
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

NOTICE OF MEETING

DATE: Thursday, February 26, 2026

TIME: Rise of the House

PLACE: House Lounge - State House

SCHEDULED FOR HEARING AND/OR CONSIDERATION

House Bill No. [7635](#)

BY McGaw, Carson, Tanzi, Fogarty, Handy, Craven, Shanley

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THE RHODE ISLAND CESSPOOL ACT OF 2007 {LC4817/1} (Provides that a certificate be provided for every contract for the purchase and sale of real estate certifying that the property has a functioning on-site wastewater treatment system or a sewer connection and not a cesspool.)

02/11/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/19/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7640](#)

(Judiciary)

BY McEntee, Caldwell, Knight, Dawson, Spears, Bennett

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE--COURTS -- COURT ADMINISTRATION {LC5105/1} (For purposes of the judicial security act permits an authorized agent to file a written notice with a state, county, or municipal agency on behalf of a protected individual.)

02/11/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/19/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7642](#)

(Judiciary)

BY Donovan

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- DISTRICT COURT PRACTICE {LC5100/1} (Provides amendments to the assessment of filing fees required to appeal from certain matters adjudicated by the district court.)

02/11/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/19/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7643](#)

(Judiciary)

BY Donovan

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE-- PROCEDURE IN PARTICULAR ACTION -- SMALL CLAIMS AND CONSUMER CLAIMS {LC5101/1} (Simplifies the assessment of filing fees required to appeal from small claims and consumer matters adjudicated by the district court.)

02/11/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/19/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7644](#)

BY Felix, Batista, Knight, McEntee, Dawson, Ajello, Noret, Cruz, Place, Kazarian ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- FEES {LC5055/1} (Increases the fees charged for filings and writs of execution in the district court, superior court and family court.)

02/11/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/19/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7645](#)

BY McEntee, Craven, Casimiro, Bennett, Edwards, Caldwell ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE IN PARTICULAR ACTIONS -- ARBITRATION {LC4896/1} (Extends time for a party to apply for stay of arbitration to 180 days; invalidates any provision that penalizes a party for seeking legal representation; requires arbitrator to provide notice of default to a party for failure to pay fees.)

02/11/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/19/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7646](#)

BY Nardone, Santucci, Chippendale, Roberts, Place, Hopkins ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE IN PARTICULAR ACTIONS -- RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL LIABILITY ACTIONS {LC3601/1} (Creates a medical malpractice tribunal that would screen medical malpractice actions before such actions could proceed in superior court.)

02/11/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/19/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7654](#)

BY Dawson

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE AND SALE {LC5019/1} (Allows for sending of the notice under power of sale and rights of active military servicemembers by USPS First Class Mail and/or an overnight delivery service, instead of by USPS certified mail return receipt requested.)

02/11/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/19/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7747](#)

(Dept. of Revenue)

BY Voas

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- REGULATION OF SALES {LC5194/1} (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.)

02/12/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/19/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7748](#)

(Judiciary)

BY Craven, McEntee, Shanley

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE--COURTS -- DISTRICT COURT {LC5104/1} (Moves North Kingstown from the third division of the district court to the fourth division to better balance case workloads among the divisions.)

02/12/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/19/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7749](#)

BY Craven, Shanley

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- EVIDENCE {LC5141/1} (Repeals the collateral source rule in medical malpractice actions.)

02/12/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/19/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7750](#)

BY Shanley, Potter, Craven

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- CAUSES OF ACTION {LC5154/1} (Provides for punitive damages in civil actions where there is willful or wanton conduct or a reckless disregard for health, safety and welfare.)

02/12/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/19/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7751](#)

BY Shanley, Potter, Craven, McEntee, Kazarian, Corvese

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- LITIGATION LENDING AGREEMENTS {LC5153/1} (Makes litigation loan agreements subject to state usury laws.)

02/12/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/19/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7752](#)

BY Cortvriend, Boylan, Speakman, Handy, Carson, McGaw, Kazarian

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE--PROCEDURE IN PARTICULAR ACTIONS -- CLIMATE DISASTER ACTIONS {LC4360/1} (Creates legal cause of action for persons/insurers to recover losses resulting from climate disaster against petroleum product producers based upon strict liability for deceptive/false statements as to climate impacts.)

02/12/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/19/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7761](#)

BY Craven, Shanley

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS -- PUBLIC USE OF PRIVATE LANDS-LIABILITY LIMITATIONS {LC5148/1} (Changes the definition of owner to exclude the state and municipalities for the purposes of liability limitations relating to public use of private lands.)

02/12/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/19/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7763](#)

BY Shallcross Smith, Boylan, Fellela, DeSimone

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- MAINTENANCE OF PRIVATE EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY {LC4995/1} (Provides that the cost of maintaining and repairing or restoring an easement or right-of-way shall be shared by each owner of a benefited property and their costs shall be determined by and commensurate with the municipal appraisal of each property.)

02/12/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

02/19/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

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

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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>.

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.

Roberta DiMezza

Committee Clerk

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