Development Planning Council
716		to start a pilot program burdening the 911 authority with responsibility for direct dispatch of municipal emergency workers
719-SubA	5839-SubA	to impose special treatment of victims of domestic abuse in cases involving property or casualty insurance claims
720	5527	to allow the state to selectively revoke parts of a taxicab driver's license for services that he or she has not performed within the past 180 days
721	5589	to allow the public utilities administrator to share utilities customer information with other state or private agencies or medical personnel, and to make such information publicly available when it is used "during a proceeding before" the commission
723		to create a Children and Youth Collaborative consisting of government and other public-entity representatives to manipulate government policy related to children in the interests and ideologies of its members
725	5616	to empower the Office of Energy Resources to collect "price, inventory and product delivery dates" from wholesalers and resellers of various fuels. The legislation would also require companies and customers with storage capacity of more than 50,000 gallons to supply information upon request

Senate Bills (with House Companions)

Senate bill	House bill	Summary
728		to allow the state Resource Recovery Corporation to consider incineration technologies while planning for the future.
734		to require the state Office of Revenue Analysis regularly to report on the status of all of the tax credit programs that the state has implemented for purposes of economic development
735		to divert 20% of the fee that the government requires electric companies to charge in order to fund "renewable energy programs" to the Office of Energy Resources to administer its own green programs
736		to expand the state's childcare subsidy to cover working families whose income increases above the cut-off point of 180% of the poverty level once they're enrolled. The new limit for such families would be 225% of the poverty level, which is currently around \$52,000 per year. The legislation would also require development of a "pilot childcare assistance transition program"
737		to create a Municipal Employees' Health Care Benefits Program board to develop a plan for unified health care benefits for all municipal employees and make provisions to bring existing retirement benefits into conformity with future changes
742	6217	to transfer Central Falls retirees covered under the municipal pension into the state Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS), with retroactive and automatic cost of living adjustments (COLAs)
747	5637	to increase the transparency for organizations claiming the state's historic structures tax credit
750	5623	to force state taxpayers to give \$500,000 to teachers and other education personnel for the expansion of the Jason Project, which works to increase the use of technology in learning, currently in Burrillville, Bristol/Warren, Coventry, Cranston, East Providence, Jamestown, North Providence, and Warwick
753	5725-aa	to restrict the interactions that the people of Rhode Island can have with physicians licensed in other states
754	5591	to forbid health insurance customers to purchase plans that have dollar limits on pharmacy benefits or that do not have out-of-pocket limits within a range that is acceptable to government
756		to reduce the amount of time that agents reviewing medical claims have to consider them, from 15 days to 48 hours for non-urgent services and from 72 hours to 24 hours for urgent services
767-SubA		to define all government employee evaluations as private personnel documents that cannot be released to the public
768		to give special drivers' licenses to foreign nationals who are able to produce a taxpayer ID number and a utility bill
771	5438	to force automobile insurers to submit data on all of their clients to the state Division of Motor Vehicles for the purpose of creating a database that would allow the state to find and fine uninsured motorists
773	5506	to give police and fire retirees access to arbitration processes in place for collective bargaining disputes
774	5186	to increase the number of reasons for teacher layoffs that require school districts to use seniority when deciding whom to let go, and to move the date by which notice must be given from March 1 to May 15
776-SubA	5689	to assess a 15% penalty on employment security benefits that have been fraudulently obtained
809	6030	to create a Made in Rhode Island Manufacturing Collaborative and a related advisory group, both with staffing funded through the Economic Development Corporation, that would come up with ways to brand and promote products made in Rhode Island

Senate Bills (with House Companions)

Senate bill	House bill	Summary
813	5853	to impose new restrictions on circuses or traveling shows that feature elephants concerning the implements that they may use while in contact with the animals, including a restriction on the use of chains for short periods of medical treatment. The legislation would impose fines up to \$5,000 per violation and imprisonment of up to one year
815	5953	to set statewide zoning regulations for renewable energy facilities on farms
816	5802	to implement a minimum percentage of biodiesel for home heating oil
819	5816	to force state taxpayers to pay Providence property taxes on areas of the old I-195 land that has not yet been leased
820	6103	to force the taxpayers of Woonsocket to accept a tax increase up to 12.7% on motor vehicles and 4.6% on real estate, up to \$2.5 million, as determined by the state Budget Commission currently operating within the town, with no opportunity to stop the increase by any means in state or local law. However, the commission could vary or eliminate the increases for elderly residents
821		to prevent cash assistance from the government from being used or accepted for the purchase of alcoholic beverages, lottery tickets, or tobacco products, with finds up to \$1,000 for businesses that accept such payments. The legislation would also forbid use of such money in liquor, gambling, adult entertainment, firearms, tattoo, or some other leisure-related businesses, with fines up to \$2,500
822		to force state taxpayers (or some other source of funds for the government) to subsidize new internships offered to college students through a tax credit for the employers
823		to allow local tax assessors to require annual applications for renewal of special tax treatment for low-income housing
824		to forbid cities and towns from declining to allow a state property tax exemption of up to \$5,000 for historic stone walls
825	5738	to lower the work requirements for cash assistance (welfare) from at least 35 hours per week for one parent to 35 hours per week for both parents
832	5753	to establish a Health Analytics, Policy and Planning Commission to gather and analyze data on the state's health system and to make recommendations
833	6134 & 6157	to create a Program Integrity Division within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) charged with addressing fraud and abuse in Medicaid and public assistance
834-SubA		to create a joint legislative commission charged with investigating ways to use government policy to force the merger of primary and behavioral health care in the state
837	5705	to make the business registration rules of Smithfield more restrictive, specifying that it is "unlawful" to operate any kind of business without registering and paying required fees and increasing the fine for violation from \$25 to \$25 for every day of violation
840	5944	to allow people or "public bodies" to seek monetary relief from a defendant in an antitrust case
855		to allow the Central Coventry fire district to charge different tax rates to residential real estate and commercial real estate, with the difference being no more than 50%. The legislation would also automatically appropriate the prior year's tax authorization if a new one is not approved by voters, with an increase sufficient to pay bond debt and interest
856		to divide up the Central Coventry Fire District among the other fire districts in the town, including all of its debts and liabilities
858	6002	to use taxpayer resources to temporarily increase the percentage of video slot terminal income payable to Newport Grand by 3.2 percentage points, ending at the end of June 2015

Senate Bills (with House Companions)

Senate bill	House bill	Summary
859	5990	to encroach on the rights described in the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution by banning the manufacture, sale, purchase, and possession of semiautomatic rifles with various features that lawmakers deem evidence of an intent to "assault" as well as any mechanism for feeding more than 10 bullets into a gun
860	5991	to make it a crime, with a minimum penalty of three years (maximum 15 years) to possess a stolen firearm (with no requirement of knowledge), to increase the maximum additional penalty for possession of a firearm while committing a "crime of violence" to 15 years (from 10), and to expand the law against false claims while procuring a firearm so that they apply to any firearm-related statement, adding a fine of up to \$5,000 to the penalty
861	5996	to give authority for handling the appeals of people who've been deemed disqualified for ownership of a firearm to a new board created under the control of the director of the state Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals
864	5994	to add people convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to the list of people who cannot purchase or handle firearms. Currently, felony domestic violence prevents purchase and handling of firearms for two years. The legislation would also increase the sentence for violating this rule from 2-10 years to 3-15 years and the sentence for stealing a gun from 1-10 years to 2-15 years. The legislation would also heavily increase a variety of penalties related to the purchase, possession, and use of firearms
865	5993	to require any handgun owner seeking a license to carry it, in a concealed fashion or otherwise, to prove a need to the attorney general. Currently, local licensing authorities can grant such licenses. The legislation would also prevent licenses from being issued to minors. It would also increase the license fee from \$40 to \$140 every four years and require national criminal record checks
879	5199	to allow police and firefighters to retire at any age, with at least ten years of service. Currently, they must be at least 55 years old to retire
889	6076	to increase the different administrative positions that teachers can take and be considered on "leave of absence" from their teaching jobs, thus maintaining tenure, seniority, and a right to return to their prior jobs
899		to ask the Dept. of Environmental Management to make its regulations more stringent by not automatically granting stays of notices of violation while individuals and businesses pursue pollution-related remedies
900	6019	to create a program letting residential property owners finance "clean energy" upgrades through a "voluntary assessment" included in their property tax bills and subject to liens if they foreclose or otherwise transfer the property
901	6018	to require electric distribution companies to buy a certain amount of their energy from hydropower facilities, regardless of the cost. When submitting an application for approval of its agreement, the electric company would also be required to pay up to \$300,000 for consultants and lawyers within government to review the materials, explicitly giving "the final decision as to whether a long-term contract should be required" to the resulting commission
902	5931	to expand the limited 62% increase in supplemental security income (SSI) for individuals living in assisted living residences to all such individuals and to repeal the rule that reduces state SSI payments by the amount that the federal government adjusts its payments for inflation, instead explicitly increasing the payment by inflation each year. This legislation would also require the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) to take steps to increase access to assisted living services for Medicaid recipients

Senate Bills (with House Companions)

Senate bill	House bill	Summary
903		to allow directors of government departments to share information for the purposes of enforcing the law, seeking waste and abuse, and any other purpose, even if other laws currently prevent them from sharing the information
905		to create new licenses and regulations for people providing naturopathic medical services, with licenses renewable every two years, requiring continuing education
917	6020	to require the Office of Management and Budget and Office of Health and Human Services to perform "a comprehensive mapping initiative" to understand what efforts the state is undertaking to prevent Medicaid and public assistance fraud and abuse and to make recommendations
939	5466	to stop the phase-out of the regionalization bonus that the state gives to regional school districts, giving such districts a 1.75% bonus per consolidated grade (but no less than an 8% bonus)
940		to allow the Hopkins Hill fire district to charge different tax rates to residential real estate and commercial real estate, with the difference being no more than 50%. The legislation would also automatically appropriate the prior year's tax authorization if a new one is not approved by voters, with an increase sufficient to pay bond debt and interest
941		to require public utilities to charge all tenants of "a manufacturing and/or industrial complex" by the lowest gross receipts tax rate available to any of the tenants
942		to require recipients of tax credits to disclose "all persons, brokers, entities and professionals receiving compensation in connection with the sale or brokerage of the tax credit" before they can sell or broker them
950	6062	to expand the types of workplaces in which teenagers over 14 can work (with school committee approval) to include factories or mechanical and manufacturing businesses. The legislation would also allow those 16 years or older to participate in "manufacturing or industrial apprenticeship or internship programs"
959	6011	to allow the City of Newport to add a dollar per passenger to the fees for cruise ship landing at and departing from docks in the city. That would represent a 50% increase
969	5534	to remove the requirement that water suppliers install radio frequency meters
982	6168	to free storage space owners from the requirement to publish notice of delinquencies in newspapers
984		to give the state Director of Revenue authority over the administrative or financial officer of a city or town after it has emerged from state oversight, including the power of appointment
989	6210	to fix the price of tolls on the Newport Pell Bridge and forbid tolls on the Sakonnet River, Mount Hope, and Jamestown bridges, but to raise the funds for bridge maintenance by increasing vehicle inspection fees by \$26
1011	5671	to forbid residents, acting through their local governments, from discriminating against or in favor of any specific breed of any species of animal
1012	6088	to make it more complicated to offer supervisory, medical, or educational care of any kind by banning the use of restraints in all but the most extreme circumstances, and with a regimented checklist of requirements

