



# SMITH HILL REPORT

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## 2012 Session Underway

The 2012 session of the Rhode Island General Assembly began on Tuesday January 3, 2012. The Assembly meets regularly on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons at the State House on Smith Hill in Providence. The floor sessions begin at 4:00 and most committee hearings on bills are held after the floor session.

Most legislation will be filed in the next month, and committee hearings take place through mid-April. Legislation related to financial matters is heard throughout the session in the House Finance Committee. The House Finance Committee also considers the State Budget, which is initially proposed by the Governor.

The Assembly normally concludes its business when it passes the State Budget and a flurry of bills in June. The State fiscal year begins July 1, and the Assembly works to conclude its business and pass a budget before the end of the current fiscal year.

The RIFTHP lobbyist is James Parisi. The RIFTHP is also represented by President Frank Flynn, Political Director Maureen Martin and Treasurer John Maguire.

The RIFTHP regularly testifies on legislation and promotes a legislative package that will be covered in future issues of the Smith Hill Report.

## 2011 Pension Vote

The significant and comprehensive pension cuts were completed six weeks prior to the start of the 2012 session. On November 17, 2011 the Assembly voted to create a new hybrid pension benefit and enacted a COLA suspension that will begin on July 1, 2012. The RIFTHP and other unions opposed these pension cuts. The Assembly will consider changes to privately-run municipal pensions this session.

The 15 Representatives and two Senators who supported us by voting against the pension cuts are:

Representative John J. DeSimone  
Representative Raymond A. Hull  
Representative Leo Medina  
Representative John M. Carnevale  
Representative Charlene M. Lima  
Representative Peter G. Palumbo  
Representative Robert B. Jacquard  
Representative Scott J. Guthrie  
Representative Spencer E. Dickinson

Representative Deborah A. Fellela  
Representative Rene R. Menard  
Representative William San Bento, Jr.  
Representative Raymond H. Johnston Jr.  
Representative Mary Duffy Messier  
Representative Roberto DaSilva  
Senator Frank A. Ciccone, III  
Senator John J. Tassoni, Jr.

## Follow Us

RIFTHP lobbyist James Parisi will post legislative information from time to time. Follow him on twitter at @JamesAParisi.

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