

2023 ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION SUPPORTED BY RICCF

Enhance Educational Outcomes:

H6007/S71 & H5639/S68 ACTS RELATING TO EDUCATION -- FEDERAL AID

Establishes new programs for free and universal meals in public schools.

H6189 AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN IN RHODE ISLAND FOSTER CARE

Establishes the Tuition Waiver Program for Children in Rhode Island Foster Care program.

H5635/S780 AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES' HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY INCENTIVE GRANT

Improves educational attainment related outcomes for current former foster youth at the post-secondary level from 14 yrs. to 21 years up to 26 years of age under certain circumstances from funds appropriated by the general assembly.

H5458/S768 AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Requires that each child under the supervision of DCYF be provided a team of educational advocates which would be required to attend meetings on a regular basis to ensure the child's educational planning, progress and success.

H5166/S063 AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION OMBUD

Establishes the Rhode Island Ombudsman for special education who ensures school districts throughout the state meet the minimum standards required to comply with the individualized education programs for children with disabilities.

H5772/SB181 AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

This act would require parental consent prior to conducting an initial evaluation or making an initial placement of a student in a special education program, as well as prior to changes being made to any IEP services or placement. Meet the minimum standards required to comply with the individualized education programs for students with disabilities.

H6128 AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE RI BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT

Requires every school district/local education agency/city/town to report each fiscal year relating to funding/ administrative/program information from the American Rescue plan, elementary/secondary school emergency relief, and state/local recovery funds.

Enhance Protections and Safety for Youth, Caregivers, and Family Members:

HB5227/SB404 AN ACT RELATING TO DELINQUENT AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN -- PROCEEDINGS IN FAMILY COURT

Prohibits any questioning of a juvenile who is suspected of delinquent or criminal behavior, unless the parent of guardian of the juvenile is present, or unless an attorney is present or the juvenile and their parents have waived their presence.

H5359/SB404 AN ACT RELATING TO DELINQUENT AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN -- PROCEEDINGS IN FAMILY COURT

Prohibits the family court from detaining/committing any juvenile under the age of 14 years to the training school for any offense other than murder/first degree sexual assault or an attempt to commit such offenses.

H5883/S604 AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- COURTS -- ABUSIVE LITIGATION

Prohibits abusive litigation context of domestic violence or stalking and allow the court to dismiss a case upon finding, by preponderance of the evidence, that the person who filed the case is abusing the system.

Uphold Rights of Foster Families:

H5965 AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES--FOSTER PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

Foster Care Bill of Rights: Requires preparation of an annual summary report of all findings documenting all reports of suspected and/or verified violations of this chapter.

Enhance Behavioral Health Services:

CCBHC FUNDING

RICCF supports the Governor's FY 2024 budget proposal for \$22.4M for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC).

H6206/S783 RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

This act would provide that services provided by graduate student interns who work under a supervisory protocol would be eligible to be paid from Medicaid reimbursement.

HB5522/SB530 AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE HEALTHCARE SERVICES FUNDING PLAN ACT

Amends RI's existing Healthcare Services Funding Plan Act by adding an account relating to a new Psychiatry Resource Network to fund RI's present PediPRN and MomsPRN, as well as similar programs which may be added by regulation in the future.

S028 AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MENTAL ILLNESS OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Increases the rate of reimbursement for in-network behavioral health care services below the medial commercial reimbursement rate and also Rhode Island Medicaid shall increase the rate of reimbursement.

7657 AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE

The bill would require insurance companies to increase the rates paid to in network outpatient behavioral health providers by at least 5% plus an inflationary adjustment by January 1, 2024. It would also require insurance companies to provide an annual report outlining how they reimburse for mental health services.

H5882/S795 JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO WRITE AN OLMSTEAD PLAN FOR RHODE ISLAND

Creates a twenty-eight (28) member special legislative commission whose purpose it is to write an Olmstead Plan for RI, and who reports back to the General Assembly no later than January 3, 2024, and whose life expires on July 1, 2024.

Enhance Housing Access and Lead Safety:

H5007/S002 AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- LEAD POISONING PREVENTION ACT

Establishes a lead water supply replacement program for public and private service lines and requires disclosure to tenants and buyers of real property of the presence of lead service lines.

H5760 AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- FAIR CHANCE IN HOUSING ACT

Limits the use of certain criminal records and credit history reports in denying housing to prospective applicants, provides fines for failure to comply and requires notice of denials be sent to the prospective tenants.

H6129 RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- PUBLIC DEFENDER

Provide low-income individuals facing eviction and housing instability with legal representation.

6087 AS AMENDED RELATING TO PROPERTY -- RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT

Prohibits the requirement that a fee be paid for a rental application for real property.

H5967/S0706 AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

Provides that occupants of state-owned group homes be given the right of first refusal to purchase the property subject to their lease.

Enhance Safety Through Gun Control:

H5300/S0379 AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- ASSAULT WEAPONS

Bans the possession, sale, and transfer of assault weapons. Possession of assault weapons owned on the effective date of this act would be “grandfathered”. Violations are punishable by a fine or imprisonment.

H5434/S0321 AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- SAFE STORAGE/WEAPONS

Requires the safe storage of firearms and would provide civil penalties and criminal penalties for violation.

Enhance Labor Protections for Youth and Families:

H5311 JOINT RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES RELATING TO THE LABOR OF PERSONS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE

Would provide that the Congress of the United States would have the power to limit, regulate, and prohibit the labor of persons under 18 years of age.

H5781 AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- TEMPORARY DISABILITY INSURANCE -- GENERAL PROVISIONS

Includes siblings/grandchildren/care recipient for temporary caregiver benefits of 12 weeks/Increases weekly dependent's allowances from \$10 to \$20 or 7% of benefit rate whichever is greater. Effective January 1, 2024.

Enhance Equity Impact Assessment:

H5763 AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Creates the "equity impact statement act", requiring that all legislation submitted in the general assembly include an equity impact statement.

S0636 AN ACT RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- RACIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ACT

Requires racial impact statements as to pending legislation/to provide analysis and other information necessary to prepare statement, which is an assessment of the potential impact of the legislation on historically disadvantaged racial populations.

Guarantee Access to Healthcare:

H5426 AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Aligns Rhode Island with current federal requirements on health insurers as established by the Affordable Care Act, also prohibits annual and lifetime limits on coverage within health insurance plans issued within the state.

S023 AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Guarantees availability of coverage to eligible residents of the state and does not limit or exclude coverage by imposing a preexisting condition exclusion.

Support for Early Care and Education:

RICCF supports the initiatives of the Right from the Start Campaign.