House Bills (with Senate Companions)		
House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5004		to postpone the merger of the Board of Governors for Higher Education and the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education until July 1, 2013
5015	38	to redefine marriage to include same-sex couples, with no protections for individuals or organizations who recognize only marriages between a man and a woman, except in extremely narrow religious circumstances
5018		to prevent any public utility companies from raising rates, tolls, and charges by more than 2 5% over the course of two years, while providing no process for review of market forces or relief from regulations and mandates if they are driving up costs
5019	260	to ban the practice of "payday loans," which allow borrowers to borrow money against their future paychecks by writing a check that the lender will cash later, often at high interest rates
5020	680	to provide a subsidy to qualified relatives of behaviorally or developmentally disabled people in order to remove them from institutional hospitals or centers. Currently, only the parents of the patient qualify
5022	473	to allow the governor, not the Superior Court, to nominate judicial magistrates for approval by the Rhode Island Senate
5027		to allow customers of electric companies to refuse installation of "smart meters," which enable the providers to monitor energy use remotely in real or near-real time, possibly including control or "kill switch" technology
5028		to forbid automobile insurance providers from considering credit history when determining individuals' rates
5029		to require electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards for food-stamp purchases to include a picture of the recipient
5030		to reduce the minimum tax for corporations from \$500 to \$250, but only for the business's first three years
5032		to make it illegal for young adults and children under the age of 21 to gamble, with penalties up to \$500 for the youth and adults who knowingly allowed the "underage gambling" and a driver's license suspension of six months
5038		to force candidates, political party groups, and political action committees to report information about the recipients of expenditures above \$100
5040		to allow the state to send mail ballots for elections even if the recipients simply don't want to vote in person
5045		to change the burden of action on automobile liability and physical damage insurance from the state commissioner to the company for rate increases. Currently, the commissioner has a certain period to disapprove of the proposal; this legislation would require the company to secure approval. It would also apply a minimum notification period for changes that are approved
5046 & 5301	100	to force tradesmen who maintain electrical wires and equipment to acquire electrician licenses
5047		to force Rhode Islanders to take six hours of "over-the-road driver's training" from licensed driving schools before they're eligible to receive driver's licenses
5050		to grant cities, towns, and school districts partial freedom from state mandates that are not covered by state aid, up to 50% of the shortfall
5054		to increase by 20% the maximum pay that retired employees of the state education system can add to their income by working within the system while receiving pension payments
5055	13	to exempt school districts from paying the local share of a student's tuition to charter schools and other non-district public schools if the "comparable district school" outperforms it according to the state accountability system

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5056		to redefine marriage to include same-sex couples, with no protections for individuals or organizations who recognize only marriages between a man and a woman, except in extremely narrow religious circumstances, subject to approval by voters during the next general election
5058	457	to allow the state to seize proceeds from any criminal commercial sexual activities. Previously, only the proceeds from a specific act of prostitution were forfeited
5059		to make it a felony for food stamp recipients to trade their benefits for cash or for others to purchase them
5064		to present voters with a Constitutional amendment that would limit elected officials in the Rhode Island House of Representatives to three consecutive four-year terms
5066	49	to move the deadline for notification that a teacher may be dismissed at the end of the school year from March 1 to June 1 if the reason is for a "fiscal exigency or program reorganization "
5068		to force school committees to "appoint a guard" for every school building in their districts, without providing for state aid to offset the costs of doing so
5072 & 5778	44 & 653	to eliminate the option on state election ballots to vote for every candidate from a particular political party, known as "master lever" and "straight party ticket" voting
5073		to speed up the scheduled increase in motor vehicle registration fees and redirect 35% of the money intended for transportation infrastructure to public transit expenses and subsidies. This legislation would also redirect money intended for these purposes to the general fund through 2016, allowing the government to spend it on other things
5074		to forbid senators and representatives in the Rhode Island General Assembly from accepting campaign contributions during the legislative session, prior to passage of the state budget
5075		to permit government employees to run for elective government office and to permit elected office holders to take jobs in the government while in office
5077		to allow the Director of the Corrections Department to assign inmates to emergency remediation projects after the governor declares a state of emergency or the president declares a federal disaster
5078	363	to force a group of public employees to become unionized if a labor organization procures "authorization cards" from 70% of the group, also known as "card check " Employers and labor organizations would be permitted to file complaints alleging coercion of employees
5079	256-SubAaa	to make it unlawful for any employer to pay less than \$8.00 per hour beginning January 1, 2014, increased from \$7 75. (Senate SubA)
5083-SubA	26	to impose a June 30, 2014, deadline by which Bryant University must negotiate a payment in lieu of taxes with the Town of Smithfield, or face property taxes in keeping with that paid by other local businesses
5088	183	to restrict state fiscal overseers, budget commissions, or receivers working in a city or town to financial matters, forbidding them from passing ordinances, resolutions, or charter revisions
5089		to present voters with a Constitutional amendment that would limit the pay increases of members of the General Assembly to no more than those received by full-time employees of the state
5090	191	to allow public charter schools access to state reimbursements for school housing costs independently of the school districts with which they may be associated
5093		to transfer state taxpayer revenue to residents of "distressed communities" by allow their local governments to exempt motor vehicles from taxation up to \$6,000 and make up the difference with state money. The exemption for the rest of the state would remain at only \$500

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5095 & 5117	66 & 195	to remove the sales tax from pet-care services
5096 & 5545		to require state taxpayers to pay the budget commission and staff sent into a city or town in response to prior fiscal mismanagement. Currently the city or town in those circumstances must pay for the assistance
5098		to require the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to seek approval from the General Assembly for any loan guarantees or bonds above \$2 million and to publicly release the identities of individuals and organizations whose lending would be guarantee
5103	412	to allow prior owners and tenants of a foreclosed property to remain on the premises until the property is sold
5104		to give an unborn child legal standing as a person in cases in which he or she is harmed or killed in an illegal act of violence by another
5105	234	to present voters with a Constitutional amendment that would limit elected officials in the Rhode Island House of Representatives and the Rhode Island Senate to three consecutive four-year terms
5106 & 5236	418	to require private-sector Rhode Island employers with three or more employees to participate in the E-Verify program to ensure that all workers are legally eligible to live and work in the United States
5108		to require the Rhode Island House of Representatives to conclude its business each day by 10:00 p m , not including committee meetings. The legislation would also prevent the House from suspending this rule at any point during the legislative session
5112		to force all businesses in Rhode Island to offers employees a pharmacy medical benefit to also offer them access to an unrestricted network
5113		to force people registering their vehicles to promise that the vehicle will be "continuously" insured. This bill would also require insurers that cancel drivers' coverage to notify the state
5114		to force businesses that rent or lease automobiles in Rhode Island to have those vehicles registered, insured, and inspected in the state
5120		to forbid children under sixteen years old to ride on motorcycles as passengers except in sidecars and to require that all passengers without sidecars to have separate rear seats, foot-rests, and handlebars
5121	574	to forbid businesses and their employees to agree to arrangements in which tips and service charges are distributed in any way except directly to the specific employee who received them
5127		to determine the state budget for fiscal year 2014
5127-A10-subA		to increase the state budget for the current year by \$1.74 million
5127-A11-SubA		to force state taxpayers to provide \$10 million to reward or bribe municipal governments to move their retirement plans into the state system or to follow the state's instructions for improving the funding of their own plans
5127-A15-SubA		to force state taxpayers to subsidize businesses' hiring and apprenticeship programs through a state Work Immersion Program that would pay for half of an employee's first 200 hours of work, increased to 75% if the employer hires the person; to use public money to organize and maintain an on-the-job training program called "Back to Work Rhode Island"; to expand the state's low-income child care program to provide subsidies to families participating in some sort of job training program; to require the Department of Labor and Training to upgrade its online employment services, with tools to identify the gaps between participating candidates' skills and participating employers' needs

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5127-A16-SubA		to add multiple restricted receipt accounts to the list from which the state does not take a 10% cut for the general fund; to create new fund for the state judiciary to receive and spend money from "third party grants"
5127-A17-SubA		to force telecommunications customers to give \$80,000 to the state Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for "an emergency and public communication access program"
5127-A18-SubA		to expand the state's childcare subsidy to cover working families whose income increases above the cut-off point of 180% of the poverty level once they're enrolled. The new limit for such families would be 225% of the poverty level, which is currently around \$52,000 per year; to temporarily expand the state's childcare subsidy to cover working families whose income increases above the cut-off point of 180% of the poverty level once they're enrolled
5127-A19-SubA		to expand Medicaid coverage to "non-pregnant," childless, low-income adults, as indicated in the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA, aka ObamaCare). The legislation would also increase the cap for subsidies in the state's health care exchange to 175% of the federal poverty level, as well as increase the cap for assistance through RItE Share to 250% of the poverty level
5127-A20-SubA		to create a revolving fund within the quasi-public Clean Water Finance Agency that will lend money to municipalities for infrastructure projects. The agency would be able to approve up to \$20 million in a given year, initially from state funds, with no more than \$10 million going to a single project
5127-A22		to allow the Economic Development Corporations to continue selling bonds to fund the state's Historic Preservation Tax Credit program; to implement a tax credit programs for the "substantial rehabilitation of a certified historic structure," in amounts up to 25% of the cost of the project, depending on the intended usage. Total credits could not be more than \$5 million for any one project and \$12 million total, with mandates for apprenticeship programs available for contractors engaged in projects above a certain size
5127-A2-SubA		to move retired government employees into Medicare for health coverage when they are eligible, rather than continuing to offer the state's health plan to them, with a tiered copay depending on date of retirement and years of service; for those retired before 2008, the range would be 0% copay for those with at least 28 years of employment to 50% for those with 10-15 years of employment; for those retired after 2008, the copay will be 20% for all employees with at least 20 years of employment
5127-A3-SubA		to remove the former spouses of state employees from the state's health insurance plan after their divorce
5127-A4-SubA		to create a retirement plan for part-time, seasonal, and temporary employees of the state government who are not eligible for the Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island (ERSRI)
5127-A7-SubA		to replace the Public Telecommunications Authority with a public, education, and government (PEG) television system that would be funded through fees charged to cable television companies
5127-A8-SubA		to authorize various departments to enter into lease agreements. In the cases of the Dept. of Corrections and Judiciary, the authorization is prospective and represent significant increases over current rates

