

Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council

Policy Advisory Committee

RI 2025 Legislative Session Glossary of Bills of Interest

(updated February 19, 2025)

**Prepared by
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| Bill Number | Description |
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| HB 5017 | <p>This bill, introduced in the House by Representatives Diaz, Kislak, Bennett, Edwards, Giraldo, Shallcross Smith, Ajello, and Fogarty, would require that manufacturers of assistive technology devices consisting of wheelchairs and scooters and mobility positioning aids to make available to independent repair providers or the owner of the devices, any documentation and or parts, software or other items intended for use with the equipment or parts, including updates to software. Manufacturers would be prohibited from using parts that would prevent installation of any non-manufacturer approved replacement part or component. Violators could be subject to penalties for unfair or deceptive trade practices.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: HB 5017: 1/10/2025 Introduced and referred to House Committee on Corporations 2/07/2025 Scheduled for hearing and consideration by House Committee on Corporations on 2/11/2025. 2/10/2025 House Committee on Corporations postponed the hearing at the request of the sponsor (Representative Diaz).</p> <p>Related Bill(s): HB 5246, HB 5159, SB 60</p> <p>Links: HB5017: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5017.pdf</p> |
| HB 5044 | <p>This bill, introduced in the House by Representatives Azzinaro, would make explicit that parents and guardians of children with disabilities in private schools have the same rights and remedies as parents/guardians of children in public schools. This bill would also provide a procedure in superior court to enforce these rights and remedies.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: HB 5044: 1/15/2025 Introduced and referred to House Committee on Education. 2/07/2025 Scheduled for hearing and consideration by House Committee on Education on 2/12/2025. 2/12/2025 Heard by House Committee on Education and held for further study.</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: HB 5044: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5044.pdf</p> |
| HB 5077 | <p>This bill, introduced in the House by Representatives Casimiro, Noret, Chippendale, Roberts, Serpa, Tanzi, Cruz, Morales, Place, and Read, would require the department of children, youth and families (DCYF) establish segregated savings accounts for a foster care child receiving social security benefits, supplemental security income, veterans benefits or railroad retirement benefits, which payments would be exempt from the asset limits in order to manage the accounts and keep the child eligible for future benefits.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: HB 5077: 1/16/2025 Introduced and referred to House Committee on Finance</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: HB5077: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5077.pdf</p> |

| Bill Number | Description |
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| <p>HB 5079</p> | <p>This bill, introduced in the House by Representatives Spears, Cotter, Donovan, Corvese, McGaw, Speakman, Carson, Ajello, Hull, and Azzinaro, would add to those persons exempt from payment of parking fees at any recreational facility owned and operated by the state, those individuals determined by the executive office of health and human services, or its designee, to be disabled for purposes of Medicaid eligibility.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: HB 5079: 1/16/2025 Introduced and referred to House Committee on Finance.</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: HB5079: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5079.pdf</p> |
| <p>HB 5118</p> | <p>This bill, introduced in the House by Representatives Lombardi, Hull, Ajello, Potter, Stewart, and Felix, would require mandatory training standards for police officers and trainees, in identifying, responding, and handling all incidents involving any person with a developmental disability. This act would also amend the definition of development disability to include a mental or physical impairment manifested at any age.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: HB 5118: 1/22/2025 Introduced and referred to House Committee on Health and Human Services. 1/31/2025 Scheduled for hearing and consideration by House Committee on Health and Human Services on 2/6/2025. 2/03/2025 The bill was withdrawn at the request of the sponsor.</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: HB5118: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5118.pdf</p> |
| <p>HB 5194</p> | <p>See SB 27.</p> |
| <p>HB 5164 SB 231</p> | <p>This bill, introduced in the House by Representatives Carson, Shallcross Smith, McNamara, Cotter, Donovan, Caldwell, Noret, Diaz, and Casimiro, as well as in the Senate by Senators Valverde, DiPalma, Acosta, Patalano, Zurier, DiMario, Lauria, Thompson, Murray, and Quezada, would establish a public-private task force managed by the children's cabinet to develop recommendations with cost estimates that, when implemented, would improve access to high-quality early intervention and early childhood special education services for children with developmental delays and disabilities from birth up to kindergarten entry. This act would further direct the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to seek \$250,000 in federal funding to support the work of the task force over an eighteen (18) month period.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: HB 5164: 1/24/2025 Introduced and referred to House Committee on Education 1/31/2025 Scheduled for hearing and consideration by House Committee on Education on 2/6/2025. 2/06/2025 Heard by House Committee on Education and held for further study SB 231: 2/13/2025 Introduced and referred to Senate Committee on Education</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: HB5164: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5164.pdf SB231: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/SenateText25/S0231.pdf</p> |

