
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

NOTICE OF MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, March 4, 2025

TIME: Rise of the House

PLACE: House Lounge - State House

SCHEDULED FOR HEARING AND/OR CONSIDERATION

House Bill No. [5128](#)

BY Bennett, Potter, Edwards, Spears, McGaw, Solomon, Giraldo, O'Brien, Noret, McEntee ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- CRUELTY TO ANIMALS {LC118/1} (Makes any offense under this statute that could result in the death of an animal punishable by up to 3 years in prison, a fine of at least \$1,000, or both, for each offense.)

01/22/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/28/2025 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [5129](#)

BY DeSimone, Slater, Kazarian, O'Brien, Craven, Corvese, Biah, McEntee, Voas, Morales ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- DIVORCE AND SEPARATION {LC726/1} (Provides for a residency requirement of at least six (6) months rather than one year for the Rhode Island family court to have jurisdiction over a divorce complaint.)

01/22/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/28/2025 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [5258](#)

(by request)

BY Casimiro

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES--COMMON LAW MARRIAGE {LC960/1} (Abolishes common law marriages entered into in this state on or after January 1, 2026, while recognizing the validity of any common law marriage entered into or adjudicated to exist before January 1, 2026.)

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/28/2025 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [5261](#)

BY Perez, Potter, Corvese, O'Brien, Shallcross Smith, DeSimone, J. Brien, Hopkins, Paplauskas, Batista

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- DIVORCE AND SEPARATION {LC654/1} (Permits, effective 7/1/25, the family court to make appropriate orders of support and education of any child who has attained 18 years of age, but not 21, who is domiciled in the home of a parent, and is principally dependent upon said parent for support.)

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/28/2025 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [5364](#)

BY Hull, Biah, O'Brien, Azzinaro, Bennett

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- SELF-SERVICE STORAGE FACILITIES {LC1074/1} (Amends notice requirements for self-storage facility before perfecting lien, to wit; 7 consecutive days of publication on a publicly accessible website or subsequent written notice to lessee, or publication once time in newspaper of general circulation.)

02/07/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/28/2025 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [5365](#)

BY Craven, Caldwell, McEntee

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FIDUCIARIES -- APPLICATION OF LAWS TO TRUSTS {LC1312/1} (Provides that a communication between an attorney and client acting as a trustee or other fiduciary, is privileged and protected from disclosure to the same extent as if the client was acting in his, her, or its individual capacity.)

02/07/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/28/2025 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [5447](#)

BY Serpa, Edwards, O'Brien, Baginski, Solomon, Kazarian, Lima

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- TRADE IN FARMED ANIMAL FUR PRODUCTS {LC706/1} (Prohibits a person to sell, offer for sale, display for sale or otherwise distribute a farmed animal fur product within the state and provides graduated civil penalties for violations.)

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/28/2025 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [5668](#)

BY O'Brien

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- CRUELTY TO ANIMALS {LC1726/1} (Prohibits the declawing of cats by any surgical procedure to amputate or modify a portion of a cat's paw in order to remove the cat's claws. Does not apply to any procedure performed for a therapeutic purpose.)

02/26/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/28/2025 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [5672](#)

BY Casimiro, Noret, Donovan, Cotter, Roberts, Read, Fellela, Serpa, Spears

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- ADOPTION OF CHILDREN {LC1464/1} (Establishes the rights of adoptive/foster children or those in guardianship, to have post-separation visitation with their siblings.)

02/26/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/28/2025 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [5444](#)

BY Nardone, Santucci, Quattrocchi, Noret, Read, Chippendale, Marszalkowski, Hull

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SPEED RESTRICTIONS {LC1087/1} (Defines slowing a vehicle for purposes of the “move over law” (§ 31-14-3) to mean twenty miles per hour (20 mph) under the posted speed limit.)