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5127-A9-SubA		to bring state income tax law into line with the federal income tax on the expensing of assets in lieu of depreciation; to force Rhode Island businesses to pay state income taxes on the investments in "domestic production" that the federal government allows them to deduct from federal income taxes; to immediately impose the state sales and use tax on "remote" (mainly Internet) sales made into the state and lower the overall rate to 6.5% and remove the tax on high-end clothing; to remove the sales tax on alcoholic beverages from December 2013 to March 2015 and to make up the difference in revenue through increased excise taxes on beverages other than beer and malt liquors collected from the manufacturer/distributor; to renew the hospital licensing fee of 5.35% of net patient services revenue that the state imposes annually on hospitals; to allow the tax administrator to contract with collection agencies to target sources outside of the state; to create penalties for tax preparers for various errors, inaccuracies, and falsehoods; to end a \$42 fee that the Department of Labor and Training collects from employers subject to the Hazardous Substances Right to Know Act; to use taxpayer resources to temporarily increase the percentage of video slot terminal income payable to Newport Grand by 3.2 percentage points, ending at the end of June 2015; to change the estate taxes paid in the transfer of farmland to tax the use value of the land, rather than the market sales value; to require that a summons, not a citation, be issued for potential offenses identified by automated traffic violation detection systems; to increase the cap on the state's tax credit scholarship program (providing tax incentive to donate to private school tuition) from \$1 million to \$1.5 million; to exempt the sales of all original works of art from the state sales tax, essentially making the entire state an "arts district"
5128		to cut in half the amount that a check cashing business can charge in fees for deferred deposits, from 10% to 5%
5128-A24-SubA		to create a "manufacturing industry revitalization" program (MIR) that would reimburse manufacturers for up to 25% of in-state infrastructure investments plus \$500 per new employee, with various strings attached
5128-A25-SubA		to repeal the Economic Development Corp. program guaranteeing business loans (i.e., the 38 Studios program)
5129		to give the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority special treatment in lawsuits, limiting the amount of damages that the person suing can collect from it to \$100,000. The legislation would give the General Assembly an additional, quasi-judicial authority to waive the limit in particular cases
5130	136	to use state taxpayer money to subsidize military installations by paying the city or town in which they are located 27% of the property taxes that they would pay if they weren't exempt
5131		to use state taxpayer money to subsidize the tuition costs of public and private colleges and universities in Rhode Island by offering a tax credit against their debt payments to graduates who live, received their degrees, and work in RI. The legislation would allow employers to claim the credit if they pay the tuition debt
5132	249	to expand the state's childcare subsidy to cover working families whose income increases above the cut-off point of 180% of the poverty level once they're enrolled. The new limit for such families would be 225% of the poverty level, which is currently around \$52,000 per year
5133		to prevent government agencies from charging Internet service fees on top of any other fees or charges that can only be made on the Internet
5134		to introduce a new state subsidy, via tax credits, to encourage the use of paid or unpaid interns currently in college or within two years of having graduated. The legislation does not specify what costs the credit is meant to offset or what individuals or organizations would be eligible to claim them

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5135		to use state taxpayer money to subsidize the provision of "milk or milk products) to public schools by providing a tax credit to the seller of 5% of the cost of the milk if it is purchased within the state
5137	20	to repeal the law transferring ownership of Sakonnet River Bridge and the Jamestown Verrazzano Bridge to the Bridge and Turnpike Authority, adding language to explicitly forbid tolls on the Sakonnet River Bridge
5138	112	to allow Rhode Island public schools to increase their budgets by forcing parents above a certain income level to pay for students' extracurricular activities unless they can persuade the district that financial or personal hardship make payment impossible
5140	352	to make permanent the law that allows police to pull people over for not wearing a seatbelt as a primary offense
5141		to forbid Rhode Island courts from allowing a parent any custody or visitation rights of a child conceived in an act of rape for which that parent was convicted. The legislation would also apply to statutory rape of children under sixteen and apply to the mother if she was the perpetrator
5146		to give the state attorney general power to veto decisions of the parole board if it would keep a convict incarcerated for life for first or second degree murder
5149 & 5338	563	to allow and sometimes require judges and magistrates to force people convicted of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol to install ignition interlock systems on their cars. Such devices detect alcohol on a driver's breath and prevent him or her from starting the car. The legislation also extends the maximum time that drivers can be forced to have the devices up to five years
5150 & 5533	46	to make it easier for the state to fine Rhode Islanders between \$350 and \$750 dollars for driving unregistered or uninsured automobiles. The system used for this purpose would include an "automatic license plate recognition system" that uses video cameras to identify a vehicle's license plate. It would also include a database to increase the ease with which government employees can request information about a vehicle and require all insurers to report to the state every day on customers who purchased or cancelled insurance or allowed their payments to lapse
5151	324	to limit the time and reasons for which alcohol distributors can lend each other money and to require the lending company. to track delinquency and send notices. The legislation also requires businesses on a state delinquency list to pay for subsequent shipments in cash until the debt is paid
5154	199	to force retailers of tobacco to post signage about the minimum age in Spanish, as well as English, and to add a sign in both languages concerning the health risks of the products
5155-SubA	615	to expand the reach of the Department of Human Services so that it can create an assessment of the personal and financial circumstances of people who help to care for their elderly or disabled family and friends
5158		to provide a \$33,200 credit on estate taxes, which is the equivalent of an exemption on taxes for estates up to \$1 million
5167		to require the Rhode Island Department of Education and local school districts to provide transportation for students attending charter or vocational schools outside the district's busing region
5169 & 5235		to add college and university campus police officers to the "Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights," for various benefits and privileges
5171		to allow homeowners to avoid seeking approval from the state Department of Environmental Management when having work done on the self-contained sewage disposal systems on their property if a licensed design approves of their plan, they use city/town water, and their house is a duplex or smaller

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5173		to require the state to pay for property revaluations that it forces the cities and towns to undertake
5174		to force the state to set aside money in case a judge rules against the government on cases involving government-worker pensions
5176		to automatically impose the prior year's tax levy on the Central Coventry fire district taxpayers if they do not authorize a new one SubA
5180	291	to require police to obtain search warrants before they may search for information on portable electronic devices, with previously established exceptions
5184	219	to prevent public school employees from promoting political candidates or other campaign causes in school or sending campaign materials home with students
5186	774	to increase the number of reasons for teacher layoffs that require school districts to use seniority when deciding whom to let go, and to move the date by which notice much be given in the prior school year from March 1 to May 15
5187		to prohibit political contributions from lobbyists to members of the General Assembly during the legislative session
5192	640	to forbid Rhode Islanders acting through their city or town governments to implement local rules that are "more restrictive" than those of the Department of Environmental Management or the Coastal Management Resources Council
5194	23	to eliminate the state capital gains tax on ownership investments in Rhode Island companies greater than \$10,000 that are held for at least three years
5195		to impose a minimum reimbursement rate that the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals must pay on an hourly basis to contracted direct support professionals
5196, 5374 & 5751	527	to force taxpayers with income over \$250,000 to pay an additional 2% in taxes above that amount, bringing the top tax bracket to 7.99%, and to impose a minimum amount of state aid that the state must give to cities and towns next year
5198	103	to present voters with a Constitutional amendment that would require all elected officers in the General Assembly and executive branch to pay 20% of their health insurance premiums
5199	879	to allow police and firefighters to retire at any age, with at least ten years of service. Currently, they must be at least 55 years old to retire
5200		to completely eliminate the corporate franchise tax, which taxes businesses on the value of their assets. Businesses would still pay taxes on their income
5201		to simplify the fees paid for state fire marshal plan reviews so that construction projects under \$20,000 would cost \$35 and those over \$20,000 would cost \$150. Currently, the fees can increase into the thousands of dollars
5202		to require members of the General Assembly to pay 20% of their health insurance premiums and to prevent them from receiving additional cash if they have health care benefits from any other government organization within the state
5203		to forbid public or private schools that provide special education services to other districts from increasing their prices more than the state tax cap, without any consideration of the cost of providing those services or any mechanism for waiving the limit
5204-aa	279	to force all licensed "healthcare organizations" to put in place systems for "identifying patients or residents who could benefit from palliative care " This legislation would also create a new advisory board for palliative care within the Department of Health
5205	41	to collect DNA samples for any person arrested for a crime of violence (currently, DNA samples are only collected for those convicted) and expands the list of crimes for which a DNA sample is required

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5206		to allow people convicted of driving under the influence to receive a conditional work license for limited use of an automobile for work purposes
5207	682-aa	to create a committee of senators and representatives to review statutes (called the Joint Committee of the Repealer), regulations, and executive orders with an eye toward repealing those that aren't "business friendly" or are out of date
5208		to make it illegal for people under 18 years old "to possess" firearms unless under adult supervision. Currently, minors may possess, but not "use," firearms without supervision
5212		to force public utilities companies to forgive half of unpaid balances and continue services for customers who agree to pay off the other half of what they owe over the course of three years
5213		to make it a crime, with a penalty up to \$500 and one year in prison, for a retailer to charge customers extra to use a credit card. However, retailers would be able to offer discounts to customers who pay by some other means
5217	68	to use state taxpayer money as incentive for cities and towns to spend more local taxpayer money on senior services
5218	67 & 264	to remove the sales tax from taxi services
5219		to repeal the law that ended longevity payments for state employees, but only for unionized employees participating in collective bargaining
5221	528	to give 3% cost of living adjustments (COLAs) to retirees in the state pension plan whose defined benefit payments are less than 150% of the federal poverty level. The legislation would not consider any additional income, including from the defined contribution portion of their pensions, when determining eligibility
5227	243	to exempt motorcycle trade-in values and insurance claims on damaged or stolen motorcycles from the state sales tax
5228		to impose a "sin tax" on sugar-sweetened beverages of \$1 28 per gallon. The money would go into a dedicated fund within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services that would be used to modify the behavior of Rhode Islanders in a way that the government decides is healthy
5230 & 5317		to expand and make permanent a pre-existing pilot program to allow some limited return and resale of prescription drugs
5243	201-SubA	to forbid health insurance providers from considering gender when setting premium rates
5244		to impose stringent regulations forcing the phase-out of older wood-burning stoves and newer ones not certified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), except in rural areas
5249	22	to free estates from taxation if their total value is less than \$2 million. (Currently, the threshold is \$850,000) The legislation would increase that threshold annually in accordance with the inflation
5250		to give a portion of state budget surpluses to the city and town governments, beginning with an additional 1% of sales taxes collected in each city or town and increasing to 7% if the surplus continues for multiple years
5251		to force nursing facilities video surveillance cameras in all common areas as well as residents' rooms and bathrooms, with the Department of Health keeping all recordings for at least five years
5252	118-SubA	to create a state "Teachers' Advisory Council" populated with teachers from every district appointed by their unions that would provide an additional platform for teachers' interests in front of the Board of Regents or equivalent committee
5253		to require local boards of canvassers to report information about provisional ballots to the state Board of Election

