

Rhode Island General Assembly 2019 – 2020 Green Report Card

Incomplete & Lacking Leadership: Rhode Island Urgently Needs Climate Action

In the midst of crises of public health, justice, and climate change, the General Assembly and Administration fail to act on environmental policy

Overview

The Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI) offers this biennial Green Report Card to evaluate the records of Rhode Island lawmakers on environmental issues over the course of the 2019 and 2020 legislative sessions. Traditionally, the report issues letter grades to individual General Assembly members based on bill votes. However, for the first time since ECRI began issuing the Report Card, we are not grading leaders. During two years in which the need for action was clearer than ever, both the administration and the General Assembly failed to take concrete steps towards environmental protection and climate justice in Rhode Island. Thus, we are issuing “**incompletes**” to the administration and the General Assembly. In the next legislative session, our leaders must forge ahead on policy that puts Rhode Island on track to address climate change.

See Inside:

- **Inaction in the General Assembly**
- **The Governor sets goals—but will they be met?**
- **ECRI’s wins in 2019 & 2020**
- **Looking ahead to the next two years**
- **Appendices summarizing bills & sponsors**

In 2019, House and Senate committees considered ECRI’s priority bills: the **Plastic Waste Reduction Act (S0410/H5671)**, **Comprehensive Solar Siting Legislation (S0661/H5789)**, the **Global Warming Solutions Act (S0658/H5444)**, the **Economic and Climate Resilience Act** and **Appliance Efficiency Standards (S0552/H5667)**.¹ These bills would have

reduced waste, saved consumers money, and started to address climate change. Unfortunately, for the second year running, none of these bills made it to a vote in a form that we could support.

The 2020 legislative session began with promising mobilization around climate action. For the first time in memory, ECRI had just one legislative priority: the **Act on Climate 2020 Bill (S2165/H7399)**, which would set mandatory net-zero emissions reductions goals. Just two weeks after the bill was heard in the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, the normal legislative session was suspended due to COVID-19.

While state legislatures across the country have gotten back up and running over the past several months, Rhode Island’s legislature has largely failed to consider important legislation beyond the state budget and pandemic response. The legislature even failed to vote on the lone environmental budget item: the biennial green bond ballot measure. Green bonds are consistently well-supported and integral to Rhode Island’s environmental work. Going forward, the General Assembly must find a way to advance important legislation during a pandemic.

COVID-19 has disrupted daily life in countless ways. Coronavirus disproportionately impacts the same communities that bear the brunt of climate and environmental injustice, including frontline communities, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), and communities with high levels of air pollution. Centering equity through environmental justice will be essential to Rhode Island’s success in building resiliency.

¹ Descriptions of ECRI’s priority bills in Appendix C & D

The pandemic has also demonstrated the need for strong, science driven leadership. It is testing Rhode Islanders' ability to work together to address a crisis. In the coming years, another major crisis—climate change—will exacerbate inequity; threaten homes and

communities; and damage Rhode Island's economy. In 2019 and 2020, our political leadership did not show the necessary commitment to this crisis. We call upon Rhode Islanders to demand immediate climate action in the coming years.

2019 & 2020 in the General Assembly

Despite the inaction of the General Assembly and its leadership over these past two years, many legislators emerged as environmental champions. These legislators introduced legislation, tirelessly advocated for its passage, and showed up for events and hearings, demonstrating their commitment to keeping Rhode Island's environment clean and healthy. Having environmental champions in the State House is key to protecting Rhode Island's natural resources.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

Climate change is the single biggest environmental issue threatening Rhode Island today. The legislators who recognize the importance of this crisis and many of ECRI's advocates worked diligently in both sessions to pass urgent policies that would reduce Rhode Island's reliance on fossil fuels, grow the green economy, build climate resiliency in the state, and move towards a low carbon future. By failing to advance any climate and energy policy, **House and Senate leadership** demonstrated a deeply concerning lack of action on Rhode Island's foremost environmental issue.

In both sessions, **Sen. Dawn Euer** and **Rep. Chris Blazewski** introduced bills that would set a mandatory, enforceable goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. Titled the **Global Warming Solutions Act (H5444/S0658)** in 2019 and **Act on Climate (H7399/S2165)** in 2020, the bill would ensure that Rhode Island acts on its moral responsibility to address climate change. The latest iteration of the bill amended the 2014 Resilient Rhode Island Act to facilitate implementation of state emissions

reductions policy. Despite overwhelming support by advocates, the bill did not move out of committee in 2019 and only received a hearing in the House in 2020 before legislative session was suspended.

In 2019, a bill to put a price on carbon was introduced by **Representative David Bennett** and **Sen. Susan Sosnowski**, the chairs of their respective chambers' Environment Committees. This **Economic and Climate Resilience Act (S0662/H5869)** was an ECRI priority for the fourth year running. If enacted, it would provide revenue for clean energy development in the state and reduce Rhode Island's reliance on fossil fuels. The bill did not move out of committee. In 2020, as climate advocates focused efforts on passing the Act On Climate bill, the Economic and Climate Resilience Act was not introduced.

Several other bills were introduced that, if enacted, would help implement the carbon emissions reductions goals that the Act On Climate bill would have set. **Appliance Efficiency Standards (H5667/S0552)**, introduced by **Rep. David Bennett** and **Sen. Adam Satchell** in 2019; and **H7866/S2043**, introduced by **Rep. Art Handy** and again by **Sen. Satchell** in 2020) would have increased the minimum level of water and energy efficiency required in sixteen appliances in the state. This bill would lead to significant energy bill savings for Rhode Islanders as well as millions of gallons of water saved and hundreds of thousands of metric tons of CO₂ avoided. This bill did not move out of committee.

The forward thinking **100% by 2030 Renewable Energy Standard (S2404)**, introduced by **Sen. Joshua Miller** in 2020, would have greatly sped Rhode Island's transition to renewable electricity by

gradually increasing the utility's required level of electricity from renewable sources until it reaches 100% in 2030.

Significant legislator, advocate, and public attention was devoted to the issue of renewable energy—and particularly solar—siting. An extended stakeholder process in 2018 and 2019 resulted in a comprehensive bill that would increase renewable energy incentives while protecting open space, forest, and farm land from harmful development. This bill was introduced as **H5789/S0661** by **Sen. Susan Sosnowski** and **Rep. David Bennett** in 2019, and by **Rep. June Speakman** as **H7426** in 2020. A version of the bill—which did not satisfy environmental advocates' needs for protections for areas of environmental concern—passed the Senate. Fortunately for Rhode Island's open space, this diluted version did not pass the House. An attempt to get the full comprehensive bill considered in 2020 did not result in a hearing before legislative session ended.

