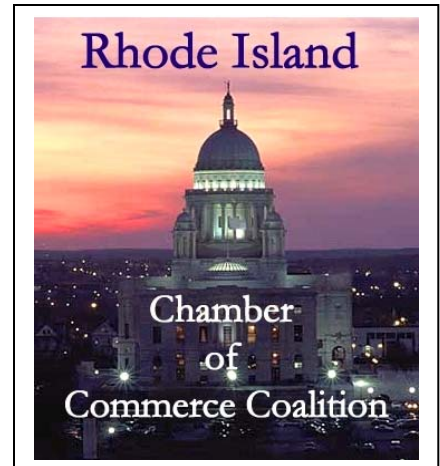


*Central Rhode Island, East Bay,
East Greenwich, East Providence Area,
Newport County, North Central, Northern Rhode Island,
North Kingstown, South Kingstown
& Greater Westerly-Pawcatuck
Chambers of Commerce*



2011 General Assembly “regular session”

Legislation wins/losses and draws

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5722.pdf>

This act would provide that a health benefit plan issued to a small employer with an aggregate number of at least 100 insured individuals is exempt from the provisions of the small employer Health Insurance Availability Act. Chamber Coalition supports **Did not pass; loss**

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5101.pdf>

This act would ensure that businesses employ fair policies relating to the screening and identification of persons with criminal backgrounds through the BCI system. Chamber Coalition opposes **Did not pass; win**

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/SenateText11/S0224.pdf>

This act would prohibit an employer from refusing to hire a person based solely on the existence of a criminal record, with some exceptions, or for a governmental agency from denying an individual a license to work in a particular trade or business based solely on that individual having a criminal record, with certain exceptions. Chamber Coalition opposes **Did not pass; win**

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/SenateText11/S0532.pdf>

This act would provide that the issuance of a physical alteration permit shall be required for the issuance of a building permit, however the lack of a physical alteration permit shall not delay an examination by a building official. This act would further provide that the director of the department of transportation shall respond to the permit application within thirty business days, and the deadline may be extended due to unusual circumstances or complex projects. Chamber Coalition supports **Passed; win**

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/SenateText11/S0536.pdf>

This act would shorten, from 60 to 30 days, the amount of time a building official can reject or accept an application for a building permit. It would also establish provisions for permit applications for commercial buildings. Chamber Coalition supports **Passed; win**

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/SenateText11/S0057.pdf>

This act would impose a sales and use tax with respect to the sale and to the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of any new or used boat. All sums received by the division of taxation under this section as taxes would be distributed by the state treasurer to each city or town in proportion to their population. Chamber Coalition opposes **Did not pass; win**

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/SenateText11/S0193.pdf>

This act would impose a corporate income tax in accordance with an included schedule. Chamber Coalition opposes **Did not pass; win**

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/SenateText11/S0198.pdf>

This act would require taxpayers earning more than \$500,000) to pay an additional 3% on income above \$500,000. Chamber Coalition opposes **Did not pass; win**

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/SenateText11/S0575.pdf>

This act would allow small businesses to claim a tax credit for amounts paid to the U.S. Small Business Administration as a guaranty fee when offering SBA guaranteed financing. Chamber Coalition supports **Did not pass; loss**

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5055.pdf>

This act would require recipients of certain tax credits to annually file reports with the state tax administrator. The reports would contain employment information for all of their employees. It would also require the director of the department of revenue to annually compile and publish an annual unified economic development report regarding the economic effect of the tax credits and benefits. Chamber Coalition opposes **Did not pass; win**

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5283.pdf>

This act would provide all net taxable estates with an exemption from the estate and transfer tax of \$850,000, as adjusted annually by increases in the consumer price index for urban consumers. Chamber Coalition supports **Did not pass; loss**

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5313.pdf>

This act would amend the property revaluation cycle to occur once every 10 years. Chamber Coalition opposes **Did not pass; win**

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5432.pdf>

This act would impose a tax on distributors, manufacturers and wholesalers of a soft drink at a rate of one cent per ounce. Chamber Coalition opposes **Did not pass; win**

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5838.pdf>

This act would establish maximum tax rate increases for cities and towns. It would allow cities and towns to consider growth in a local tax base in setting the tax rate. Chamber Coalition opposes **Did not pass; win**

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5184.pdf>

This act would allow employers to pay their employees on a bi-weekly or semi-monthly basis. This act would also provide that the frequency of payment of wages under a collective bargaining agreement would not be subject to any law requiring employees to be paid weekly, biweekly or semi-monthly.

Chamber Coalition supports **Passed in substantially amended form; partial win**

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5992.pdf>

This act would create the "Model Fair Consumer Contracts Act" which would provide that no consumer contract would possess a clause prohibiting a consumer from pursuing a claim as a class action.

Chamber Coalition opposes **Did not pass; win**

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/SenateText11/S0087A.pdf>

This act would establish the Rhode Island Health Insurance Exchange and the method by which members to its executive board are appointed. Chamber Coalition monitoring

Did not pass (Established by Executive Order)

Senate Bill [245](#)

(would reduce the statutory interest in civil actions from twelve percent to six percent)

Chamber Coalition supports **Did not pass; loss**

Senate Bill [247](#)

(would limit liability of a tortfeasor to only several damages if it is found that the defendant is no more than 25% liable)

Chamber Coalition supports **Did not pass; loss**

House Bill [5457](#)

(would provide that interest on judgments would accrue from the date of the filing of the civil action, not the date the cause of action accrued)

Chamber Coalition supports **Did not pass; loss**

House Bill [5679](#)

(would abolish the defense of assumption of the risk.)

Chamber Coalition opposes **Did not pass; win**

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5700.pdf>

This act would make certain changes to the arbitration process for arbitration of municipal employees' disputes. Chamber Coalition opposes **Did not pass; win**

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5765.pdf>

This act would provide that contractual benefits in effect would continue until an agreement has been reached between the parties or an arbitration award has been rendered with regard to firefighters' arbitration.

Chamber Coalition opposes ***Did not pass; win***

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5705.pdf>

This act would amend the definition of a "municipal employee" for purpose of municipal employees' arbitration.

Chamber Coalition opposes ***Did not pass; win***

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5817.pdf>

This act would make several procedural and substantive changes in municipal employees' grievance and interest in arbitration laws. The act would also establish specific factors to be considered by arbitration boards when deciding an arbitrator's central case.

Chamber Coalition opposes ***Did not pass; win***

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText11/HouseText11/H5961.pdf>

This act would expand the scope of the binding arbitration process to include monetary issues for teachers and non-teacher educational employees. It would also streamline the actual binding arbitration process itself.

Chamber Coalition opposes ***Did not pass; win***