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5255-SubA	493	to forbid public and private schools, as well as all employers, from asking students or employees to divulge any information about their use of social media that is not already publicly available
5258		to forbid state and local governments from requiring the use of E-Verify to confirm work eligibility, including for businesses seeking government contracts. The legislation would also restrict private employers' use of E-Verify for their own purposes
5259		to increase the notification information that municipal governments must publish prior to enacting proposed increases in property taxes
5263	465	to forbid automobile insurance providers from designating a car to be "a total loss" unless the repair costs would be more than 75% of the vehicle's fair market value, unless the owner requests that it be done
5264	406	to force businesses that supply consumer products that have packaging to put together a detailed plan and achieve a recycling rate for their packaging of 80% by 2020. The Department of Environmental Management will be able to confiscate up to \$1 million dollars from each business that does not comply
5268		to limit loan guarantees made by the Economic Development Corp. (EDC) to \$10 million for any one company
5269	11	to exempt new businesses in the state from the corporate franchise tax for their first three years, and then to give them a \$100 credit toward the tax for each employee, up to four. Corporations not organized as S-corps would still be liable for the \$500 minimum income tax; currently they do not pay the franchise tax unless it exceeds the income tax
5272	268	to give state taxpayer money intended to offset the motor vehicle excise tax to cities and towns based on their proportion of all vehicles, without regard to the tax rates that they impose on their residents' vehicles
5273	255	to forbid health care facilities from selling cigarettes
5276		to force private-sector EMTs to keep ambulances in heated garages, to replace ambulances before they are five years old or reach 200,000 miles, and to comply with various other requirements
5277	117	to forbid the Department of Education or any school district from using standardized testing as a criterion for graduation. Instead, the tests would only be used for school "accountability and improvement" and as a trigger to notify parents of their children's low performance
5284	40	to reduce the interest charged on civil action damages from 12% to 6% per year
5287	178	to force pitbull owners to take additional precautions for keeping their dogs, to forbid them from walking the dogs within 100 feet of a school, and to require them to carry liability insurance for the dog, with fines up to \$1,500
5289	287	to begin interest payments on civil action judgments from the date that the actions are filed, not the date of the cause of action
5291		to forbid nightclubs that serve alcohol from allowing adults under 21 years old to enter, even if they have processes in place to ensure that they do not drink alcoholic beverages
5294		to require the Rhode Island House of Representatives to conclude its business each day by 10:00 p m , not including committee meetings. The legislation would also prevent the House from suspending this rule at any point during the legislative session
5298 & 5723	382	to give the Public Utilities Commission broad authority to regulate wireless telephone companies in response to customer complaints about billing, sales, and quality of service

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5299		to give the General Assembly veto power over utility rate increases
5300	227 & 476	to force people who work with underground utilities, sewer lines, and storm drainage lines to become licensed by the state, with standardized testing and a biannual fee of \$200. They would also have to carry insurance and bonds
5303, 5371 & 5748	29-SubA	to screen Medicaid, Rite Care, and Rite Share benefit claims and to analyze all transactions looking for fraudulent or incorrect claims
5304		to create a "Commission on Streamlining Government" that would look for programs to eliminate, streamline, consolidate, privatize, or outsource
5305		to bring the state estate tax into line with the federal estate tax exemption
5308		to require businesses that apply for tax credits to divulge to the Division of Taxation "any and all business or financial records necessary to verify the benefit to the state" of their related activities
5309		to repeal the surcharge (tax) on outpatient health care services
5311		to prevent government retirees from moving from one branch or tier of government (such as state to municipal) and thereby earn multiple pensions or substantial additional pay on top of existing pensions
5312 & 5976	280	to repeal the surcharge (tax) on medical imaging services
5316		to create a government commission to review the services that the state requires health insurers to cover. The commission would have the authority to eliminate mandates, unless the General Assembly reinstates them within one year. The legislation also appears to give the commission authority to implement new mandates, with no process by which the General Assembly could repeal them
5318	441	to expand the administrative activities that school committees can join together, or with colleges or universities, to provide
5320		to mandate that school districts have one full-time social worker per 400 students. The legislation does not provide for funding or specify which agency or government body is responsible for compliance
5321		to ensure that defendants in personal injury and wrongful death lawsuits are liable only for their percentage of fault
5339		to increase the minimum size of a government contract above which private contractors have to pay their employees union-level wages while working on that project from \$1,000 to \$50,000
5340	364	to force school departments to follow the commands of arbitration boards when they cannot come to agreement with labor unions about financial matters in a contract, commonly known as "binding arbitration "
5341 & 6009	226, 366, 475	to make it more difficult to become a hoisting engineer by requiring three years of apprenticeship, with 6,000 hours of on-the-job training and 432 hours of training
5342		to remove the ability of school committees to sue their towns for more money under the Caruolo Act and to require the municipal council of the city or town to ratify all collective bargaining agreements
5343		to restrict the options of local governments when it comes to reforming their pension plans by preventing them from moving only certain employees into the state Municipal Employees Retirement System
5344		to adjust municipal retirees' disability pensions by the amount that they earn at subsequent jobs. The bill would totally revoke the disability pension of any. former retiree who takes essentially the same job elsewhere
5350		to forbid legislators from offering floor amendments to the state budget. Instead, they would submit their amendments as suggestions to the House Finance Committee, which would decide whether to present the amendments to the whole House

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5351		to change the rules of the Rhode Island House of Representatives to determine committee membership by experience on that committee and longevity. The bill would also change the terms of committees' quorums and require them to recess or adjourn if a quorum does not exist. It would further limit the number of bills considered on the floor to 25 per day (down from 50) and require the House to conclude its business (not including committee meetings) by 10:00 p m , without the ability to waive that curfew
5352		to add copper to the list of precious metals requiring a license in order to purchase and resell it
5353		to double the number of days' notice (to 120) that the Secretary of State must give companies before revoking their articles of incorporation and to add to the notification requirements
5354	428	to force health insurance companies to offer coverage to oral anticancer medicines, explicitly forbidding them to increase patient cost sharing
5355		to force taxicab companies' job applicants to undergo a national and state criminal background check
5359	188	to end the seven-year phase-in of increased state aid for school districts that are scheduled to receive more, giving them the full amount immediately. The bill would also allow the municipalities to reduce their local "maintenance of effort" contributions to education by the amount of additional funding
5361		to raise the exemption from local car taxes to \$6,000 of vehicles' value, but balance the tax reduction by adding a 1% tax on the purchase and ownership of sailing vessels over \$100,000
5362		to reduce the tax on cigarettes by \$1.00 per pack. It is currently \$3.46
5363	266, 612, & 689	to create an office of the Inspector General to seek out waste, fraud, and abuse in government activities
5364	19-SubB	to allow the state government or a public corporation to refund bonds, financing leases, or loan guarantees without the approval of the General Assembly
5365	246	to completely eliminate the state sales tax, effective October 1, 2013
5368		to repeal the inspection fee for boilers
5373		to reinstate the state income tax deduction for unreimbursed medical expenses
5376	318	to force local school districts to provide students with CPR and defibrillator training, without any provision of additional state aid
5378	122	to further implement separation of powers by removing members of the General Assembly from the Coastal Resource Management Council. Membership rules would also be simplified and changed with the intent of broadening the perspectives and experience on the council
5382	466	to implement standards by which people in police custody can be made to undergo strip and body cavity searches
5384	290	to add "juvenile program workers and shift coordinators" of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to the definition of "peace officer," giving them the authority to detain, search, question, and arrest people whom they suspect of committing or intending to commit a crime
5385		to require individuals or organizations hired by the state to disclose their political donations in the prior four years
5388 & 5577	368	to make it more difficult for businesses to claim those doing work for them as "independent contractors" and to set "employee" as the assumed default for "any person performing work for or on behalf of another "

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5389		to force school departments to follow the commands of "resolution specialist" boards when they cannot come to agreement with labor unions about financial matters in a contract. The "neutral" member of the three-member board would have to be a retired state judge. The legislation also moves the date for teacher layoffs from March to April
5390		to make it more difficult for community residence companies serving developmentally disabled clients to compete with government agencies by preventing them from negotiating salaries for direct-care employees below 75% of government employees or offer health care benefits that are less than 75% of the value of their government counterparts
5394	322	to exempt new construction from property taxes until a certificate of occupancy has been issued and somebody moves in to it
5398		to require pet groomers to pay for a \$100 license from the state and to subject them to regulation of their facilities
5400	538	to add three years to the moratorium on new nursing facility licenses that is scheduled to end on July 1, 2013
5401	383	to ease the security mandates for check cashers such that bulletproof glass and steel partitions would not be mandated in the law
5403	404	to ban plastic bags in retail stores and require them to charge at least ten cents per paper bag used instead
5404		to increase the increase the maximum tax on low-income housing from 8% of rental income to 15%
5405		to increase by 67% the maximum pay that retired employees of the state education system can add to their income by working within the system while receiving pension payments
5407		to increase the commercial feed registration fee by \$40 (to \$100) in order to fund an agriculture and seafood grant program administered by the Department of Environmental Management
5408	267	to provide a \$99,600 credit on estate taxes, which is the equivalent of three times an exemption on taxes for estates up to \$1 million
5410	531	to allow cash assistance (welfare) recipients to collect all four years of their lifetime limit consecutively, without the currently required break between periods, and to remove the requirement to have "rehabilitation employment plans" after two years
5411 & 6132	272	to prevent people from using, or stores from accepting, cash assistance funds for alcohol, lottery tickets, tobacco, pornography, guns, vacations, tattoos or piercings, jewelry, gambling, or government fees or fines and to make "food stamp trafficking" a crime
5412	392	to allow new companies tax deductions if they hire two employees. The legislation would allow a business to reduce a tax of its choice by 50% in its first three years of operation and 25% in its second three years
5413	85	to reduce the state gasoline tax from thirty-two cents per gallon to twenty-seven cents per gallon
5414	525	to expand the limited 62% increase in supplemental security income (SSI) for individuals living in assisted living residences to all such individuals and to repeal the rule that reduces state SSI payments by the amount that the federal government adjusts its payments for inflation
5415		to pay for Part A Medicare premiums for retired teachers whose contracts, when they were working, did not require them to participate in Medicare
5416	242	to fix the price of tolls on the Newport Pell Bridge and forbid tolls on the Sakonnet River, Mount Hope, and Jamestown bridges, but to raise the funds for bridge maintenance by increasing vehicle emissions inspection fees by \$20