FORESTS & OPEN SPACE

Rhode Island has a long history of protecting farms, forests and open space. Over the past century, Rhode Island's forests have faced a range of ongoing and evolving threats causing incremental degradation and fragmentation of our core forests for housing and urban growth and for commercial, industrial and transportation uses.

About one third of Rhode Island's forestland has been identified in the state's Wildlife Action Plan as critically important for habitat. And nearly 70 percent of wooded areas in the state are privately owned. The forest industry contributes \$700 million to the state's economy – and 3,000 jobs.

In 2019, the Woodland Preservation and Stewardship Act introduced by **Rep. Art Handy** and **Sen. Bridget Valverde** (H5813/S0663) proposed giving the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management the authority and essential tools to address threats from all types of developments and promote the

stewardship of forests and woodlands in partnership with cities, towns and private landowners. The bill was heard in committee but did not move to the floor for a vote.

The **\$69 million 2020 Beach, Clean Water and Green Bond** included funding for natural and working lands, including the protection of critical forest areas. The legislature did not approve the bond in time for it to be included on the November ballot. The bond included: \$40 million for major capital improvements to state beaches, parks and campgrounds; \$15 million in matching funds for the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds; \$4 million in matching grants to create and improve community parks and recreation facilities; \$3 million to conserve forested land and farmland; and \$7 million to help local communities improve the resiliency of vulnerable coastal and habitats, rivers, and floodplains.

ECRI supported two additional bills to protect and fund forests and open space, but the General Assembly did not take action on either. **Rep. John Edwards** and **Sen. Dawn Euer** introduced **Municipal Public Trust Dedication (H7348/S2469)**, an act to enable cities and towns to permanently protect their parks and other open space lands by dedicating these properties as "public trust land." Hearings for this legislation were held in both the House and Senate.

Rep. Deborah Ruggiero introduced the **RI Community Resiliency and Preservation Act (H7615)** to authorize local governments to establish a fund dedicated to capital investments that: protect open space, farms, forests, natural areas; improve and create parks and outdoor recreation facilities; and improve resiliency to impacts from climate change, like the rising sea level and flooding from more frequent and severe storms.

TOXICS & WATER PROTECTION

As the science around the effects of certain chemicals on the human body becomes clearer, laws to limit pathways to exposure—namely, prohibiting toxic

chemicals from being used in consumer goods — become critical tools for protecting public health. One emerging chemical of concern is PFAS/PFOA, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, which are used in nonstick products, cookware, waterproof clothing, and firefighting foam, among other products. PFAS have been linked to low birth weights, endocrine disorders, and even cancer; they can enter the body through contaminated water, soils, and even food.

Two bills to lower the risk of adverse health outcomes due to PFAS were introduced in the past two years. The first, sponsored in 2019 by **Sen. Adam Satchell** and **Rep. Alex Marszalkowski (S0218/H5565)** and in 2020 by **Sen. Satchell** and **Rep. Terri Cortvriend (S2068/H7307)**, would eliminate the use of PFAS in food packaging. A second bill, introduced in 2019 and 2020 by **Rep. June Speakman** and then in 2020 by **Sen. Erin Lynch Prata (S2235/H7216)** would establish maximum allowable levels of PFAS in drinking, ground, and surface waters in the absence of strong or science-based federal standards. While the food packaging bill had strong hearings and widespread support from legislators, it fell victim to the suspension of the 2020 session due to COVID-19 and did not receive a vote in committee. Despite two years of strong hearings in the house, and a senate hearing in 2020, the water standards bill failed to make it out of committee as well, perhaps due to the Department of Health's commitment to pass a drinking water regulation.

In addition to human health, toxic chemicals have significant impacts on wildlife populations and the food web. The link between neonicotinoids, found in insecticides, and bee colony collapse disorder, has been well established. Other pollinators, such as birds and butterflies, are also adversely impacted by neonicotinoids and as a result many jurisdictions across the world have either banned or severely limited the use of products that contain neonicotinoids. **Sen. Joshua Miller** and **Rep. Joseph McNamara** introduced legislation (**S2403/H7425**) to ban the use of neonicotinoids. The bill was heard in the House and never received a hearing in the Senate.

WASTE AND PLASTIC POLLUTION

Our waste and plastic pollution crisis and the climate crisis are inextricably linked. The central landfill in Johnston is forecasted to reach capacity within the next fifteen years, yet no plan exists for dealing with our waste once that occurs. Municipalities are seeing their costs rise due to increases in recycling contamination. And the petrochemical industry has begun the process of turning away from fossil fuel production and towards plastics production as the use of renewables grows. The General Assembly appeared poised to take some baby steps on addressing some of the policy problems created by single-use plastics, but, ultimately, no legislation was sent to the Governor's desk for her signature.

On the heels of Governor Raimondo's 'Task Force to Tackle Plastic Pollution', **Senate President Dominick Ruggerio** and **Rep. Carol Hagan McEntee** introduced in 2019 the **Plastic Waste Reduction Act (S0410/H5671)**, which would have eliminated the distribution of single-use thin-film plastic shopping bags and set standards for reusable shopping bags. Initially, these bills contained problematic language that would have overridden municipal plastic bag regulations. An amended version (**S0410A**) passed the Senate, but the House version stalled in committee and was never brought to a vote on the floor. These same sponsors introduced bills in 2020 (**S2003/H7306**) that clarified the definition for a reusable bag and contained no preemption problem. Again, the Senate passed this bill but the House failed to take it up before COVID-19 ground the session to a halt.

The Senate also passed an "**Ask First**" **Plastic Straw Bill** in 2019 (**S0202A**), sponsored by **Majority Leader Michael McCaffrey**. This bill would have cut down on plastic straw waste by requiring food service establishments to avoid providing plastic straws unless requested by the customer. This bill, too, was deemed problematic because of a preemption clause added to a later version that would have prevented the implementation of stronger local laws. **Rep. David Bennett** sponsored the 2019 House version

(**H5314**) and introduced the same bill (**H7163**) in 2020. Neither of the House versions contained preemption language and neither made it out of committee. Rep. Bennett and **Sen. Joshua Miller** also introduced bills (**S2636/H7164**) to ban certain polystyrene products, and **Rep. Susan Donovan** and **Sen. Susan Sosnowski** introduced bills to prohibit the intentional release of balloons (**S2191/H7261**) but none of these received committee votes. In 2020, **Sen. Mark McKenney** and **Rep. Carol Hagan McEntee** introduced bottle recycling bills.

One positive aspect of the General Assembly's failure to act on any energy- or waste-related bills was its disregard of a 2019 bill introduced to circumvent the

long-standing statewide prohibition on the incineration of solid waste by creating a loophole to burn plastics. This bill (**S0408/H5448**), sponsored by **Sen. Frank Lombardi** and **Rep. David Ucci**, was written by plastic industry lobbyists. The language would have exempted plastics from being considered solid waste and therefore not subject to the state's incineration ban. This would clear the way for the construction of expensive and polluting pyrolysis and gasification facilities in Rhode Island and incentivize the use of more plastics. Thankfully, neither bill received a committee vote. The Senate did pass a resolution creating a study commission that met to hear from both industry representatives and environmental groups.