| Bill Number | Description |
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| <p>HB 5218 SB 120</p> | <p>This bill, introduced in the House by Representatives McEntee, Donovan, Cortvriend, Azzinaro, Bennett, Edwards, Shallcross Smith, Serpa, Handy, and Noret, as well as in the Senate by Senators Raptakis, Patalano, DiMario, Ciccone, Appollonio, Burke, Urso, Rogers, Paolino, and Sosnowski, would increase insurance coverage for hearing aids from one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) to one thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$1,750), per ear, for all people regardless of age effective January 1, 2026.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: HB 5218: 1/29/2025 Introduced and referred to House Committee on Health and Human Services. SB 120: 1/31/2025 Introduced and referred to Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: HB5218: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5218.pdf SB120: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/SenateText25/S0120.pdf</p> |
| <p>HB 5228</p> | <p>This bill, introduced in the House by Representatives Shanley, Edwards, Craven, McNamara, Solomon, Kazarian, Slater, Diaz, Potter, and Casey, would ensure that more developmentally disabled adults can self-direct the care they need and want, by incorporating collective bargaining rights into the self-directed supports program to enhance service access, increase the availability of education and training options and improve the recruitment and retention of the individuals selected by participants as direct support professionals. This act does not alter or limit the authority of the director of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals to administrator the self-directed supports program, enforce existing rules, regulations and procedures, or adopt amended rules, regulations and procedures for operating the program. This act further does not alter or limit the rights of participants and their representatives to select, direct and terminate the services of self-directed direct support professionals or to determine the wages of self-directed direct support professionals within the range set by the director.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: HB 5228: 1/29/2025 Introduced and referred to House Committee on Labor.</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: HB5228: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5228.pdf</p> |
| <p>HB 5233 SB 110</p> | <p>These bills, introduced in the House by Representatives Donovan, Speakman, Cotter, Cortvriend, Spears, Furtado, Edwards, Morales, Ajello, and Shallcross Smith, as well as in the Senate by Senators Ujifusa, Euer, Pearson, Valverde, Lawson, Tikoian, Ciccone, Felag, Murray, and DiMario, would establish a tax credit against income tax based upon eligible expenditures incurred by a family caregiver for the care and support of an eligible family member. The maximum amount of the credit would be one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and would apply to all tax years beginning after December 31, 2025.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: HB 5233: 1/29/2025 Introduced and referred to House Committee on Finance. SB 110: 1/31/2025 Introduced and referred to Senate Committee on Finance.</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: HB5233: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5233.pdf SB110: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/SenateText25/S0110.pdf</p> |