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5418	281	to remove the authority of the Department of Health Board of Licensure to approve physician assistant training programs
5419		to force health insurance companies to cover the full expense of hearing aids for plan members under age 19 and \$1,500 of expenses every three years for those over 19. Currently, the mandate is for \$1,500 coverage under 19 and \$700 coverage over 19
5425	672	to forbid Rhode Islanders acting through their city or town governments to implement local rules that are "more restrictive" than those of the Department of Environmental Management or the Coastal Management Resources Council.
5426	177	to forbid landlords from refusing to rent, or even discouraging people from seeking to rent, on the grounds that the potential tenants' pets are not "declawed or devocalized " The bill provides for a fine up to \$1,000, a period of probation during which the offender cannot own any pets or live on the same property as a pet owner, and forced "humane education "
5428		to empower the Department of Labor and Training to pursue complaints in the place of employees or applicants who are "unavailable to pursue a complaint alleging a violation" by an employer. The legislation would also triple the damages collected if the employer took any action intended to make the employee unavailable
5437		to allow landlords limited discretion not to lease or rent property to medical marijuana cardholders who will "cultivate or manufacture marijuana" on the property
5438	771	to force automobile insurers to submit data on all of their clients to the state Division of Motor Vehicles for the purpose of creating a database that would allow the state to find and fine uninsured motorists
5441	669	to leave "standards for evaluation" of education personnel under local control, but to require them to be subject to collective bargaining and to limit the amount that "student growth and achievement" can count in the evaluation to one-third of the total evaluation rating
5442		to forbid employers from using "more or different documents" to verify the immigration status of employees than is required by federal law
5445-SubAaa		to force music therapists to become registered with the state, with minimum age and education requirements
5449		to force all out-of-state students attending Brown University, the RI School of Design, or Johnson and Wales University to pay \$50 each semester to the I-195 Redevelopment Commission
5451 & 5530	303-SubA	to ban "discretionary authority" clauses in health-related insurance contracts
5452		to force life insurance companies to check a national death registry semi-annually to determine whether any of their policyholders have died and to seek to provide the benefits to the beneficiary. The legislation would explicitly forbid the companies to pass along the costs of the search to the beneficiaries, and it would require the company to place the benefits in the state's "unclaimed tangible and intangible property" program (ultimately accruing to the state government)
5454	258	to exclude wireless providers from the jurisdictions of the Public Utilities Commission and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers and to allow any telephone company that is required to offer local exchange services to us various technologies for that purpose
5456	284-aa	to force wireless communications companies to give any "law enforcement agency" call location information for any phone or device on their networks if the agency states a "risk of death or serious physical harm " This legislation does not define "law enforcement agency" or establish any standards for review and accountability

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5458		to create a registry of Rhode Islanders who have been convicted of driving while uninsured to allow the government to randomly spot-check them for insurance for up to five years
5459	666	to limit the ability of stop-loss insurance companies and their clients to agree to the size of liabilities that will be covered. This legislation would also limit the ability of insurers and their clients from agreeing to language concerning the terms and standards of review in their contracts
5460		to force all vehicle insurance companies to provide information to the state Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to maintain an online liability insurance verification system, funded with an additional \$1 fee on all vehicle registrations, new and renewed
5461	140	to force all health insurers and medical plans to cover testing and treatment for temporomandibular joint disorder (which causes pain in the jaw)
5464		to remove "rolling papers" from the definition of "cigarettes" for the purposes of taxation
5465	662	to eliminate the Workers' Compensation Investigations Unit of the State Police, which is charged with the investigation of "fraud, abuse, and mismanagement"
5466	939	to stop the phase-out of the regionalization bonus that the state gives to regional school districts, giving such districts a 1.75% bonus per consolidated grade (but no less than an 8% bonus)
5467		to require state funds allocated for maintenance of roads and bridges to be used for that purpose
5468	371	to force mayoral academy charter schools to enroll their teachers in the state retirement plan, but to forbid them from enrolling their administrators
5469	269	to expand eligibility for certain Medicare programs to disregard income up to 185% of the federal poverty level
5470	81	to raise the threshold for the estate tax from \$850,000 to \$1 5 million, but would not make it an exemption. This means that estates over the threshold would be taxed on their total value, not just the value over the threshold
5471	375	to force state colleges and universities to provide hospital care and surgical-medical services benefits to adjunct faculty teaching at least 50% of a full time course load
5472	293-SubA	to forbid any contractor that does not participate in an apprenticeship program, or that has not graduated at least three apprentices to journeyman status in the prior five years, from bidding on any local, state, or quasi-governmental public works projects over \$1,000,000
5475	119	to require recipients of public cash and medical assistance to ensure that their children have at least an 80% attendance rate at school, not including absences due to illness and injury
5479	391	to seek a federal waiver that would allow the state government to raise the income limit for "family planning services and supplies" to 250%, or just under \$60,000 for a family of four
5483	552	to create a Public Corruption and White Collar Crime unit within the Department of the Attorney General to investigate "abuse of the public trust "
5490	549	to forbid vendors contracted with the state government for more than \$5,000 per year from giving campaign contribution to people in the offices, or running for the offices, with which they do business
5494	407 & 484	to give the government power to determine whether pet owners are providing "adequate living conditions" to their pets
5496	39	to eliminate the option on state election ballots to vote for every candidate from a particular political party --- known as "master lever" and "straight party ticket" voting. This legislation is incomplete and therefore inferior to S0044

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5497	556	to expand on laws prohibiting bribery of public officials, sale of political endorsements, and other means by which officials are able to profit through their public authority. The legislation would set the statute of limitations for violations at 10 years and allow for penalties up to 10 years in prison and \$150,000
5498	337	to present voters with a Constitutional amendment that would give the state Ethics Commission jurisdiction over the General Assembly, modifying the "speech in debate" clause
5504	450	to eliminate the requirement that voters who received, but did not use, mail ballots turn them in before 9:00 p.m. on election day
5506	773	to give police and fire retirees access to arbitration processes in place for collective bargaining disputes
5507		to limit employers' ability to consider the criminal convictions of job candidates in their hiring practices
5508	230 & 367	to require employers to give 60 days notice before any transfer or mass layoff, with penalties of back pay or fines for a failure to comply
5510		to forbid municipalities and the unions that they employ to negotiate terms under which retirees would be required to enroll in Medicare when they are eligible, unless the municipalities pay any associated fees
5513		to increase the licensing and reporting requirements for businesses dealing in scrap metals, with particular emphasis on items that might be considered public property
5514		to give state police retirement benefits to "deputy sheriffs, capitol police officers, environmental police officers, juvenile program workers, shift coordinators, airport crash/rescue firefighters, airport police, and campus police officers" employed by a state or quasi-public agency
5515	427	to intervene in the agreements between insurers, nonprofit hospitals, and other nonprofit medical service organizations and optometrists to forbid the requirement that the optometrist offers discounted benefits in order to participate in the insurer's provider panel
5519	555	to force anybody dealing in precious metals, tools, or electronics to operate within a commercial zone and to be fingerprinted for a national criminal records search
5521		to protect existing check cashing businesses in Providence from competition by forbidding any competitors from engaging in business within a two-mile radius
5522	472	to allow autobody shops the right to file a civil action against insurers that won't agree to their charges, with penalties up to \$5,000 to insurers for not negotiating in good faith, but no penalties for autobody shops
5526	571-SubA	to force employers participating in the state work-sharing program to continue to offer health insurance to employees as if their hours hadn't been reduced and to open up the program to government employers
5527	720	to allow the state to selectively revoke parts of a taxicab driver's license for services that he or she has not performed within the past 180 days
5529		to force licensed ice cream sellers to purchase their products only from licensed ice cream wholesalers
5534	969	to remove the requirement that water suppliers install radio frequency meters
5538	461	to force anybody offering personal care of other people, whether professionally or not, to register with the state (for a fee), take state-approved training and continuing education, and make themselves and the people for whom they care subject to "inspections and investigations," with up to \$1,000 in fines and one year of imprisonment for failure to comply
5539	458	to create a state fingerprint registry and to expand the criminal background checks required for long-term care providers

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5540		to force users of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) to register their vehicles in the same way that they must register motorcycles, motorized bicycles, and motorized tricycles, whether or not they intend to use them on public roadways
5543		to ask Rhode Island's Congressional delegation to have the state declared a Recovery Zone in order to procure more federal dollars and enable increased borrowing in the state
5546	692	to create an office of the "developmental disabilities ombudsperson" within the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals to investigate claims related to the care provided to people with developmental disabilities
5547		to require the state tax administrator to regulate the sale of tax credits that the state government issues for various purposes
5548	257	to give an additional \$2 million of taxpayer money to the state Human Resource Investment Council for workforce skills programs
5550	395	to double the state's matching funds for local public libraries, based on local expenditures and private endowments
5552	137	to create "library assistance grants" that would send state taxpayer money to local libraries
5554	494	to use \$3,250,000 of state taxpayer money to subsidize the price of rent for homeless shelter residents and to expand winter shelters
5557		to replace the state's sex offender law with a federal act that the federal government can modify in the future without state approval. The legislation would introduce a requirement for registration in a database, including the collection of a DNA sample, for anybody convicted of a wide variety of crimes, from rape to the use of misleading domain names on the Internet
5561		to expand the exception to health-information privacy laws to allow health care providers to share information with "law enforcement personnel" if he or she decides to alert them "to the commission and nature of a crime, the location of such crime or the victim(s) of such crime," or information about the perpetrator. The legislation does not specify the "crimes" that allow health care providers to release the private health information
5564		to require state agencies to publish all proposed rules in December, with hearings in January and implementation in April. The legislation would also require emergency rules not following this calendar to be signed by the governor
5565		to allow early voting, in person, 21 days prior to a general election
5567	447	to remove the requirement that people requesting emergency mail ballots explain why they need them
5568	445	to remove the requirement that people requesting emergency mail ballots certify that the reason "manifested twenty (20) days or less prior to the election "
5569		to require all Rhode Islanders convicted of texting while driving to have installed in their vehicles devices that prevent all non-emergency texts and calls within the vehicle, under threat of losing their licenses for a year if the device is not present
5573		to force gun owners to register their weapons with the local licensing authority, along with their names, addresses, fingerprints, and signatures. The registration fee would be \$100, with up to three years in prison and a fine of up to \$3,000 for failure to register. The legislation would also require all guns to have safety devices, and all applications for permits would be kept by state and local police, rather than destroyed, as under current law
5574		to make it a felony to verbally or in writing threaten to hurt or kill another person on school property, including school buses, with a maximum of five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5575	346	to invalidate the votes of the people of Rhode Island in a presidential election if the national popular vote goes to the candidate whom Rhode Island's electorate did not choose by their own, usual methods
5576	425	to make it illegal for people under 18 years old "to possess" firearms unless under adult supervision or engaged in specified activities
5579		to impose minimum zoning requirements on municipalities that allow small wind energy systems
5580		to require members of the General Assembly to fully disclose their business relationships with "any entity having an interest in legislation before the General Assembly"
5581	171-SubA	to give regulators the power to force dry cleaners to post prices for their services
5589	721	to allow the public utilities administrator to share utilities customer info with other state or private agencies or medical personnel, and to make such information publicly available when it is used "during a proceeding before" the commission
5591	754	to forbid health insurance customers to purchase plans that have dollar limits on pharmacy benefits or that do not have out-of-pocket limits within a range that is acceptable to government
5593		to allow municipal building officials and fire officials to permit builders and owners to do work that conflicts with state building codes
5594		to limit the people or organizations who can broker a sale or transfer of a business or its property to lawyers, realtors, and licensed brokers
5598	228	to remove the requirement that an employee document a change in medical condition when applying for a resumption of workers' compensation benefits based on a recurrence of a prior condition
5599	351	to prevent litigants from determining the appropriate rate at which to pay back money that they've borrowed to pursue a lawsuit, without regard to the risk that lenders accept with regard to the outcome of the case
5600	532	to create a Prudence Island Ferry Authority consisting of the appointees of the Portsmouth and Bristol governments that would have a monopoly on any ferry services to and from Prudence Island
5601		to force health insurers to give the state insurance commissioner "proprietary and trade secret information that has the potential for harm and competitive disadvantage to the insurer," with fines up to \$365,000 for failing to comply
5602		to force service contractors to disclose to potential customers that service calls "will require the payment" of separate fees for parts and materials
5603		to allow young adults between the ages of 18 and 21 to purchase and consume alcoholic beverages if they are serving in the U S. military
5604		to add two members to the state Utilities Commission Ratepayers Advisory Board who will explicitly represent low-income home energy assistance programs (LIHEAPs) and their consumers. The board already includes representatives from disadvantaged and low-income interest groups
5605		to give the state the authority to determine whether a public utility's charges to commercial customers are "just and reasonable," to require 10 days notice of service cancelation for unpaid charges, and to forbid cancelation on Fridays, weekends, or state holidays
5610	711-SubA	to shift authority from boards within the Division of Design Professionals to the director of Business Regulation, to change testing requirements for land surveyors and engineers, to indemnify members of boards and the department against legal proceedings, and to expand the director's authority to issue cease and desist orders against people suspected of engaging in the activities of engineering, land surveying, architecture, and landscape architecture without licenses