Gov. Raimondo's Second Term Begins

In our last Report Card, we wrote that Governor Raimondo's administration had produced a number of aspirational environmental policies, but sufficient accountability mechanisms had not been put in place. This trend largely continued through the first half of Governor Raimondo's second term. The Governor demonstrated a strong commitment to planning processes and has seen several notable accomplishments in defining her environmental portfolio, but falls short in overall results to address the state's environmental challenges.

The Governor's revised proposed FY 2021 budget included a \$69 million **Beach, Clean Water and Green Economy Bond** and a much-needed increase in **Department of Environmental Management staffing**. The proposed budget also supported increasing the oil spill response and prevention fee and investing a portion of these additional proceeds in the **Ocean State Climate Adaptation and Resilience fund**, which would provide funding for resilience projects on public lands.

The Governor followed through on the **Resilient Rhody** climate resilience plan to support municipalities in reducing their vulnerabilities to climate change. The **Municipal Resiliency Program** launched in 2019 with a commitment of \$2 million to support priority actions identified through the program. Fourteen communities were selected for the two-year pilot of the program, and the Governor has included an additional \$7 million in the proposed environmental bond for more municipalities to participate. The program leverages grant funding to increase the number of projects that will make the state resilient to climate change.

ECRI commends the Governor for recognizing the importance of a healthy environment and the clean energy economy. From summer 2019 through summer 2020, the Governor issued three executive orders related to the environment. One extended the prior year's **Task Force to Tackle Plastics (18-06)**. Another, **Heating Sector Transformation (19-06)**, kicked off a process to study decarbonizing the heating sector to protect against climate change. A third order spurred a similar study process into advancing a goal for **100% renewable electricity (20-01)** by 2030.

ECRI credits the Governor for bold commitments and some good faith efforts to follow through. When counting all renewable energy contracted by the end of 2020 (i.e., including projects yet to come online), the Governor will have met the 1,000 MW clean energy goal she set in March 2017.

The Governor remains staunch in her support for the **Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI)**, a regional cap-and-invest program on carbon emissions from transportation. TCI is one of the most promising solutions for reducing carbon pollution from the transportation sector and increasing equitable transit options. The collaboration between 12 northeast and mid-Atlantic states and the District of Columbia hinges on strong gubernatorial commitments.

However, the Governor's support for TCI is a lone bright spot when it comes to the administration's poor record on ensuring clean, equitable transportation. The Department of Transportation, led by Director Peter Alviti, has shifted funding away from biking and pedestrian projects to highways and has not adequately staffed initiatives to improve bike, transit, and environmental infrastructure.

Further, the administration and the Department of Transportation have disregarded public participation, especially in discussions around **construction on the 6/10 interchange** in Providence and changes to the **Kennedy Plaza bus hub**. The administration is moving forward with these projects despite widespread opposition from environmental, low-income, and transit advocates. In addition, the administration has ignored state law by not appointing a disabled person or regular transit rider to the RIPTA Board of Directors.

In addition to commitments, the administration played a convener role. In the contentious areas of plastics and renewable energy siting, state agencies attempted to mediate compromises between diverse stakeholders that would lead to legislation. Although promising, compromises were ultimately fleeting, and neither the solar siting bill nor the plastics reduction bill made it through the legislature in 2019.

In 2020, following the continuation of the **Taskforce to Tackle Plastics** by Executive Order and before the early suspension of legislation session, many advocates were optimistic about the **Plastic Waste Reduction Act's** chances. The **Solar Siting Stakeholder Group** convened by the Office of Energy Resources had ceased meeting, but several ECRI members continued working to implement the consensus siting principles established by the group of diverse interests.

The goals of heating sector decarbonization by 2050 and electric sector decarbonization by 2030 are essential; unfortunately, these two executive orders only added to the glut of ongoing government studies that rarely seem to result in action.

In response to the acceleration of forest loss to development, the Department of Environmental Management commissioned **The Value of Rhode Island Forests Report** in 2019. The report calls out the benefits of Rhode Island's forests – clean air, clean water, climate change mitigation, jobs, the economy, culture and human health and well-being. Most importantly, it spells out seven strategies and ten policy recommendations to advance forest conservation in Rhode Island.

By the end of 2020, the state will have received results from studies of carbon pricing, solar siting opportunities, forest protection, energy efficiency evaluations, pathways to 100% renewable electricity, heating sector decarbonization, transportation and more. 2021 will bring the true test: Can the Governor implement the recommendations of these studies, or will their binders languish on agency shelves and leave Rhode Islanders vulnerable to overlapping environmental and health crises?

The stakes are high, but the potential is strong that the results of the millions of dollars and thousands of hours invested in these expert analyses can be integrated into a coherent, comprehensive approach to creating a healthy, resilient Rhode Island.

ECRI's Accomplishments 2019 – 2020

On November 5, 2019, the **Energy Facilities Siting Board denied key permits to Invenergy, the company proposing the 900 MW diesel and gas plant.** This decision followed nearly five years of activism led by the citizens of Burrillville and environmental allies from around the state. ECRI members—notably, Conservation Law Foundation and the Burrillville Land Trust, among others—used regulatory, political, and legal strategies to delay and eventually defeat the project. ECRI itself played a role for all five years, from connecting activists to the larger environmental community to hosting press briefings. Advocates' efforts prevented an unnecessary, costly plant that threatened northwest Rhode Island's air, water, and open spaces, and public health.

"In addition to reducing emissions, we also need to be preparing our state for climate change....This will require leadership from policymakers at every level of government—local, state, and federal. There's no excuse for Rhode Island to watch from the sidelines."

- Meg Kerr, Senior Director of Policy at Audubon Society of RI; past president of ECRI

In part spurred by insufficient General Assembly action in 2018 and 2019, ECRI members worked with partners to launch the [Climate Crisis Campaign](#) in the winter of 2020. The Campaign mobilized to unify advocates and to call upon the Rhode Island government to take immediate action to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions by phasing out fossil fuels, creating a just and equitable transition to a sustainable economy, and investing in adaptation and resilience to protect the people and places we love.

The Climate Crisis Campaign is a part of a **larger commitment to equity and justice at ECRI.** The

organization recognizes the role we have played in upholding the exclusivity of the environmental movement; in June, 2020, we committed ourselves to dismantling systemic racism by identifying and challenging oppressive practices within our own work. This work is not yet an accomplishment; rather, we are at the beginning of a continual process of learning and improving.