| Bill Number | Description |
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| <p>HB 5253</p> | <p>This bill, introduced in the House by Representatives Spears, McGaw, Cotter, Noret, Fogarty, Boylan, Speakman, Tanzi, Kislak, and Casey, would remove the age restriction for benefits coverage and require, for health insurance policies issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2026, that coverage must include reimbursement for applied behavior analysis provider services. This act would also set a minimum reimbursement rate for applied behavior analysis services.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: HB 5253: 1/31/2025 Introduced and referred to House Committee on Health and Human Services.</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: HB5253: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5253.pdf</p> |
| <p>HB 5268</p> | <p>This bill, introduced in the House by Representatives Spears, Cotter, Noret, Fogarty, Stewart, Boylan, Speakman, McNamara, Tanzi, and Kislak, would create the home-fit dwelling units act to apply to all new construction of covered dwelling units to incorporate design features that provide safe and convenient use of to greatest extent feasible, regardless of age or physical ability.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: HB 5268: 1/31/2025 Introduced and referred to House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing.</p> <p>Related Bill(s): HB 5374, SB 275</p> <p>Links: HB5268: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5268.pdf</p> |
| <p>HB 5280 SB 176</p> | <p>These bills, introduced in the House by Representatives Cortvriend, Dawson, Spears, Knight, Speakman, Bennett, Caldwell, McNamara, Donovan, and Noret, as well as in the Senate by Senators DiMario, DiPalma, Mack, Gallo, Lawson, Murray, Acosta, Valverde, McKenney, and Zurier, would establish the Higher Education Opportunities for Students with Disabilities Act. This act would enable students with disabilities who are ages eighteen (18) through twenty-one (21) years, and in some cases to age twenty-two (22) years, to audit and otherwise attend state colleges and universities using the student's foundation education aid.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: HB 5280: 1/31/2025 Introduced and referred to House Committee on Finance. SB 176 2/07/2025 Introduced and referred to Senate Committee on Education.</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: HB5280: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5280.pdf SB176: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/SenateText25/S0176.pdf</p> |
| <p>HB 5282</p> | <p>This bill, introduced in the House by Representatives Donovan, Speakman, Cotter, Carson, Cortvriend, Messier, Edwards, and Morales, would amend the calculation of state funding provided to local education agencies for special education services. The act would revise the calculation of extraordinary special education costs in fiscal years 2027 and 2028, and would also provide additional funds for excess costs for special education students who move into a district after a district has approved its fiscal year budget.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: HB 5280: 1/31/2025 Introduced and referred to House Committee on Finance.</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: HB5280: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5280.pdf</p> |

| Bill Number | Description |
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| <p>HB 5320</p> | <p>This bill, introduced in the House by Representatives Casey, Potter, Donovan, Speakman, McGaw, Kazarian, Dawson, Chippendale, Serpa, and Cortvriend, would define step therapy protocol and prohibit the Rhode Island medical assistance program, and any contract between the Rhode Island medical assistance program and a managed care organization from requiring prior authorization or a step therapy protocol for the prescription of a nonpreferred medication classified as an anticonvulsant or antipsychotic.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: HB 5320: 2/05/2025 Introduced and referred to House Committee on Finance.</p> <p>Related Bill(s): HB 5119</p> <p>Links: HB5320: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5320.pdf</p> |
| <p>HR 5367</p> | <p>This resolution, introduced in the House by Representatives Place, Fascia, Paplauskas, and Roberts, would create a five (5) member special legislative study commission whose purpose would be to study the manner in which health insurance, disability insurance, unemployment insurance, retirement plans and other traditional employer provided benefits are accorded to Uber and LYFT drivers, self-employed individuals, and other individuals engaged in providing services to the public, and who would report back to the House no later than January 5, 2026, and whose life would expire on March 5, 2026.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: HR 5367: 2/07/2025 Introduced and referred to House Committee on Labor. 2/07/2025 Scheduled for hearing and consideration by House Committee on Labor on 2/12/2025. 2/12/2025 Heard by House Committee on Labor and held for further study.</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: HR5367: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5367.pdf</p> |
| <p>HB 5374 SB 275</p> | <p>This bill, introduced in the House by Representatives Stewart, Speakman, Morales, Spears, Potter, Cruz, Felix, J. Lombardi, and Tanzi, as well as in the Senate by Senators Bell, Murray, Valverde, Ujjifusa, Bissaillon, DiMario, Mack, Euer, Quezada, and Kallman, would establish a new article in the state building code that would provide that certain new housing construction contain at least one floor that meets the requirements for a Type C (Visitable) Unit of the American National Standards Institute (commonly known as "ANSI") Standards for Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities (section 1105 of ICC ANSI A117.1-2017).</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: HR 5374: 2/07/2025 Introduced and referred to House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing. SB 275: 2/13/2025 Introduced and referred to Senate Committee on Housing and Municipal Government.</p> <p>Related Bill(s): HB 5268</p> <p>Links: HB5374: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5374.pdf SB275: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/SenateText25/S0275.pdf</p> |

