



SMITH HILL REPORT

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Close Vote Supports COLA Cap

Days of intensive lobbying by public sector union leaders prevented additional pension cuts and almost stopped the House leadership from capping the pension COLA for teachers and State workers not eligible to retire upon the effective date of the State Budget. The RIFTHP sent out a letter from President Marcia Reback containing the following:

“Enough is enough. Having already suffered two major pension cuts, this is the third time in five years that the Assembly has targeted public sector workers to balance the State Budget.

What I find most objectionable is that every penny saved by the employer with these pension cuts is used to balance the State Budget, not to secure pension benefits. The Assembly is taking benefits from workers yet is not making future benefits more secure by putting the savings into the pension fund.”

Before voting on the Article of the Budget, the House rejected an amendment by Rep. Schadone that would have eliminated the pension COLA for new hires and another amendment by Rep. Trillo that would have eliminated the pension COLA for everyone. The vote on passage of Article 16 is as follows. A Right vote is a vote against passage of the pension reduction.

W Rep. Ajello (D)	R Rep. Fierro (D)	W Rep. Marcello (D)	R Rep. San Bento (D)
W Rep. Almeida (D)	– Rep. Flaherty (D)	W Rep. Martin (D)	R Rep. Savage (R)
R Rep. Azzinaro (D)	W Rep. Fox (D)	W Rep. Mattiello (D)	R Rep. Schadone (D)
W Rep. Baldelli-Hunt (D)	W Rep. Gablinske (D)	W Rep. McCauley (D)	R Rep. Segal (D)
W Rep. Brien (D)	W Rep. Gallison (D)	A Rep. McNamara (D)	W Rep. Serpa (D)
W Rep. Caprio (D)	W Rep. Gemma (D)	W Rep. Melo (D)	W Rep. Shallcross (D)
R Rep. Carnevale (D)	R Rep. Giannini (D)	R Rep. Menard (D)	W Rep. Silva (D)
R Rep. Carter (D)	R Rep. Guthrie (D)	R Rep. Messier (D)	R Rep. Slater (D)
W Rep. Coderre (D)	R Rep. Handy (D)	W Rep. Murphy (D)	R Rep. Sullivan (D)
R Rep. Corvese (D)	W Rep. Hearn (D)	W Rep. Naughton (D)	W Rep. Trillo (R)
W Rep. Costantino (D)	W Rep. Jackson (D)	R Rep. Newberry (R)	R Rep. Ucci (D)
R Rep. DaSilva (D)	R Rep. Jacquard (D)	W Rep. O’Neill (D)	W Rep. Vaudreuil (D)
R Rep. DeSimone (D)	W Rep. Kennedy (D)	W Rep. Pacheco (D)	R Rep. Walsh (D)
R Rep. Diaz (D)	re Rep. Kilmartin (D)	R Rep. Palumbo (D)	R Rep. Wasylyk (D)
W Rep. Driver (D)	W Rep. Lally (D)	W Rep. Petrarca (D)	R Rep. Watson (R)
W Rep. Edwards (D)	R Rep. Lima (D)	R Rep. Pollard (D)	W Rep. Williams (D)
W Rep. Ehrhardt (R)	R Rep. Loughlin (R)	R Rep. A. Rice (D)	W Rep. Williamson (D)
R Rep. Fellela (D)	R Rep. MacBeth (D)	W Rep. M. Rice (D)	W Rep. Winfield (D)
W Rep. Ferri (D)	R Rep. Malik (D)	W Rep. Ruggiero (D)	

(R - Right Vote, W - Wrong Vote, – - Not Voting, A – Absent, re – Recused)

Bills on the Move

- **Notification Date Change – May 15**
(**H7143A** *Gablinske, Senate Labor*)
The RIFTHP opposes this bill which would change the notification requirements regarding the dismissal, suspension or lay-off of teachers from March 1 to May 15. The bill passed the House on May 12 and was transferred to the Senate Labor Committee.
- **School and Youth Program Concussion Act**
(**S2034Aaa** *Felag, House and Senate Passed*)
This act would require school districts to work with the Rhode Island interscholastic league to develop guidelines for educating coaches and players in youth sports about the risks associated with concussions. It “encourages” school districts to have an athletic trainer or similarly-trained person at all recreational and athletic events. The bill passed both the House and Senate and awaits being sent to the Governor.
- **Support Public Education License Plates**
(**S2100A** *Maselli, House Constituent Services*)
This act would make available special license plates for support of public education. The bill passed both the Senate on June 1 and was sent to the House Constituent Services Committee on June 2.
- **Education Collaborative Mission**
(**H7668Aaa** *Gablinske, House Passed*)
This act would define the mission of the educational collaboratives in this State. The bill passed the House on June 1 and is awaiting transfer to the Senate.
- **Moratorium on New Home Care Providers**
(**H7331** *McNamara, Senate Health and Human Services*)
The RIFTHP supports this bill which would implement a moratorium on new initial licenses for hospice providers, home nursing care providers, and home care providers until July 1, 2012. The bill passed the House on May 12 and was transferred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The bill was heard on June 2 but has not been voted on in committee.
- **Post-Retirement Employment – Administrators**
(**S2164** *Ciccone, Senate Passed*)
This act would prohibit any person who has retired and who is receiving a pension or retirement allowance, under the provisions of this chapter, from being employed as an administrator for more than ninety (90) days in the aggregate, in any school year; and would also provide that the earnings therefrom when added to any pension or retirement allowance he or she is receiving do not exceed the salary that is being paid for the position from which he or she was retired. The bill passed the Senate on June 2 and is awaiting transfer to the House.
- **Oversight of Advanced Placement Courses**
(**S2261** *Pichardo, House Health, Education and Welfare*)
This act would require the establishment of clear training guidelines for teachers who will teach advanced placement classes in Rhode Island public schools. The bill passed the Senate on June 1 and was transferred to the House Health, Education and Welfare Committee on June 2.
- **School Textbook Purchase Study Commission**
(**S2822** *O'Neill, House Health, Education and Welfare*)
This resolution would create a 15-member, special legislative commission to be known as the “Special Legislative Commission to Study the Purchase and Use of Textbooks in Public Schools,” whose purpose shall be to make a comprehensive study of the use of textbooks in public schools. The Commission would include the President of the RIFTHP. The bill passed the Senate on May 27 and was transferred to the House Health, Education and Welfare Committee.
- **Student Discipline – In-School Suspension**
(**H7827** *Diaz, Senate Education*)
The act adds a sentence to the existing State law related to student discipline in an effort to minimize out-of-school suspensions. The bill states that “no school shall use a student’s habitual truancy or excessive absenteeism as the sole reason for using an out-of-school suspension as a disciplinary action”. The bill passed the House on May 19 and was transferred to the Senate Education Committee on May 20.