ECRI started an **anti-racist strategic planning process** with two goals. We will identify the organizational barriers that prevent frontline community members from engaging with ECRI, and we will organize anti-racism training to help our existing member base recognize and dismantle the racist practices embedded within our work. You can read the full statement from the Executive Committee— *Black Lives Matter. There's no climate justice without racial justice—* on [our website](#).

ECRI's successful Compost Initiative ended in the winter of 2019 - 2020. Over the prior twelve years, the initiative contributed to the passage of compost legislation and regulation. It also hosted an annual compost conference and supported local compost businesses, getting a nascent compost industry off the ground.

By the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic had impacted our lives and work. Several ECRI members focused on writing an Earth Day [op-ed](#)—**Earth Day and Pandemic Remind Us of Need to Build Resilient Communities**, published in EcoRI News—that highlighted the intersections of the public health crisis and the climate change crisis, as well as the impacts that both crises have on the most vulnerable and marginalized communities.

As ECRI works to support environmental work in all forms across our state, we continue to focus on the urgency of addressing the climate crisis in a just manner. We call upon Rhode Island's leadership to join us in these efforts.

LOOKING AHEAD

With little to no new environmental policy from our political leaders over the past three years, Rhode Island is overdue for action. 2021 and 2022 will be filled with opportunity for new environmental initiatives. The Climate Crisis Campaign will continue to grow and, with the support of a broad coalition of organizations and Rhode Islanders, we are ready to support bold leadership on our priorities:

- Pass mandatory carbon emissions reductions target in line with climate science (Act On Climate 2020)
- Implement the 100% Renewable Energy Executive Order by passing a 100% Renewable Energy Standard, contracting additional offshore wind, and supporting solar incentive programs
- Pass enabling legislation to invest in equitable clean transportation by joining the regional, bi-partisan Transportation and Climate Initiative
- Improve statewide education on the environment and the climate crisis
- Protect funding for the Department of Environmental Management, the Office of Energy Resources, and investments in energy efficiency
- Invest in resilience, outdoor recreation, open space conservation, and water quality improvements through environmental bonds and other funding
- Adopt policies to protect forests, open space, and natural resources
- Reduce plastic waste by regulating plastic bags, straws, and other pollutants
- Tackle PFAS and other toxic pollution to keep our air and water clean

Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic will have lasting impacts on all areas of the economy and policy landscape. As Rhode Island recovers, now is the time to prioritize clean energy as a cornerstone of economic development and job creation. Investing in equitable outcomes, environmental justice, resiliency, and the intersection of environment and public health will minimize the harm of future crises. Environmental action cannot wait.

GET INVOLVED

ECRI is a coalition composed of individuals and over sixty organizations. We rely on our volunteers, and the skills, perspectives, and ideas they bring, to act as a voice for the environmental community. Whether you represent an organization or are an individual committed to Rhode Island's environment, we invite you to join us.

Interested in anti-racism and want to help our coalition become more inclusive and equitable? Help us with our strategic planning process. Are you ready to see Rhode Island take action on climate? Join the climate crisis campaign ([RIClimateCrisis.org](https://www.riclimatescrisis.org)). Curious to learn more about what we do? Email us to get on our list for environmental news and updates or to learn how you can call in to our next monthly full board meeting.

Environment Council of Rhode Island

PO Box 9061

Providence, RI 02940

environmentcouncil@earthlink.net

(401) 621 - 8048

www.EnvironmentCouncilRI.org

The Environment Council of Rhode Island is a coalition of organizations and individuals whose mission is to serve as an effective voice for developing and advocating policies and law that protect and enhance the environment.

APPENDIX A: Bill Sponsorship & Environmental Champions

House of Representatives

Representative	Municipalities Represented	Support Bills Sponsored	Support Bills Cosponsored	Oppose Bills Sponsored	Total Support Bills
David Bennett	Warwick	6	13	1	19
Christopher Blazejewski	Providence	5	6	-	11
Arthur Handy	Cranston	2	9	-	11
Lauren H. Carson	Newport	1	10	-	11
June Speakman	Warren	2	5	-	7
Terri-Denise Cortvriend	Portsmouth	2	5	-	7
Justine Caldwell	East Greenwich	-	6	-	6
Joseph McNamara	Warwick	5	1	-	6
Carol McEntee	Narragansett, South Kingstown	2	4	-	6
Liana Cassar	Barrington, East Providence	1	5	-	6
Rebecca Kislak	Providence	-	5	-	5
James Jackson	West Warwick	-	5	-	5
Jason Knight	Warren	-	5	-	5
Deb Ruggiero	Jamestown	2	3	-	5
Camille Vella-Wilkinson	Warwick	1	4	-	5
Robert Craven	North Kingstown	1	4	-	5
Susan R. Donovan	Bristol	1	4	-	5
John Edwards	Tiverton	1	4	-	5
Grace Diaz	Providence	-	4	-	4
K. Joseph Shekarchi	Warwick	-	4	-	4
Alex Marszalkowski	Cumberland	2	2	-	4
Patricia Serpa	West Warwick	-	3	-	3
Mia Ackerman	Lincoln	-	3	-	3
Dennis Canario	Portsmouth, Tiverton, Little Compton	-	3	-	3
Joseph J. Solomon Jr.	Warwick	2	1	-	3
Edith Ajello	Providence	1	2	-	3
Stephen Ucci	Johnston	-	3	1	3
Daniel P. McKiernan	Providence	-	2	-	2
Robert Jacquard	Cranston	-	2	-	2
Thomas Noret	Coventry	-	2	-	2
Kathleen A. Fogarty	South Kingstown	-	2	-	2
Jean Philippe Barros	Pawtucket	-	2	-	2
Gregg Amore	East Providence	-	2	-	2
Marvin Abney	Newport	-	2	-	2
Scott A. Slater	Providence	1	1	-	2
Julie Casimiro	North Kingstown, Exeter	1	1	-	2
William O'Brien	North Providence	1	1	-	2
Marcia Ranglin-Vassell	Providence	-	1	-	1

