2019 Legislative Wrap Up

Final count of Bills: 2300
House: 1258
Senate 1042
Bills tracked: 161
Tracked Bills Enacted: 25

WHAT WAS TRACKED TOPICS WITH UNSUCCESSFUL BILLS:

- Planning – micro economic zones, municipal board education, distributed generation,, Subdivisions, pl bd quorums, municipal infrastructure grant program, historic tax credits
- Energy – EFSB revisions, residential homeowners solar bill of rights
- Housing – multiple -low/moderate income items, accessibility, Landlords & tenants, fair housing
- State Government – Biennial Budget, open meetings,
- Zoning – medical marijuana, renewable energy & solar siting, neighborhoods character, smart growth
- Environment – climate change& resiliency, coastal adaptation, plastic waste, global warming solutions, geoengineering
- Transportation – RIPTA board expansion, RIAC board expansion, renaming Green Airport, commuter transportation benefits act,
- Water Supply – regionalization, water sales
Selected Bills of Interest Enacted:

PLANNING

House Bill No. 5151_SUB A as amended Chapter 088 (Governor)
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MAKING APPROPRIATIONS IN SUPPORT OF FY 2020
Article 4 Reorganization of the SPC membership
CHAPTER 24.6 12 SPECIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

House Bill No. 5693 Chapter 191 (Dept. of Administration) / Senate Bill No. 586 Chapter 244
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS (Eliminates division of planning from
evaluation process of future state prop. leases. Eliminates requirement of notice to local planning
board's planning program of hearings and zoning changes.)

Senate Bill No. 150 as amended Chapter 157
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES - JOHNSTON PLANNING BOARD (Authorizes the
Johnston town council to add two (2) alternate members to its planning board.)

House Bill No. 6242 Chapter 216 / Senate Bill No. 994_SUB A Chapter 257
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION - RHODE ISLAND INFRASTRUCTURE BANK
(Expands the definition of “approved project” to include resiliency related infrastructure projects, and
further prohibits the award of financial assistance for a water pollution abatement project.)

STATE GOVERNMENT

Senate Bill No. 109_SUB A Chapter 037
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS - MINORITY BUSINESS
ENTERPRISE (Provides that any minority business enterprise that is certified under the Federal
Small Business Act shall be deemed certified by the department of administration as a minority
business enterprise.)
TRANSPORTATION

Senate Bill No. 782 Chapter 261 (Dept. of Transportation)
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES
(Codifies the lawful procedure for a bicyclist to follow when complying with traffic control signals.)

Senate Bill No. 785 Chapter 034 (Dept. of Transportation)
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MISCELLANEOUS (Provides no
person may use wireless handset/personal wireless device for texting while driving.)

Senate Bill No. 1025 Chapter 253
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HIGHWAYS - CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF STATE
ROADS (Requires DOT to establish rules, regulations, and minimum requirements for the use of
steel plates on roadway surfaces, and for towns and cities to adopt the same for use on municipal
highways.)

House Bill No. 5028_SUB A as amended Chapter 170
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - THE RHODE ISLAND UTILITY FAIR
SHARE ROADWAY REPAIR ACT (Requires public utilities or utility facilities to repave and repair
roadways altered or excavated by them to the satisfaction of state or municipalities providing
financial recovery for defective incomplete repairs.)

House Bill No. 5672_SUB A Chapter 187 / Senate Bill No. 906 Chapter 249
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO AERONAUTICS -- THE PERMANENT AIR QUALITY MONITORING ACT
(Extends the required air quality monitoring program at T.F. Green International Airport for two years
to July 31, 2021.)
ZONING
House Bill No. 5484  SUB A Chapter 104 / Senate Bill No. 689  SUB A Chapter 144
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES (Revises the definition of building height by including in special flood hazard zones those areas identified by the CRMC.)

House Bill No. 6153  SUB A as amended Chapter 118 / Senate Bill No. 673  as amended Chapter 143
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- REDEVELOPMENT AGENCIES AND PROJECTS (Authorizes state and local incremental tax revenues generated in the arts district, the growth center district and the ballpark district in the city of Pawtucket to be allocated to finance improvements in the districts.)

House Bill No. 6219 Chapter 214 / Senate Bill No. 691  SUB A Chapter 267
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES - ZONING ORDINANCES (Expands the definition of "family member" for purposes of zoning ordinances.)

SOLID WASTE
Senate Bill No. 1015 Chapter 295 / House Bill No. 5639 Chapter 298
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- RHODE ISLAND RESOURCE RECOVERY CORPORATION (Provides that any solid waste collected and disposed of by, or on behalf of the district, shall be charged the same tipping fee per ton as the municipal rate and require the waste hauler to certify the tonnage at the time of disposal.)

RESOLUTIONS
Senate Resolution No. 1005 Resolution 400 BY Lombardo
ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON HOUSING, TASKED WITH CONDUCTING A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF RHODE ISLAND'S HOUSING SYSTEM (Creates a 15-member commission to review and provide initial recommendations and potential legislative proposals on Rhode Island's housing system by January 31, 2020, and final recommendation by October 16, 2020, and would expire on December 31, 2020.)
Senate Resolution No. 1006 Resolution 401 BY Sosnowski  
ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE EFFECT AND PROCEDURES FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF THE RHODE ISLAND COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CRMC) (Creates a fifteen-member special legislative commission whose purpose it would be to make a comprehensive study of, and provide recommendations for, the reorganization CRMC.

House Resolution No. 5932 Resolution 274 BY Marszalkowski  
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITHIN BLACKSTONE VALLEY (Extends the reporting and expiration dates of the commission to study and make recommendations to encourage economic development within Blackstone Valley from February 5, 2019, to June 27, 2019, and would expire on July 9, 2019.)