



# SMITH HILL REPORT

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## Bill Introductions House Bills

- **Elimination of Professional Development Investment Fund**  
(H5163 *Mattiello, House Health, Education and Welfare*)

The RIFTHP **opposes** this act which would eliminate State funding for education professional development.

- **Caruolo Actions – Compliance with Property Tax Cap**  
(H5280 *Loughlin, House Finance*)

The RIFTHP **opposes** this act which would amend the "Caruolo Act" to provide that no award of the Superior Court would exceed the school budget increase caps set forth in subsection 16-2-21(d).

- **Scope of Bargaining Limitations**  
(H5300 *Gablinski, House Labor*)

The RIFTHP **opposes** this act which would restrict collective bargaining by municipal employees, including teachers, to matters concerning compensation and benefits.

- **Part-Time State Employees – Health Insurance Restrictions**

(H5314 *Kilmartin, House Finance*)

The RIFTHP **opposes** this act which would change the definition of part-time

State employee regarding eligibility for medical insurance benefits. It would increase the minimum weekly hours worked from twenty (20) to thirty-five (35) hours.

- **Vacating Arbitration Awards**

(H5335 *San Bento, House Labor*)

The RIFTHP **supports** this

act which would acknowledge arbitration as the preferred alternative labor dispute resolution mechanism and limit instances when an arbitration award can be vacated.

- **Scope of Bargaining – Bumping**  
(H5379 *Gablinski, House Labor*)

The RIFTHP **opposes** this act which prohibit bumping during the layoff of teachers and the order of layoffs would be determined by the school principal based on a merit system.



You are making a difference and it's not too late to get your message out.

Thousands of "Keep the Promise" postcards, urging RI legislators to vote to eliminate the non-financial, punitive Articles from the Governor's supplemental budget, have been sent by RIFTHP members over the last two weeks.

If you have not sent a postcard to your senator or representative, ***it is not too late!***

For contact information for your senator or representative, go to [www.rifthp.org](http://www.rifthp.org).

- **Agency Fee Prohibition**  
 (H5380 *Gablinski, House Labor*)  
 The RIFTHP **opposes** this act which would allow employees who elect not to join a labor union to not be required to pay a service charge in lieu of union dues. This act would take effect upon passage but would not apply to any collective bargaining agreement in effect at the time of passage.
- **Card Check Prohibition**  
 (H5381 *Gablinski, House Labor*)  
 The RIFTHP **opposes** this act which would require that all employees voting on issues concerning the exercise of their labor relations rights do so by the use of secret ballots.
- **Scope of Bargaining – Teacher Evaluation**  
 (H5382 *Gablinski, House Labor*)  
 The RIFTHP **opposes** this act which commencing January 1, 2010, would prohibit any teachers' collective bargaining agreement from restricting the performance evaluation of any tenured teachers.
- **Scope of Bargaining – State Employee Dual Coverage**  
 (H5392 *Baldelli-Hunt, House Corporations*)  
 The RIFTHP **opposes** this act which would require a State employee who is either married to another State employee or who is the domestic partner of another State employee to choose the least expensive health care plan, either family coverage or individual coverage. This act would also eliminate any credit or additional payment to the employee.
- **Elimination of Public Sector Collective Bargaining**  
 (H5435 *Trillo, House Labor*)  
 The RIFTHP **opposes** this act which would prohibit any future collective bargaining agreements with any public employees.
- **Council Ratification of School Contracts**  
 (H5437 *Trillo, House Health, Education and Welfare*)  
 The RIFTHP **opposes** this act which would require that if a city or town charter or ordinance empowers a city or town council to ratify the collective bargaining agreements of its school committees, then no collective bargaining agreement is effective unless ratified by the city or town council.
- **School Budgets – 3% Cap**  
 (H5472 *Trillo, House Finance*)  
 The RIFTHP **opposes** this act which would limit school budget increases to no more than three percent (3%) over the prior fiscal period.
- **PSI – Noninterference with Collective Bargaining**  
 (H5482 *McCauley, House Health, Education and Welfare*)  
 The RIFTHP **supports** this act which would provide that the intervention provisions of the Rhode Island Student Investment Initiative Act would not alter or affect rights or remedies of school employees provided under federal laws, State laws, local laws or collective bargaining agreements.
- **EFCA - Card Check**  
 (H5504 *Almeida, House Labor*)  
 The RIFTHP **supports** this act which would amend the Labor Relations Act to provide for a certified representative for collective bargaining by petition, mirroring the federal Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA).
- **Title 16 – Eliminate Collective Bargaining References**  
 (H5505 *Williamson, House Labor*)  
 The RIFTHP **opposes** this act which would eliminate the collective bargaining references and requirements throughout Title 16.