Anastasia P. Williams	Providence	-	1	-	1
Evan Shanley	Warwick	-	1	-	1
Deborah Fellela	Johnston	-	1	-	1
Gregory Costantino	Lincoln	-	1	-	1
John Lyle Jr.	Lincoln	-	1	-	1
Brian Newberry	North Smithfield	-	1	-	1
Michael Morin	Woonsocket	-	1	-	1
Stephen Casey	Woonsocket	-	1	-	1
Robert Phillips	Woonsocket	-	1	-	1
Karen Alzate	Pawtucket	-	1	-	1
Katherine Kazarian	East Providence	-	1	-	1
David Place	Burrillville, Glocester	1	-	-	1
Moir Walsh	Providence	-	-	-	0
Raymond Hull	Providence	-	-	-	0
John J. Lombardi	Providence	-	-	-	0
Joseph Almeida	Providence	-	-	-	0
Mario Mendez	Providence, Johnston	-	-	-	0
Charlene Lima	Cranston, Providence	-	-	-	0
Nicholas Mattiello	Cranston	-	-	-	0
Christopher Millea	Cranston	-	-	-	0
George Nardone	Coventry	-	-	-	0
Teresa Tanzi	Narragansett, South Kingstown	-	-	-	0
Blake Filippi	Charlestown, New Shoreham, South Kingstown, Westerly	-	-	-	0
Samuel Azzinaro	Westerly	-	-	-	0
Brian Patrick Kennedy	Westerly, Hopkinton	-	-	-	0
Justin K. Price	Richmond, Exeter, Hopkinton	-	-	-	0
Robert Quattrocchi	Scituate	-	-	-	0
Bernard Hawkins	Smithfield	-	-	-	0
Arthur Corvese	North Providence	-	-	-	0
Joshua Giraldo	Central Falls	-	-	-	0
James N. McLaughlin	Central Falls	-	-	-	0
Carlos E. Tobon	Pawtucket	-	-	-	0
Raymond Johnston	Pawtucket	-	-	-	0
Mary Messier	Pawtucket	-	-	-	0
Jose Serodio	East Providence	-	-	-	0
Sherry Roberts	Coventry	-	-	1	0
Michael Chippendale	Coventry, Foster, Glocester	-	-	1	0

Senate

Senator	Municipalities Represented	Support Bills Sponsored	Support Bills Cosponsored	Oppose Bills Sponsored	Total Support Bills
Susan Sosnowski	New Shoreham, South	6	19	-	25

	Kingstown				
Dawn Euer	Newport, Jamestown	3	16	-	19
Cynthia Armour Coyne	Barrington	-	18	-	18
William Conley Jr.	East Providence	-	11	-	11
Michael McCaffrey	Warwick	1	10	-	11
Bridget Valverde	East Greenwich, North Kingstown, Narragansett, South Kingstown	3	6	-	9
James Seveney	Bristol, Portsmouth	1	8	-	9
Joshua Miller	Cranston	4	4	-	8
Erin Lynch Prata	Warwick	4	4	-	8
Adam Satchell	West Warwick	4	2	-	6
Louis DiPalma	Little Compton, Middletown	2	3	-	5
Mark McKenney	Warwick	2	3	-	5
Harold Metts	Providence	-	4	-	4
Ryan W. Pearson	Cumberland	-	4	-	4
Frank Lombardi	Cranston	-	4	-	4
Stephen Archambault	Smithfield, Johnston, North Providence	3	1	-	4
Frank Lombardo	Johnston	-	3	1	3
Maryellen Goodwin	Providence	-	3	-	3
Gayle Goldin	Providence	-	3	-	3
Ana Quezada	Providence	-	2	-	2
Walter Felag	Tiverton, Warren	-	2	-	2
Melissa Murray	North Smithfield, Woonsocket	-	2	-	2
Dominick J. Ruggerio	Providence	2	-	-	2
Valarie Lawson	East Providence, Pawtucket	1	1	-	2
Leonidas Raptakis	Coventry, East Greenwich, West Greenwich		2	-	2
Frank Ciccone	Providence, North Providence	-	1	-	1
Sandra Cano	Pawtucket	-	1	-	1
James Sheehan	Narragansett	-	1	-	1
Hanna Gallo	Cranston	1	-	-	1
Sam Bell	Providence	-	-	-	0
Donna Nesselbush	Pawtucket	-	-	-	0
Elizabeth Crowley	Central Falls, Pawtucket	-	-	-	0
Thomas Paolino	Lincoln	-	-	-	0
Roger Picard	Woonsocket, Cumberland	-	-	-	0
Gordon Rogers	Coventry, Foster, Scituate, West Greenwich	-	-	-	0
Jessica de la Cruz	Burrillville, Glocester	-	-	-	0
Elaine J. Morgan	Exeter, Hopkinton, Richmond, West Greenwich	-	-	-	0
Dennis Algiere	Westerly, Charlestown, South Kingstown	-	-	-	0

APPENDIX B: ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITY BILLS 2020

Starred/bolded bills were ECRI priorities in the year introduced. All bills supported unless stated otherwise.

2019 Bill Title	Bill Number	Description	House Sponsors	Senate Sponsors
<i>RI Energy Resources Act: Solar Siting *</i>	(H5789), (S0661), (S0661subA)	- This bill includes a suite of strategies to incentivize proper siting and minimize the size of commercial solar in environmentally sensitive areas. It also requires the establishment of comprehensive solar energy siting ordinances in each Rhode Island town and city and requires the state to develop a renewable energy siting plan.	Bennett, Handy, Edwards, Diaz, Slater	Sosnowski, McCaffrey, Conley, Lombardo, Coyne
<i>Economic & Climate Resilience Act Of 2019 *</i>	(H5869), (S0662)	- This act would establish a fee on companies that sell fossil fuels in Rhode Island and establish an economic and climate resilience fund to disburse the collected revenues. It requires that Massachusetts and one additional state pass a carbon fee of at least five dollars per metric ton of carbon to take effect.	Bennett, Handy, Kislak, Donovan, Carson	Sosnowski, McCaffrey, Conley, Euer, Goldin
<i>RI Global Warming Solutions Act *</i>	(H5444), (S0658)	- This bill would require our State to take action on climate change. It would require reducing carbon emissions economy-wide by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, with interim targets for 2020 and 2035.	Blazewski, Carson, Solomon Jr., Ucci, Handy	Euer, McCaffrey, Sosnowski, Goodwin, Conley
<i>Energy & Consumer Savings Act: Efficiency Standards *</i>	(H5667), (S0552)	- This bill would establish new energy and water efficiency standards for appliances and other products sold in Rhode Island.	Bennett, Edwards, Jacquard, Diaz	Satchell, Sosnowski, Seveney, Coyne, Valverde
<i>OPPOSE: Plastics Pyrolosis Solid Waste Amendments *</i>	(H5448), (H5448subA), (S0408)	- This bill would exempt plastics from being considered solid waste, creating a loophole in existing state law to circumvent the prohibition of incineration of solid waste.	Ucci, Costantino, Quattrocchi, Fellela	Lombardo, Lombardi (F), Gallo
<i>Plastic Bag Bill *</i>	(S0410), (S0410subA amended), (H5671), (H5671subA)	- Creates the "Plastic Waste Reduction Act" designed to reduce the use of plastic bags by retail establishments by offering recyclable bag options and providing penalties for violations.	McEntee, Fellela, Ucci, Costantino, Handy	Ruggiero (Dominick), Sosnowski, Euer, Coyne, Valverde
<i>Energy Facilities Siting Amendments (Burrillville) -</i>	(H5446)	- Makes changes to the membership of the energy facilities siting board by increasing the size of the board from three (3) to seven (7) members for certain applications, and also imposes additional requirements on applicants for energy facilities.	Place, Newberry	