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5613	200	to force health care insurers to calculate payments for mental illness and substance abuse treatment providers in the same way as other health care providers
5614	172	to create a "Port Marketing Collaborative" that would develop plans for ports across the state and determine ways to market them
5616	725	to empower the Office of Energy Resources to collect "price, inventory and product delivery dates" from wholesalers and resellers of various fuels. The legislation would also require companies and customers with storage capacity of more than 50,000 gallons to supply information upon request
5622		to eliminate the state corporate income tax completely
5623	750	to force state taxpayers to give \$500,000 to teachers and other education personnel for the expansion of the Jason Project, which works to increase the use of technology in learning and currently operates in Burrillville, Bristol/Warren, Coventry, Cranston, East Providence, Jamestown, North Providence, and Warwick
5625	684	to force state taxpayers to spend at least 3% of every contract governed by "minority-owned enterprise" laws on small businesses owned by military veterans. Contractors hired by the state that do not follow that instruction face non-payment, contract termination, 10% recovery of the contract price, and being banned from state projects for three years
5626	685	to require employees of the state Board of Education and their dependents to agree to public disclosure before they are eligible for tuition waivers from the state's public colleges and universities
5627		to remove the state sales tax from alcoholic beverages
5633	696	to use state grants and matching funds to pressure cities and towns to create "community preservation committees," which would research and implement land purchase and development deals in keeping with ideals of "sustainable development." The legislation would allow cities and towns to impose (with a majority vote from residents) up to an additional 3% tax ("surcharge") on local property that would not be counted in any calculations or limits on the tax levy. The state would provide matching funds up to 100% of the additional surcharge, with the money coming (among other places) from an additional \$20 fee on all real estate recording instruments (e g , deeds).
5634		to require General Assembly approval of all motion picture tax credits intended to be distributed by the state
5636		to force students attending public universities or colleges in the state to pay a \$50 transportation fee even if they never use the public transit
5637	747	to increase the transparency for organizations claiming the state's historic structures tax credit
5638		to require the state at least to maintain its level of contribution to its retirement system until pensions are at least 80% funded
5639		to allow the Rhode Island public to know the identities of 38 Studios bondholders before the General Assembly or Economic Development Corp. pays off their loans
5640		to increase the state income tax handout for the Earned Income Tax Credit from 15% of the amount that the credit exceeds the person's tax burden to 50%
5643		to prevent the state from paying interest on bonds sold in support of 38 Studios, limiting payments to the amount of the initial investment
5644		to remove the authority of the Turnpike and Bridge Authority to place tolls on the Sakonnet River Bridge, taking maintenance funds instead from the state's Twin River gambling profits
5645		to limit the unemployment payments made to seasonal employees to the times of year during which they would ordinarily be employed

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5646		to require retailers to check the photo identification of customers who wish to pay using EBT cards (food stamps)
5657	496	to force Rhode Island public schools to devote class time in grades kindergarten through eight to "courses of study in prevention of child abduction, child sexual exploitation, and child sexual abuse "
5659		to ban all knives from all public and private elementary and secondary schools
5660	421	to make multiple changes to the voting process, including provisions to maximize the number of votes counted from ballots that contain mistakes and made by voters who go to the incorrect polling place or district. The legislation would also provide for increased scrutiny and audits of voting machines and would forbid people present in a polling place to wear or display election-related materials unless they are in the process of voting.
5662	485	to increase the fees for Superior Court arbitration between 50-70%
5666	592	to increase the maximum imprisonment for driving under the influence of alcohol with a child under 13 years of age in the car from one year to five and to add up to \$5,500 in fines. The legislation would also require his or her license to be immediately suspended, even prior to prosecution
5670		to exempt teacher and school administrator evaluations from the law requiring the government to make public records available to the public
5671	1011	to forbid residents, acting through their local governments, from discriminating against or in favor of any specific breed of any species of animal
5672	453	to limit the ability of the Board of Elections to recount mail ballots
5677	495-SubA	to give the Department of Environmental Management the ability to issue citations with penalties up to \$2,500 through an "expedited" process skirting due process. The target of the citation would have no right to appeal the decision until DEM renews it after its 60 day expiration
5678		to force anybody who does any work with any organization, whether as an employee or a volunteer, that instructs children under 17 in any capacity to undergo national background checks, to be reviewed every five years
5681		to prevent government agents from obtaining cell phone location information without a warrant, and requiring them, within three days, to notify the person whose phone was tracked that the information was obtained and what it was used for. Both provisions would have exceptions for emergencies and other limited circumstances
5682 & 5500	444	to allow electoral ballots to be invalidated if there is a "defect" in the voter's markings, even if the intention is clear
5683	553 & 769	to extend early voting to three Thursdays before the actual election
5686		to require the destruction of all rifle or shotgun registration application records if no disqualifying information has been found or within 30 days
5687		to require the destruction of all pistol or revolver registration application records if no disqualifying information has been found or within 30 days
5688		to ensure privacy for people applying for concealed carry licenses or permits, with exceptions for the sharing of some information with law enforcement agencies
5689	776-SubA	to assess a 15% penalty on employment security benefits that have been fraudulently obtained
5697		to make it easier for state and local government agencies to find accommodations or suitable alternatives or to reinstate employees who would otherwise retire with disability benefits
5699	365 & 777	to automatically extend all government union contracts for firefighters, municipal police, teachers, and municipal employees for as long as it takes for a new contract to be negotiated

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5704	687	to remove the restriction on life insurance payments by retired teachers so that they pay the actual annual cost of the policy. Currently, the teachers never pay more than the cost of the policy the year they retire
5705	837	to make the business registration rules of Smithfield more restrictive, specifying that it is "unlawful" to operate any kind of business without registering and paying required fees and increasing the fine for violation from \$25 to \$25 for every day of violation
5712		to make it easier for military personnel and their spouses to acquire professional licenses in Rhode Island based on military training or training and certification for similar licenses in other states
5714	648-SubAaa	to force all people offering professional massages to become "massage therapists," licensed and tracked by a state board, and to engage in continuing education every year. The legislation would also increase the fine for violation from \$1,000 to \$5,000, for owners
5719		to penalize the new owner of a foreclosed property \$1,000 per month for vacant houses
5720		to create a new type of organization called a "benefit corporation" which has among its duties to serve the public interest, such that shareholders do not necessarily have a presumptive right to sue the organization for failure to act with maximization of profits as their central concern
5724		to require the state Insurance Commissioner to gather information and track the phase-out of the fee-for-service model of paying for health care, by which patients or insurers pay money for services that have actually been performed
5725-aa	753	to restrict the interactions that the people of Rhode Island can have with physicians licensed in other states
5730		to limit the amount of corporations' information that the tax administrator is permitted to share with the Secretary of State
5732		to force people whose houses have cess pools to replace them or connect them to sewers with one year of purchasing the house, if that is sooner than required in preexisting laws
5733		to reduce the number of members serving on the Coastal Resource Management Council and to bring them into compliance with principles of separation of powers by removing the authority of the legislature to appoint its own members
5734		to screen Medicaid and the children's health insurance program (CHIP) benefit claims and to analyze all transactions looking for fraudulent or incorrect claims
5738	825	to lower the work requirements for cash assistance (welfare) from at least thirty-five hours per week for one parent to thirty-five hours per week for both parents
5739	517	to expand the authority of the Department of Environmental Management to regulate and generally involve itself with agriculture in Rhode Island, through a new Division of Agriculture
5740		to force Rhode Island businesses to pay state income taxes on the investments in "domestic production" that the federal government allows them to deduct from federal income taxes
5742		to automatically sunset any new laws implementing tax credits, deductions, or other "tax expenditures" at the state or federal levels and to require intensive analysis of the results, with recommendations about eliminating or modifying the program
5743	605	to make it easier for a municipality or school district to borrow money, without state approval, if any major rating agency gives it an A score or better
5745		to limit loans and loan guarantees made by the Economic Development Corp. (EDC) to \$5 million for any one company without a joint resolution of the General Assembly

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5746		to cap all loans and loan guarantees for which the Economic Development Corporation is responsible at any given time at \$1 billion
5747		to force state taxpayers to spend \$2 million dollars, next fiscal year, on the outreach programs of local mental health centers
5750		to establish a Health Planning Authority, funded with \$1.25 million in taxpayer money, to oversee and direct "the rational allocation of resources" in Rhode Island's health care system
5753	832	to establish a Health Analytics, Policy and Planning Commission to gather and analyze data on the state's health system and to make recommendations to government officials
5754		to require the Commissioner of Education to study public school disciplinary records in search of racial profiling, and to force suspected schools to implement plans to change suspicious results
5756-SubA	647-SubA	to create a state-controlled electronic prescription database storing all information related to electronically distributed medical prescriptions. The legislation also expands the types of prescriptions that may be transmitted electronically
5761		to create a Prevention, Health Promotion, and Public Health Council to review and make recommendations about health and wellness systems in the state
5765		to increase the limit for damages that lawsuits can win from cities, towns, or fire districts, and to grant employees immunity from being sued unless they are acting obviously outside of the scope of their jobs
5766		to give city, town, and fire district employees immunity from lawsuits unless it can be proven that they were acting beyond the scope of their jobs or engaged in fraud, malice, or "willful misconduct"
5769	649	to require organizations holding medical patients' records to provide information to the patient or his/her representative within ten days of request, and to give patients access to reports about those with whom the organizations have shared the information
5770	656	to give the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) power over the property and winnings of anybody who applies for medical assistance from the state, and gives EOHHS new subpoena powers for investigations that "may assist to secure financial and other information necessary for administrating" its programs
5773		to add to the workers' compensation documentation required when contractors hire subcontractors. This legislation also contains language intended to make temporary employers of workers generally employed by a different business responsible for workers' compensation claims if they are clearly responsible for the injury, but the way the bill is drafted would actually do the opposite
5774		to require judges and magistrates to force people convicted of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol to install ignition interlock systems on their cars. Such devices detect alcohol on a driver's breath and prevent him or her from starting the car. The legislation also extends the maximum time that drivers can be forced to have the devices up to five years
5776		to repeal the state law that requires voters to show identification before they can vote
5779		to make a lack of an up-to-date inspection sticker and insurance proof of reckless driving for the purposes of assessing penalties when an accident results in death. The legislation would also make the driver liable for up to \$1 million in direct payment to the estate of the deceased person
5780		to regulate the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (i.e., drones) gathering information on individuals or properties, and to forbid such vehicles from being armed

