
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

NOTICE OF MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, March 31, 2026

TIME: Rise of the House

PLACE: Room 135 - State House

SCHEDULED FOR HEARING AND/OR CONSIDERATION

House Bill No. [7618](#)

BY Handy, Slater

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY -- PROTECTION OF TREES AND PLANTS GENERALLY {LC4907/1} (Increases the maximum penalty for certain violations related to the cutting, removal, damage by injurious liquids or gases to trees, plants and shrubs on any public highway or public land under the jurisdiction of state agencies from \$500 to \$1,000.)

02/11/2026 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

03/27/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7619](#)

(Dept. of Environmental Management)

BY Spears, McEntee, Donovan, Boylan, Tanzi, Fogarty, Cotter, Speakman, Felix, McGaw

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE -- LICENSING {LC4931/1}

(Allows any member of a federally recognized Indian tribe located in Rhode Island to receive recreational freshwater and saltwater fishing licenses free of charge.)

02/11/2026 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

03/27/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7621](#)

BY Noret, Fellela, Corvese, Costantino, J. Brien, Dawson, Batista, O'Brien, Fascia, Casey

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- CONSUMER PFAS BAN

ACT OF 2024 {LC4587/1} (Exempts certain cookware that contains perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances or PFAS that are authorized by the FDA for food contact for consumer goods from the provision of the consumer PFAS ban act of 2024.)

02/11/2026 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

03/27/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7734](#)

(Dept. of Environmental Management)

BY Cortvriend, Speakman, Bennett, McGaw, Spears

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- CONSUMER PFAS BAN

ACT OF 2024 {LC4930/1} (Amends the Consumer PFAS Ban Act of 2024 by clarifying enforcement provisions.)

02/12/2026 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

03/27/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7737](#)

BY Cortvriend, Speakman, Bennett, Spears

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- CONSUMER PFAS BAN ACT OF 2024 {LC4757/1} (Modifies the definition of “intentionally added PFAS” to mean PFAS that are deliberately added during the manufacturing of a covered product to perform a specific function.)

02/12/2026 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

03/27/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7913](#)

BY J. Brien, Casey, Baginski, Hopkins, Newberry

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS {LC5407/1} (Allows customers to directly take single-use plastic straws from food service establishments.)

02/27/2026 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

03/27/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7914](#)

(by request)

BY Shanley, Shekarchi

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY -- NATURAL FOREST PROTECTION ACT {LC4991/1} (Protects Rhode Island natural forests by banning extractive and even-age logging on state lands and preserves, allowing only limited safety, invasive removal, or selection management after review, hearings, and fines for violations.)

02/27/2026 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

03/27/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7916](#)

BY Place, Fascia

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS -- GENERAL PROVISIONS {LC5745/1} (Provides for the authorized taking of mushrooms from lands under control of the DEM for personal use.)

02/27/2026 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

03/27/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [7918](#)

BY Casey, Phillips, J. Brien

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SUPPLY {LC5756/1} (Requires that a backflow test be performed every ten (10) years, rather than the current yearly inspection.)

02/27/2026 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

03/27/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

House Bill No. [8133](#)

BY Solomon

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE -- LICENSING {LC5918/1}

(Assesses a fee of one cent (\$0.01) per every ten thousand (10,000) gallons of wastewater treatment facility effluent discharge.)

02/27/2026 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

03/27/2026 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

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

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://capitoltvri.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.

Louis Mansolillo

Committee Clerk

401-222-2369

HouseEnvironmentandNaturalResources@rilegislature.gov

POSTED: FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026, 4:34 PM