<i>OPPOSE: Energy Facility Siting Amendments (TEC-RI/OER) -</i>	(H5804)	- Amends provisions relative to the energy facility siting act including designating the public utilities commission as the public advocate and creates certain pre-application requirements.	Bennett, Edwards, Jacquard	
<i>Green New Deal Resolution -</i>	(H5665), (S0659)	- This bill requests that the Rhode Island Green New Deal Research Council report their findings and recommendations regarding the potential benefits of green new deal initiatives to the General Assembly by May 15, 2019.	Blazewski, Carson, Vella-Wilkinson, Williams, McKiernan	
<i>Eliminate PFAS from Food Packaging -</i>	(H5565), (S0218)	- This bill prohibits PFAS, a class of fluorinated organic chemicals, from being used in food packaging.	Marszalkowski, Cortvriend, Caldwell	Satchell, Sosnowski, Seveney, Coyne, Quezada
<i>Personal Care Products Disclosure -</i>	(H5826), (S0447)	- Requires the personal care product industry to more fully disclose the ingredients they use and, where applicable, identify ingredients that have been published as a chemical of concern on one or more designated lists included in the act.	Cassar, Caldwell, McEntee, Craven, Bennett	Valverde, Goldin, Coyne, Lawson, Euer
<i>Climate Change Adaptation Fund -</i>	(H5628), (S0412)	- Establishes OSCAR, The Ocean State Climate Adaptation and Resilience fund, a fund which provides grants to support projects that adapt infrastructure to address climate change; assess eligibility of projects, allocation, disbursements and the fund's financing.	Maldonado, O'Brien, Blazewski, Serpa, Carson	Lynch Prata
<i>Conservation Easement Restrictions -</i>	(S0170)	- Requires conservation and preservation restrictions to be liberally interpreted in favor of the grants awarded.		DiPalma, Sosnowski, Seveney, Coyne, Archambault
<i>Woodland Preservation & Stewardship Act -</i>	(H5813), (S0663)	- Establishes and implements woodland stewardship and preservation programs managed by the Department of Environmental Management administered by cities and towns through local comprehensive planning and zoning.	Handy, Barros, Alzate, Bennett	Valverde, Sosnowski, Coyne, Euer, Conley
<i>Polystyrene Ban / Plastic Bag Bill -</i>	(S0268)	- Prohibits retail sales establishments from providing plastic checkout bags and all retail establishments from providing expanded polystyrene disposable food containers and would be enforced by municipal designees, with an opt out provision.		Miller, Sosnowski, McCaffrey, Ruggerio (Deborah), Goldin

<i>Vulnerable Road User Protections -</i>	(S0596)	- Provides for specific fines and sanctions to operators of motor vehicles who fail to exercise due care to avoid colliding with a vulnerable road user causing injury, serious injury, or death to the vulnerable road user.		Archambault, Euer, Metts, Lombardi (F), Coyne
<i>"Ask First" Plastic Straw Bill -</i>	(H5314), (S0202), (S0202subA)	- This act would prohibit a food service establishment from providing a consumer with a single-use plastic straw, unless the consumer requests such a straw.	Bennett, Handy, Ackerman, McNamara, Kislak	McCaffrey, Sosnowski, Miller, DiPalma, Euer

APPENDIX C: Environmental Legislation Introduced in 2020

Starred/bolded bills were ECRI priorities in the year introduced. All bills supported unless stated otherwise.

2020 Bill Title	Bill Number	Description	House Sponsors	Senate Sponsors
Resilient RI Act of 2014 - Act on Climate 2020*	(H7399), (S2165)	- This bill puts Rhode Island on a path toward net-zero emissions by 2050. It also requires transparency and accountability, by making our targets legally binding and enforceable.	Blazejewski, Abney, Bennett, Carson, Ruggiero	Euer, Lynch Prata, Conley, Sosnowski, Goodwin
<i>Climate Crisis Curriculum -</i>	<i>(HR7471)</i>	- House Resolution Requesting That The Rhode Island Department Of Education Develop A Set Of Key Environmental And Climate Principles And Concepts To Be Infused In All Subjects For K-12 Public School Students.	Cortvriend, Bennett, Donovan, Amore, Speakman	
<i>Ocean State Climate Adaptation Fund (OSCAR) -</i>	<i>(S2194), (H7165)</i>	- This bill establishes the Ocean State Climate Adaptation and Resilience Fund (OSCAR) which allows municipalities and the state to apply for grants to improve public safety and community climate resilience for coastal habitats, as well as river and stream floodplains.	Vella-Wilkinson, Shekarchi, Bennett, Handy, Ruggiero	Lynch Prata, Pearson, Euer, Valverde, Coyne
<i>Promotes Roof Solar Installations on School Property -</i>	<i>(H7459)</i>	- Establishes a pilot program to promote the creation of roof solar installations on school property to generate electricity for school buildings in order to reduce the use of fossil fuels.	Marszalkowski	
<i>School Waste Recycling and Refuse Disposal -</i>	<i>(H7507)</i>	- This bill requires schools to comply with recycling & composting laws and promotes the donation of unspoiled nonperishable food by schools.	Carson, Ucci, Donovan, Cassar, Blazejewski	
<i>Creating a New Park or Conservation Land -</i>	<i>(H7348)</i>	- Creates a voluntary mechanism for municipalities to use to dedicate a park, conservation or other land they own as public trust land in perpetuity to protect and preserve its future use.	Edwards, Canario, Speakman, Cassar, Serpa	
<i>Energy & Water Efficiency Standards -</i>	<i>(S2043), (H7866)</i>	- This bill would establish minimum energy & water efficiency standards for appliances and specified equipment purchased or installed after July 1, 2021.	Handy, Bennett, McKiernan, Ruggiero	Satchell, Sosnowski, Valverde, Seveney, Coyne
<i>Prohibits Non-Native, Invasive Plants -</i>	<i>(S2110)</i>	- Prohibits the importation, transportation, disbursement, distribution, sale, purchase, or possession of any species of non-native (exotic) invasive plants.		Lynch Prata, Seveney, Euer, Sosnowski