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5784		to stop the gradual decrease of the size of bids for public contracts requiring public disclosure from going below \$500,000. Any contracts below that amount would not be subject to public disclosure
5786		to make it more difficult for smaller businesses to pay their employees less frequently than once a week
5787		to prevent cities or towns from paying a lawyer assisting in the negotiation of employee contracts if the total bill begins to exceed one-tenth the value of the contract
5790	675	to limit judgments against Burrillville for "over-assessment of property" to \$100,000
5791	611	to make local fire districts subject to the law capping tax levy increases, but to require towns to assume responsibility for fire districts liquidated by voters and allow them to impose special taxes to pay for them
5799	261	to add a fee to all mattresses sold in Rhode Island in order to fund a mattress disposal program
5800		to impose energy efficiency standards on additional types of lights as well as portable electric spas
5801		to require any "greenhouse gas emissions source" (as defined by the state Dept. of Environmental Management) in or doing business in Rhode Island to increase its tracking and reporting to the state, as well as to impose a direct fee on them for use of the DEM. The legislation would also make greenhouse gas emissions a focus of state economic development activities
5802	816	to implement a minimum percentage of biodiesel for home heating oil
5805		to tax all income over \$200,000 per year at a new 10% rate (\$250,000 for married couples and widow[er]s)
5806 & 5476		to force state taxpayers to pay \$3.1 million the Dept. of Health for tobacco control programs, increasing by \$500,000 per year, and to increase the taxes on cigarettes to consumers and to vendors
5807		to delay the implementation of tolls on the Sakonnet River Bridge to January 2015
5810		to force state taxpayers to supplement federal money for environmental lead programs of the state Dept. of Health
5812	642	to allow the state to divert profits from the state's "cap and trade" scheme, which auctions permits for emitting carbon dioxide, to other green programs of the Dept. of Environmental Management or Office of Energy Resources
5813		to force state taxpayers to subsidize the installation of residential or commercial "alternative fuel" stations for motor vehicles by offering tax credits for 30% of the cost. If the client having the station installed is a non-profit or state or local government entity, the credit will go to the seller
5814		to force state taxpayers to further subsidize the Dept. of Labor and Training's unemployment benefits and tuition assistance programs
5815	401	to force taxpayers to subsidize the income and training of new low-to-moderate-income employees who were previously unemployed by providing grants to their employers for up to six months
5816	819	to force state taxpayers to pay Providence property taxes on areas of the old I-195 land that has not yet been leased
5818	277 & 317	to force all movie theaters that have at least ten screens to provide captioning for the deaf on at least one screen and audio descriptions for the blind
5825		to allow government entities to deploy license-plate-recognition systems in order to track and penalize Rhode Islanders for outstanding parking or traffic violations or warrants, to track vehicles "associated with a missing person," and to collect tolls

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5827	467	to force parents of drivers ed students to take a course. Currently, it's optional
5838	618	to limit health insurers and providers' ability to mutually agree to terms for "timely notification" of necessary services that have been provided to clients
5839-SubA	719-SubA	to impose special treatment of victims of domestic abuse in cases involving property or casualty insurance claims
5841	578	to allow manufacturers and wholesalers of alcoholic beverages also to have direct financial interest in retail stores, as long as does not exclude competitors' brands
5853	813	to impose new restrictions on circuses or traveling shows that feature elephants concerning the implements that they may use while in contact with the animals, including a restriction on the use of chains for short periods of medical treatment. The legislation would impose fines up to \$5,000 per violation and imprisonment of up to one year
5854	551	to charge an additional \$46 for marriage licenses, with \$2 for the city or town and \$44 to fund grants to the Coalition Against Domestic Violence
5856	576	to require colleges and universities in the state to evaluate whether a student's military training qualifies for academic credits, to require schools offering two-year associates degrees to accept credits earned at four-year institutions, and to give combat veterans opportunity to register early for college courses
5874	314	to ban the placement of recyclable materials in the state central landfill and direct the Resource and Recovery Corporation to decide on the rules and regulations to enforce the mandate
5875	190	to increase the "tipping fee" for non-municipal vehicles disposing of waste at the Resource Recovery Corporation dump by \$2, with the money going to the town of Johnston
5888		to prevent the state from making payments on the bonds that the Economic Development Corporation guaranteed on behalf of 38 Studios
5889	231	to expand the state's temporary disability insurance program, paid for by taxes on Rhode Island workers' pay, to cover people who take time off from work to care for seriously ill family members or "to bond with a new child." In such cases, the employers must maintain health benefits for the employee and must return him or her to the prior job or its equivalent
5906	181	to add \$5 to traffic tickets to be given to the Department of Transportation for highway repair and maintenance
5911	312	to require mayors wishing to start "mayoral academy" charter schools in their cities or towns to procure the express approval of the city or town's school committee and municipal council
5917	310	to force state taxpayers to subsidize the tuition of illegal immigrants at Rhode Island public universities and colleges if they graduated from a Rhode Island high school or received a high school equivalency diploma from the state and if they pledge to seek citizenship
5931	902	to expand the limited 62% increase in supplemental security income (SSI) for individuals living in assisted living residences to all such individuals and to repeal the rule that reduces state SSI payments by the amount that the federal government adjusts its payments for inflation, instead explicitly increasing the payment by inflation each year. This legislation would also require the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) to take steps to increase access to assisted living services for Medicaid recipients
5934	674	to make it more difficult for municipalities to privatize the services that they offer to residents by requiring cost comparisons to include such things as employee benefits, by setting notification requirements for current employees, and by granting government labor unions the right to offer competing bids and appeal the decisions

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5939	403	to require the Department of Labor and Training to upgrade its online employment services, with tools to identify the gaps between participating candidates' skills and participating employers' needs
5944	840	to allow people or "public bodies" to seek monetary relief from a defendant in an antitrust case
5953	815	to set statewide zoning regulations for renewable energy facilities on farmland
5954		to force state taxpayers to give an additional \$175,000 to the Rhode Island Food Bank, above and beyond money set aside for that purpose in the governor's proposed budget
5959		to add a penalty to the bids of non-resident vendors and service providers seeking to do business with the state government equal to any advantage their own state government gives to them. If the penalty makes that vendor's bid higher than a resident's bid, then the resident will win the contract
5963		to allow judges to require the subject of a protective restraining order or no-contact order to wear an electronic tracking device, at his or her own expense. The legislation would also require judges to order such tracking devices on any person "charged with or arrested for" domestic violence in any case that the judge does not decide to detain or imprison the person
5967		to create a for-profit state bank that would give its earnings to the state general fund. The legislation would give the bank a monopoly on all banking business created by state and local grants and contracts
5968		to double the fine for speeding (above 20 miles per hour) within 300 feet of a school
5975		to add the "element of surprise" as a factor defining the crime of second degree sexual assault
5982		to create a special House commission to investigate the possibility of an Internet system for tracking over-prescribing (I-STOP) that would monitor prescriptions for signs of abuse
5983	537	to force insurers that provide coverage of prescription drugs to allow early refills of prescription eye drops up to the total amount prescribed
5986		to make it a crime for private contractors picking up city or town trash and recyclables to place empty containers in anything other than a "safe and orderly manner," with a fine of \$100 for each violation
5990	859	to encroach on the rights described in the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution by banning the manufacture, sale, purchase, and possession of semiautomatic rifles with various features that lawmakers deem evidence of an intent to "assault" as well as any mechanism for feeding more than 10 bullets into a gun
5991	860	to make it a crime, with a minimum penalty of three years (maximum 15 years) to possess a stolen firearm (with no requirement of knowledge), to increase the maximum additional penalty for possession of a firearm while committing a "crime of violence" to 15 years (from 10), and to expand the law against false claims while procuring a firearm so that they apply to any firearm-related statement, adding a fine of up to \$5,000 to the penalty
5993	865	to require any handgun owner seeking a license to carry it, in a concealed fashion or otherwise, to prove a need to the attorney general. Currently, local licensing authorities can grant such licenses. The legislation would also prevent licenses from being issued to minors. It would also increase the license fee from \$40 to \$140 every four years and require national criminal record checks

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
5994	864	to add people convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence to the list of people who cannot purchase or handle firearms. Currently, felony domestic violence prevents purchase and handling of firearms for two years. The legislation would also increase the sentence for violating this rule from 2-10 years to 3-15 years and the sentence for stealing a gun from 1-10 years to 2-15 years. The legislation would also heavily increase a variety of penalties related to the purchase, possession, and use of firearms
5996	861	to give authority for handling the appeals of people who've been deemed disqualified for ownership of a firearm to a new board created under the control of the director of the state Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals
6000		to create an Economic Policy Advisory Commission (EPAC) consisting of 10 to 12 "national experts" in at least eight mandatory fields. The members would be paid \$12,000 per year and be reimbursed for travel. The EPAC would advise the governor and office of economic development on economic development issues and measurement
6001		to create an Executive Office of Economic Development to oversee multiple state governments, including Business Regulation, Labor and Training, and others, and coordinate all government activities affecting the state's economy. The office would be run by a new Secretary of Economic Development appointed by the governor.
6002	858	to use taxpayer resources to temporarily increase the percentage of video slot terminal income payable to Newport Grand by 3.2 percentage points, ending at the end of June 2015
6007		to require all operators and passengers on motorcycles, motor scooters, and other motor-driven cycles to wear helmets, regardless of age. Currently, only operators under the age of 21 are required to do so
6010-SubA		to make second violations of payment-of-wages laws felonies punishable with up to 3 years in prison and a fine of \$3,000. Currently, all violations are misdemeanors with maximum penalties of \$400 per violation and up to 90 days in prison
6011	959	to allow the City of Newport to add a dollar per passenger to the fees for cruise ship landing at and departing from docks in the city. That would represent a 50% increase
6018	901	to require electric distribution companies to buy a certain amount of their energy from hydropower facilities, regardless of the cost. When submitting an application for approval of its agreement, the electric company would also be required to pay up to \$300,000 for consultants and lawyers within government to review the materials, explicitly giving "the final decision as to whether a long-term contract should be required" to the resulting commission
6019	900	to create a program letting residential property owners finance "clean energy" upgrades through a "voluntary assessment" included in their property tax bills and subject to liens if they foreclose or otherwise transfer the property
6020	917	to require the Office of Management and Budget and Office of Health and Human Services to perform "a comprehensive mapping initiative" to understand what efforts the state is undertaking to prevent Medicaid and public assistance fraud and abuse and to make recommendations
6021		to reduce the sales tax on alcohol from 7% to 3%. The legislation would also adjust the manufacturer/distributor's tax on alcoholic beverages up and down, depending on the type of beverage
6023		to force state taxpayers to subsidize school resource officers if municipalities choose to have them. The officers would be assigned to particular schools and funded through the local police department