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/28/2025 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [5640](#)

(Judiciary)

BY Hull, Slater, Fogarty, Fascia, Sanchez

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- PASSING, USE OF LANES, AND RULES OF THE ROAD {LC1498/1} (Adds a provision in the statute relating to one way highways, providing an increased penalty when a motorist travels the wrong way on an interstate highway or an entrance or exit ramp connected to an interstate highway.)

02/26/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/28/2025 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [5644](#)

(Dept. of Revenue)

BY Dawson

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES --

NONTRANSPARENT WINDSHIELD AND WINDOWS {LC1768/1} (Provides penalties for second and subsequent violations of installing and possessing a vehicle with sun screening materials in violation of this section.)

02/26/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/28/2025 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [5657](#)

BY Perez, Diaz, Hull, Shallcross Smith, Slater, Fellela, Hopkins

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MOTOR

VEHICLE OFFENSES {LC653/1} (Prohibits the division of motor vehicles from placing on a motorist's driving record, a traffic violation which fine has been paid no longer than thirty (30) days after its issuance. This procedure would only be utilized twice per year.)

02/26/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/28/2025 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [5658](#)

BY Baginski

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- PASSING, USE OF LANES, AND RULES OF THE ROAD {LC2073/1} (Permits the practice of lane splitting by motorcycles.)

02/26/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/28/2025 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [5660](#)

BY Fogarty, Carson, Hull, Cortvriend, Corvese, Diaz, Bennett, McGaw, Speakman, Caldwell ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- CERTIFICATES OF TITLE AND SECURITY INTERESTS {LC1704/1} (Allows on and after September 1, 2025, an owner of motor vehicle(s) to transfer ownership and registration of said vehicle on their death, by a certificate of title designation and requires DMV to amend title forms, to include transfer-on-death language.)

02/26/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/28/2025 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [5898](#)

(Judiciary)

BY Read, Shallcross Smith, Casimiro, Furtado, Santucci, McNamara, Noret ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- RIGHT-OF-WAY {LC1484/1} (Amends the general law relative to right-of-way of pedestrians to reference the schedule of violations for the adjudication of traffic offenses contained in § 31-41.1-4.)

02/28/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/28/2025 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [5901](#)

(Judiciary)

BY Noret, Read, Corvese, Hull, Casey, Phillips, DeSimone, Kazarian, Speakman, Lima ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MISCELLANEOUS RULES {LC1490/1} (Provides additional exception to prohibition on usage of wireless communication device while driving and clarifies that use for purpose of navigation must be while the device is mounted or otherwise affixed to vehicle and not held in the motorist's hand.)

02/28/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/28/2025 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [5929](#)

(Dept. of Revenue)

BY Voas, Casimiro, Alzate

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- REGULATION OF SALES {LC1265/1} (Prohibits the holding of multiple drivers licenses or identification cards and would change the term "re-constructed salvage" to "rebuilt salvage" for purposes of the Rhode Island salvage law.)

02/28/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/28/2025 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [5926](#)

BY Noret, J. Brien, Kazarian, O'Brien, Finkelman

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- CRUELTY TO ANIMALS {LC626/1} (Creates a cause of action for the intentional or negligent injury or death of a pet.)

02/28/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/28/2025 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

FOR INFORMATION ON TESTIMONY IN HOUSE COMMITTEES [CLICK HERE](#)

ACCOMMODATIONS

The General Assembly strives to make the legislative process accessible to all. Anyone needing an accommodation to attend or testify at a legislative hearing, please contact Stacy Custer at scuster@rilegislature.gov or 401-222-7904, at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.

FOR HOUSE COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS [CLICK HERE](#)

TELEVISION AND LIVESTREAM INFORMATION

The meeting will be televised by Capitol Television on: Cox Communications, channels 15 and 61 for high definition; i3Broadband (Formerly Full Channel) on 15; and Verizon, on channel 34.

Livestreaming is available at <https://capitolvri.cablecast.tv>

Roberta DiMezza
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