<i>State Fleet Electrification -</i>	(H7680), (S2365)	- This bill defines "light duty", "non-emergency" and "zero emission" vehicles and would require the state to convert its fleet of vehicles to no less than fifty percent (50%) of vehicles in those categories by the year 2028.	Ajello, Marszalkowski, Knight, Barros, Abney	Seveney, Coyne, DiPalma, Pearson, Euer
<i>100% Renewable Energy Standard -</i>	(S2404)	- Sets new renewable energy standards which increase annually beginning in 2021 so that by 2030 all obligated entities shall obtain 100% of electricity sold at retail to Rhode Island end-use customers from eligible renewable-energy resources.		Miller, Conley, Sosnowski, McCaffrey, Goodwin
<i>100% Renewable Energy; Lead By Example -</i>	(S2638)	- This bill requires the state, including all its agencies and departments, to purchase one hundred percent (100%) of their energy needs from renewable sources by January 1, 2031.		Valverde, Euer, Miller, Murray, Seveney
<i>NEUTRAL: Community Remote Net Metering Expansion</i>	(S2109), (H7280)	- Allows new applicants for net-metering systems to increase the maximum megawattage from thirty (30 MW) to sixty megawatts (60 MW).	Tobon, Bennett, Barros, Alzate, Blazejewski	Sosnowski, McCaffrey, Goodwin, Ruggerio, Conley
<i>Economic & Climate Resilience Act of 2020 -</i>	(S2108)	- This bill creates a fee on companies that sell fossil fuels in Rhode Island and establishes an "economic and climate resilience fund" to disburse the collected funds to all residents and businesses in RI for climate resilience, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate adaptation programs, including low-income residents and small businesses.		Sosnowski, McCaffrey, Lynch Prata, Conley, McKenney
<i>NEUTRAL: Energy Facility Siting Regulation -</i>	(S2192)	- This bill states that applicants/licensees for fossil fuel electricity generating facilities must invest in renewable energy facilities in conjunction with their fossil fuel facility construction.		Miller, Conley, Valverde, Sosnowski
<i>Non-Regulated Power Producer Consumer Bill of Rights -</i>	(H7110)	- Each non-regulated power producer, except governmental bodies, will provide the potential residential customer with a complete "Bill of Rights" prior to the initiation of electric-generation services.	Ruggiero, Jacquard, Blazejewski, Craven, Handy	
<i>Residential Solar Energy Bill of Rights -</i>	(H7217)	- Grants residential purchasers of solar energy systems protections and disclosures in the retail sale/lease documents as well as the right to cancel/rescind the agreement within ninety (90) days prior to installation and notice of any liens filed against their residential property.	McNamara, Ackerman, Bennett, Jackson, Lyle Jr.	
<i>NEUTRAL: Marine Fisheries Council -</i>	(H7874)	- This bill would assign the regulatory jurisdiction over all marine animal species within the jurisdictional territory of the state to the Marine Fisheries Council.	McEntee, Craven, O'Brien, Price	

<i>OPPOSE: Alternative Procedure for Approval of Wetlands Alteration Applications -</i>	(H7867)	- This bill would require DEM to pay for other engineers to conduct a wetland evaluation if they don't get to it within statutory timelines on their own.	Chippendale, Filippi, Lyle Jr., Place, Quattrocchi
<i>Climate Issues – Part of Long-Term Economic Planning -</i>	(H7174)	- This bill adds climate change/sea-level rise/coastal resiliency to data analysis in long-term economic planning. Changes number of members of the economic development planning council from 17 to 19 by adding the Directors of Environmental Management and Coastal Resources Council.	Blazejewski, Carson, Knight, Cortvriend, Caldwell
<i>Control of Mosquitoes and Ticks Act -</i>	(H7870)	- This bill establishes a program to control mosquitoes and ticks by the Dept of Health & DEM to coordinate the state's response to combatting the spread of mosquito-borne and tick-borne diseases. It engages stakeholders before aerial spraying for mosquitos and ticks; monitor afterwards.	Craven, McEntee, Caldwell
<i>CRMC Member Appointed by Governor -</i>	(S2637)	- Authorizes the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint an executive director of Coastal Resources Management Council to act as a liaison to the Director of the Department of Environmental Management to plan and manage coastal resources.	Sosnowski, Felag, McKenney, Lynch Prata, McCaffrey
<i>NEUTRAL: EFSA Amendments -</i>	(H7930)	- This bill increases the membership of the Energy Facility Siting Board from three (3) to five (5) members and would revise the process of energy facility siting to mandate inclusion and participation of the public and cities and towns.	Edwards, Place, Slater, Newberry
<i>Fines for Drivers Who Injure Vulnerable Road Users -</i>	(S2082)	- Provides for fines and sanctions to operators of motor vehicles who fail to exercise due care to avoid colliding with a vulnerable road user causing injury, serious injury, or death to the vulnerable road user.	Archambault, Lombardi (F), Euer, Coyne, Metts
<i>Penalties on Careless Motorists for Injuring Vulnerable Road Users -</i>	(H7259), (S2082)	- Provides for fines and sanctions to operators of motor vehicles who fail to exercise due care to avoid colliding with a vulnerable road user causing injury, serious injury, or death to the vulnerable road user.	McNamara, Caldwell, Shekarchi, Jackson Archambault, Lombardi (F), Euer, Coyne, Metts
<i>Study of Reorganization of Rhode Island CRMC -</i>	(Resolution S2026)	- Amends the membership of the special Senate Commission to study the effect and procedures for the reorganization of the CRMC from 15 to 11, and extends the reporting and expiration dates from January 2, 2020, to June 9, 2020, and expires on January 12, 2021.	Sosnowski, Felag

<i>Tax Incentive for Connecting to a Sewer System -</i>	(H7406)	- This bill allows real property owners a one-time non-refundable tax credit for the actual costs of connecting a single family or multi-family dwelling to a municipal sewer system credited to the owner's personal or corporate income tax.	Solomon Jr., Serpa, Noret, Casey, Shanley	
<i>Prohibition of PFAS in Food Packaging Act -</i>	(S2068), (H7307)	- This bill would prohibit PFAS, a class of fluorinated organic chemicals, from being used in food packaging.	Cortvriend, Marszalkowski, Speakman, Shekarchi, Ranglin-Vassell	Satchell, Sosnowski, Quezada, Seveney, Coyne
<i>Coastal & Riverine Home Protection -</i>	(H7083)	- Enables cities & towns to provide a tax exemption to individuals who take resiliency measures to rehabilitate their property because of flood hazards.	Casimiro, McEntee, Carson, Knight, Craven	
<i>Conservation and Preservation Restrictions on Real Property -</i>	(H7245)	- Requires conservation and preservation restrictions to be liberally interpreted in favor of the grants awarded.	Blazejewski, Ajello, Bennett, Kazarian, Casimiro	
<i>Conservation Easement Enabling Legislation -</i>	(S2426)	- Requires conservation and preservation restrictions to be liberally interpreted in favor of the grants awarded.		DiPalma, Euer, Coyne, Raptakis, Valverde
<i>Open Space Bond Resolution -</i>	(Resolution H7676)	- This Resolution provides for a voter referendum to seek approval of bonds not to exceed \$4,000,000 and for a state Local Land Acquisition Matching Grant Program for open space and land conservation.	Slater, Blazejewski, Kislak, Diaz, Bennett	
<i>Prohibiting Artificial Propagation of Game -</i>	(H7308)	- Prohibits captive hunting/possession, sale, breeding, importation of any mammal for purpose of captive hunting.	O'Brien, Vella-Wilkinson, McEntee, Amore, Morin	
<i>Prohibiting Import of Wild Animals into RI -</i>	(H7305)	- Prohibits the practice of importing a wild animal into Rhode Island, where the animal is not native or indigenous to RI, for the purpose of conducting canned hunting.	McNamara, Ackerman, Kislak, Diaz, Edwards	
<i>Creating a New Park or Conservation Land -</i>	(S2469)	- Creates a voluntary mechanism for municipalities to use to dedicate a park, conservation or other land they own as public trust land in perpetuity to protect and preserve its future use.		Euer, DiPalma, Seveney, Sosnowski, Pearson
<i>Prohibits Development Near State House -</i>	(H7210)	- Prohibits any development of land contiguous to the State House unless approved by the general assembly.	Solomon Jr., Blazejewski, Jackson, Phillips, Noret	
<i>OPPOSE: Amendments to RI Cesspool Act of 2007 -</i>	(H7052)	- Amends the 2007 Cesspool Act by exempting a residential homeowner who has abandoned an on-site system from obtaining a contractor to pump out and to fill in with material, as long as the homeowner has secured the abandoned on-site system.	Roberts, Nardone, Chippendale, Serpa, Noret	