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
6027	342	to intervene in the agreements between landowners and the homeowners who lease their land, including setting terms for the compensation paid for demolished homes and providing for binding arbitration of disputes
6030	809	to create a Made in Rhode Island Manufacturing Collaborative and a related advisory group, both with staffing funded through the Economic Development Corporation, that would come up with ways to brand and promote products made in Rhode Island
6031		to expand the state's ban on cesspools by requiring their replacement when land is transferred (except to immediate family), not just sold, and by requiring all cesspools to be replaced, not just failing ones near tidal water areas and public drinking water
6039		to modify the law that allowed the City of Woonsocket to borrow \$90 million to fund its city pension system so that it can make-up investment and contribution shortfalls over 25 years, instead of the currently required five years. The legislation would also make it possible for the city to join the state's Municipal Employee Retirement System (MERS)
6051		to propose a state Constitutional Amendment that, if passed, would increase the government's power to restrict the activity of citizens acting through corporations, including a limit on their rights of free speech. The proposed amendment would also create a right to equivalent access to "any candidate for public office or any ballot measure," without describing the ways in which such equivalence would be guaranteed
6059		to create a revolving fund within the quasi-public Clean Water Finance Agency that will lend money to municipalities for infrastructure projects. The agency would be able to approve up to \$20 million in a given year, initially from state funds, with no more than \$10 million going to a single project
6062	950	to expand the types of workplaces in which teenagers over 14 can work (with school committee approval) to include factories or mechanical and manufacturing businesses. The legislation would also allow those 16 years or older to participate in "manufacturing or industrial apprenticeship or internship programs"
6063		to create an Executive Office of Economic Development to oversee multiple state governments, including Business Regulation, Labor and Training, and others, and coordinate all government activities affecting the state's economy. The office would be run by a new Secretary of Economic Development appointed by the governor
6064		to create a "manufacturing industry revitalization" program (MIR) that would reimburse manufacturers for up to 25% of in-state infrastructure investments plus \$500 per new employee, with various strings attached
6068		to create a "Rapid Rhody lending program" within the proposed commerce corporation to offer fast financing to small businesses that have been operating in the state for a year and promise to remain for another two years
6071		to change the Economic Development Corp. into the Commerce Corp. and increase its reporting requirements to the General Assembly. The legislation would also add a layer of supervision, with a new Secretary of Commerce appointed by the governor having final authority and a chief operating officer running the day-to-day operations
6074		to create an Executive Office of Economic Development to oversee multiple state governments, including Business Regulation, Labor and Training, and others, and coordinate all government activities affecting the state's economy. The office would be run by a new Secretary of Economic Development appointed by the governor. This legislation would also eliminate the Economic Development Corp.

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
6076	889	to increase the different administrative positions that teachers can take and be considered on "leave of absence" from their teaching jobs, thus maintaining tenure, seniority, and a right to return to their prior jobs
6088	1012	to make it more complicated to offer supervisory, medical, or educational care of any kind by banning the use of restraints in all but the most extreme circumstances, and with a regimented checklist of requirements
6099		to create a quasi-public statewide Ocean State Regional Water Authority, with a board consisting of a majority of members appointed by the mayors of Providence, Cranston, and North Providence. The authority would be available to purchase water systems from the local organizations that currently operate them and to bring in water from out of state. It would be able to issue bonds, and would have the power to enter without permission onto any property in Rhode Island to examine the land and drill and dig into the ground. It would also have powers of eminent domain, to take land that the board determines it needs for current or future use. It would also set rates for water and have authority to place liens on properties of delinquent customers, as well as to shut off their water
6100		to create a quasi-public state entity that would manage the water resources of Smithfield and part of North Providence, with limited powers of eminent domain and bond issuance
6103	820	to force the taxpayers of Woonsocket to accept a tax increase up to 12.7% on motor vehicles and 4.6% on real estate, up to \$2.5 million, as determined by the state Budget Commission currently operating within the town, with no opportunity to stop the increase by any means in state or local law. However, the commission could vary or eliminate the increases for elderly residents
6113		to place a statute of limitations of 10 years on all tax collections
6125		to make valid "bonds, notes, judgments, mortgages, deeds or other securities" and other financial instruments won through gambling on "any game... race or fight"
6126	581	to allow up to five nights a week of bingo at senior centers
6131		to provide parents of Rhode Island elementary and secondary students with some portion of the money that would have to be used to educate them in their home school districts for use at any participating school of their choosing, including private schools. The amount of money available to them would decrease with their income, reaching zero for those with income more than three times the eligibility threshold for the reduced lunch program
6133		to remove the state general treasurer's authority from the state investment commission, transferring it to the governor, and to replace two members of the public on the board with government union members
6134 & 6157	833	to create a Program Integrity Division within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) charged with addressing fraud and abuse in Medicaid and public assistance
6168	982	to free storage space owners from the requirement to publish notice of delinquencies in newspapers
6169		to forbid tenants and renters to agree to weekly rent payments when the tenant is paid biweekly
6174		to forbid merchants and consumers from entering into agreements meant to limit the risk and expense of class action lawsuits
6175		to give cities and towns more leeway in appointing or electing administration or finance officers in the years after the state has had control of its operations through a fiscal overseer, budget commission, or receiver
6209		to forbid Rhode Islanders from taking out small loans through any process that is entirely online

House Bills (with Senate Companions)

House bill	Senate bill	Summary
6210	989	to fix the price of tolls on the Newport Pell Bridge and forbid tolls on the Sakonnet River, Mount Hope, and Jamestown bridges, but to raise the funds for bridge maintenance by increasing vehicle inspection fees by \$26
6217	742	to transfer Central Falls retirees covered under the municipal pension into the state Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS), with retroactive and automatic cost of living adjustments (COLAs)
6219		to empower the Bristol County Water Authority to issue bills and liens and foreclose on property based on delinquent payments even if it is a renter, not the owner, who owes the money
6231	43	to forbid Rhode Island courts from allowing a parent custody or visitation rights of a child conceived in an act of rape for which that parent was convicted, unless the "natural mother" or legal guardian consents to allowing limited, supervised visitation. The legislation would also apply to statutory rape of children under sixteen
6234		to force state taxpayers to give \$2.5 million to the town of West Warwick in order to better fund its pension system
6237		to force health insurance companies to cover opioid medications with tamper-resistance formulations
6258	609	to increase the government oversight, transparency, and auditing of quasi-public corporations
6259		to require quasi-public agencies to receive written approval from the Oversight and Finance Committees of the Rhode Island House of Representatives prior to applying for bond financing

Explanation

The General Assembly Freedom Index by the RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity scores Ocean State lawmakers on their level of support for principles of freedom as proven by their votes on the floors of the House and Senate.

The index examines legislators' votes in terms of their likely effect on the free market, the size and scope of government, the balance of residents' interests against those of public employees and beneficiaries, and the constitutional structure of a divided government with limited power over the people whom it represents. The Center reviewed every bill submitted in either chamber and collected votes tallies for those that received roll-call votes on either floor. (Companion bills count once.)

The resulting scores give a detailed sense of each legislator's priorities beyond a few high-profile issues.

The Center further divided the bills into five categories:

- **Tax & budget:** bills that affect the tax structure in Rhode Island and/or that relate to government expenditures, just driving or relieving the pressure on taxation
- **Regulatory environment:** bills that make it more or less difficult to live and do business in the state by imposing regulations
- **Constitutional government:** bills that affect the structure of the government, as well as the scope of government in its authority over residents' lives
- **Public sector labor:** bills related to the relationship between the government's employees and itself and the electorate
- **Education reform:** bills that advance or impede the reform of the state's public education system, in terms of both cost and quality

Most legislation has implications for more than one of these categories. For the purposes of this index, we applied our subjective sense of the area of core effect and sorted the bills accordingly. If, for example, a bill having to do with education seemed to us intended to secure the role of public employees, we classified that bill as Public Sector Labor, not Education Reform.

Methodology

1) Determine weighting: Each bill received a weight ranging from +3 to -3, as determined by the RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity. Negative weights indicate legislation that creates or expands an agency, government program/function, or tax; creates new

regulatory burdens; is hostile to constitutional principles; or otherwise conflicts with the principles that guide the Center. Positive factors were assigned to bills in line with those principles. Companion bills in the House and Senate were weighted identically. The weightings used for this preliminary index will be finalized after the session through reviews of all chosen legislation by a panel of engaged Rhode Islanders with similar principles, and the combined the range of their results will produce final scores for release this summer.

2) Determine vote: Each legislator received a +1 or -1 vote factor, depending on whether he or she voted FOR or AGAINST a particular bill, respectively. If a legislator did not vote on a bill, he or she received a +0.25 if the bill passed or a -0.25 if the bill failed. Legislators who abstained from voting received a +0.75 or a -0.75 vote factor depending on if the bill passed or failed.

3) Calculate weighted vote: Multiplying the weighting factor and the vote factor produced a weighted vote score for each legislator for each bill.

4) Calculate the legislator score: The cumulative score for all bills for each legislator determined that legislator's overall score.

5) Calculate Freedom Index: Dividing each legislator's total score by the maximum possible for the appropriate chamber provided his or her Freedom Index, or a percentage of the best possible score he or she could have achieved. On a preliminary basis for 2013, the "perfect" scores are 27 for the House and 55 for the Senate, meaning that voting for all of the positive bills and against all of the negative bills would produce a "legislator score" of that number and a Freedom Index of 100.

To rank the legislators, the Center sorted them by their Freedom Index scores and then, in the cases of ties, by their scores in each category, in the following order: Regulatory Environment, Tax & Budget, Constitutional Government, Education Reform, and Public Sector Labor. When legislators' results were still identical, the Center adjusted them in order of their apparent stature and power within their chambers.

It should be noted that the complexity not only of the law but of political theory in general can make assessments of the sort described above subjective and very difficult. People reviewing the index should consider the results to be the best judgment of the Center, given our collected experience and expertise.