



SMITH HILL REPORT

Passed or Vetoed Bills

- **Katharine Gibbs – Associates Degree (S2264 Gallo)**
This law repeals section 16-40-10.1 which authorized the Katharine Gibbs School to grant associate degrees. With the approval of the Board of Governors for Higher Education, the Katharine Gibbs School, currently a degree-granting proprietary institution, has acted to change its business name and operating status to Sanford-Brown Institute, a non-degree granting proprietary school, which would offer only certificate programs. The bill was signed by the Governor on June 16.
- **Lyme Disease Prevention Education (H7418A Jackson) (S2265B DiPalma)**
This law requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in collaboration with the Department of Health, to make Lyme disease awareness and prevention resources available to all public school students in the State. The bills were signed by the Governor on June 16.
- **Race to the Top Resolution (H8175 Mattiello) (S2888 Gallo)**
This resolution states that the General Assembly supports the Rhode Island application for a federal Round Two Race To The Top grant. The General Assembly urges the Governor and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to submit a competitive application to pursue the four reforms as outlined by the United States Department of Education. This application should involve stakeholder input within Rhode Island and should reflect national and international best practices. The resolutions were signed by the Governor on June 22.
- **Moratorium on New Home Care Providers (S2425A Perry)**
The RIFTHP supported this act which would have implement a moratorium on new initial licenses for hospice providers, home nursing care providers, and home care providers until July 1, 2012. The bill was vetoed by the Governor on June 22.
- **Education Collaborative Revisions (H7668Aaa Gablinske) (S2266 Felag)**
This law defines the mission of the educational collaboratives in this State. The House bill was signed by the Governor on June 16 and the Senate bill was signed by the Governor on June 22.
- **Charter School Statutory Categories (H7867Aaa Silva) (S2734Aaa Doyle)**
This law provides a new structure for the creation, operation and funding of charter schools. The law also makes distinctions for district charter schools, independent charters and mayoral academies. The bills were signed by the Governor on June 22.
- **Resolution in Support of New England Consortium (S2173 DiPalma)**
This resolution states that the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations expresses its strong support and endorsement of the New England Secondary School Consortium and its goals, strategies, and partnerships. The resolution was signed by the Governor on June 22.

- **Student Records of Military Children**
(H8010 *Gallison*)
(S2738 *DiPalma*)
This law makes Rhode Island a member of an interstate commission that would deal with issues related to the education of the children of military personnel. The bills were signed by the Governor on June 22.
- **Education Funding Formula**
(H8094Aaa *Costantino*)
(S2770Aaa *Gallo*)
This law establishes a permanent education foundation aid formula for calculating State aid to public education. The bills were signed by the Governor on June 23.

Bills and Resolutions Awaiting Signature

- **Revise Radiology Technician Board**
(H7273Aaa *Pollard*)
(S2130A *Gallo*)
These acts would repeal the existing radiologic technology licensing act and adopt a revised radiologic technology licensing act. This revised act would allow the Director of Health to appropriately license radiologic technologists in accordance with current standards of practice established by national professional associations which examine, register, certify or approve individuals and education programs relating to operators of sources of radiation. The bills were sent to the Governor on June 17 for his signature.
- **Cranston Municipal Employee Retirement**
(H8017 *Mattiello*)
(S2804 *Lanzi*)
These acts would permit city of Cranston employees, who are members of Teamsters Local 251, who are hired between the dates of July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2010, inclusively who are currently members of the State Municipal Employees Retirement Plan, to have the option of enrolling in a defined contribution plan established by the city of Cranston in lieu of membership in the State system. In addition, all city of Cranston employees, who will be members of Teamsters Local 251, hired after June 30, 2010, shall be enrolled in a defined contribution plan established by the city of Cranston in lieu of the State Municipal Employees Retirement Plan. The bills was sent to the Governor on June 17 for his signature.
- **Support Public Education License Plates**
(H7164aa *Ucci*)
(S2100A *Maselli*)
This act would make available special license plates for support of public education. The bills was sent to the Governor on June 17 for his signature.
- **School Employee Health Insurance Deadline Extension**
(S2949 *Gallo*)
The RIFTHP supports this act which would extend the deadline for the Public School Employee Healthcare Board to develop medical insurance plans designs for all school employees. The deadline would extend one year. The bill was sent to the Governor on June 17 for his signature.
- **Study Commission – Textbooks**
(H8156 *Shallcross-Smith*)
(S2822 *O’Neill*)
This resolution would create a Joint Legislative Commission whose purpose it would be to study all aspects of the purchase and use of textbooks in public schools, and who would report back to the General Assembly no later than March 5, 2011, and whose life would expire on May 5, 2011. The President of the RIFTHP or a designee will serve on the commission. The resolutions were sent to the Governor on June 17 for his signature.
- **School Committee Required Professional Development**
(S2777 *Gallo*)
This act would require members of school committees to undertake six (6) hours of professional development in the professional development educational program developed by Rhode Island College. The bill was sent to the Governor on June 17 for his signature.
- **Study Commission – Education of DCYF Students**
(S2872 *Perry*)
This resolution would create a commission to study the placement of students under DCYF care in public schools. The resolution was sent to the Governor on June 17 for his signature.