<i>NEUTRAL: RI Cesspool Act of 2007 – Extended -</i>	(H7331)	- This bill would allow DEM to extend certain deadlines for required sewer construction in the replacement of cesspools, but would not extend them beyond January 1, 2025.	Edwards, Canario, Bennett, Diaz, Solomon Jr.	
<i>RI Energy Resources Act: Solar Siting -</i>	(H7426)	- This bill allows for the establishment of comprehensive solar energy siting ordinances in each municipality of the state.	Speakman, Cortvriend, Knight, Cassar, Bennett	
<i>NEUTRAL: Drug Take-back Program -</i>	(H7128)	- Requires drug manufactures to establish fund and manage state approved drug take back programs, free of charge to the consumer and pharmacy.	Corvese, Canario, Vella-Wilkinson, Azzinaro, Ucci	
<i>Idling -</i>	(S2111)	- Would expand the prohibition against idling of engines to include all types of engines, not just diesel engines.		Sosnowski, McCaffrey, Lynch Prata, Conley, McKenney
<i>Neonicotinoid Ban -</i>	(H7425), (S2403)	- This bill would prohibit the use of neonicotinoids, which are a class of insecticides.	McNamara, Speakman, Caldwell, Bennett, Kislak	Miller, Conley, Coyne
<i>Prohibited Release of Balloons -</i>	(H7261), (S2191)	- This bill would prohibit the intentional release of a balloon inflated with lighter-than-air gas. The prohibition would not apply to: a balloon released for scientific or metrological purposes on behalf of a governmental agency or pursuant to a governmental contract; a hot air balloon that is recovered after launching; or a balloon that is released and remains indoors.	Donovan, Carson, Bennett, Fogarty, Speakman	
<i>NEUTRAL: Bus Lane Travel Fine -</i>	(H7622)	- Makes it a violation to use bus lanes while driving a car.	Slater, Diaz, Edwards, McKiernan	
<i>Commuter Transportation Benefit Act -</i>	(S2705)	- Establishes the Commuter Transportation Benefit Act such that employers with five hundred (500) or more employees would provide a pre-tax transportation fringe benefit program or provide transportation to their employees.		Lawson, Ciccone, Lombardi (F), Lombardo, Metts
<i>"Ask First" Plastic Straw Bill -</i>	(H7163)	- This bill prohibits food service establishments from providing plastic straws, unless requested by the consumer.	Bennett, Canario, Jackson, Vella-Wilkinson, Handy	
<i>Adds "Cigarette Butts" to the Definition of "Litter" -</i>	(S2195)	- Re: Litter Control & Recycling, this bill adds "cigarette butts" to the definition of "litter".		Gallo, Murray, Lombardo, Conley
<i>Bottle Bill – 10¢ Deposit on Bottles -</i>	(S2513)	- Creates a refundable ten cent (\$0.10) deposit for non-reusable beverage containers.		McKenney, Sheehan, Cano, Valverde, Sosnowski

<i>NEUTRAL: Bottle Bill – 5¢ Deposit on Bottles -</i>	(H7611)	- Creates a refundable five cent (\$0.05) deposit for non-reusable beverage containers. A one cent (\$0.01) handling fee would be paid by distributors.	McEntee, Bennett, Ajello, Abney, Speakman	
<i>Composting Facilities -</i>	(H7868)	- This bill requires businesses & educational facilities that produce at least fifty-two (52) tons of organic-waste yearly and are located within thirty (30) miles of an authorized composting facility to use authorized methods of recycling.	Ruggiero, Cortvriend, Carson, Fogarty, Cassar	
<i>No Styrofoam in Food Service Containers -</i>	(H7164)	- Prohibits the preparing, selling, processing or providing food or beverages in or on a disposable food service container that is composed in whole or in part of polystyrene foam.	Bennett, Canario, Jackson, Vella-Wilkinson, Handy	
<i>Plastic Waste Reduction Act -</i>	(S2003), (H7306), (S2003subA)	- To reduce the use of plastic bags by retail establishments by offering recyclable bag options and providing penalties for violations.	McEntee, Shekarchi, Bennett, Craven, Knight	Ruggerio, Sosnowski, Coyne, Euer, Miller
<i>Prohibits Polystyrene Food Packaging -</i>	(S2636)	- Prohibits a covered establishment from preparing, selling, processing or providing food or beverages in or on a disposable food service container that is composed in whole or in part of polystyrene foam.		Miller, Sosnowski, Conley, Euer, McCaffrey
<i>Tax Credit to Homeowner as Incentive to do Sewer over Septic -</i>	(S2215)	- Allows a one-time non-refundable tax credit to the owner of real property for the costs of connecting to a municipal sewer system.		McKenney, McCaffrey, Pearson, Satchell, Raptakis
<i>NEUTRAL: Creating a New Water Resources Board -</i>	(S2640)	- Establishes a new Rhode Island water authority consisting of eleven (11) members. The water authority would be established as a new quasi-public corporation and would assume all the duties and powers of the old water resources board. The act would repeal all statutory provisions regarding or relating to the water resources board.		Sosnowski, Coyne, Ruggerio, Conley, Lynch Prata
<i>Establishes Limits on PFAS in Water -</i>	(H7216), (S2235)	- Instructs the Department of Health to establish maximum PFAS levels in water.	Speakman, Cortvriend, Carson, Cassar, Donovan	Lynch Prata, Satchell, Euer, Sosnowski, Miller