| Bill Number | Description |
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| <p>HB 5462 SB 247</p> | <p>This bill, introduced in the House by Representatives Tanzi, Casimiro, Donovan, McGaw, Ajello, Knight, Giraldo, Felix, Batista, and Cruz, as well as in the Senate by Senators Valverde, DiPalma, Lawson, Acosta, Appollonio, Pearson, Lauria, Gallo, DiMario, and Zurier, would provide that the early intervention program for developmentally disabled infants be under the jurisdiction of the executive office of health and human services (EOHHS). The act would also extend eligibility for early intervention services.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: HB 6462: 2/12/2025 Introduced and referred to House Committee on Finance. SB 247: 2/13/2024 Introduced and referred to Senate 0Committee on Education.</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: HB5462: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5462.pdf SB247: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/SenateText25/S0247.pdf</p> |
| <p>HB 5491</p> | <p>This bill, introduced in the House by Representatives Fogarty, Carson, Shallcross Smith, Tanzi, Bennett, Dawson, Cortvriend, Noret, Kazarian, and Donovan, would require the department of elementary and secondary education and the department of health to adopt policies, rules and regulations for the administration of seizure rescue medications administered via nasal route for students who have been medically identified as having epilepsy/seizure disorder.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: HB 5491: 2/13/2025 Introduced and referred to House Committee on Education</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: HB5491: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5491.pdf</p> |
| <p>HB 5504</p> | <p>This bill, introduced in the House by Representatives Serpa, Corvese, Caldwell, Ackerman, Potter, Azzinaro, and Read, would allow a tenant with a disability that needs a support animal to request and be approved by a landlord to keep that support animal as a reasonable accommodation in housing. The landlord would have the option to request supportive information to support the tenant's need for the support animal.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: HB 5504: 2/13/2025 Introduced and referred to House Committee on Judiciary.</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: HB5504: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5504.pdf</p> |
| <p>HB 5523</p> | <p>This bill, introduced in the House by Representatives Felix, J. Lombardi, Batista, Hull, Tanzi, Giraldo, Stewart, Potter, Cruz, and Morales, would require public bodies to offer translation services for all open meetings of said bodies.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: HB 5523: 2/13/2025 Introduced and referred to House Committee on State Government and Elections.</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: HB5523: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5523.pdf</p> |
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| Bill Number | Description |
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| <p>SB 27 HB 5194</p> | <p>This bill, introduced in the Senate by Senators Ujifusa, DiPalma, Pearson, Euer, Valverde, Lawson, Tikoian, Ciccone, Felag, and Acosta, as well as in the House by Representatives Cotter, Spears, Donovan, Speakman, Fogarty, Bennett, Dawson, Casimiro, Morales, and Potter, would increase the income range up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) and tax credit up to eight hundred fifty dollars (\$850), for elderly and disabled persons who own or rent their homes.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: SB 27: 1/23/2025 Introduced and referred to Senate Committee on Finance. HB 5194: 1/23/2025 Introduced and referred to Senate Committee on Finance.</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: SB27: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/SenateText25/S0027.pdf HB5194: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5194.pdf</p> |
| <p>SB 109</p> | <p>This bill, introduced in the Senate by Senators Ujifusa, Euer, Pearson, Valverde, Ciccone, Britto, Acosta, Zurier, Felag, and Kallman, would amend the calculation of state funding provided to local education agencies for special education services. The act would revise the calculation of extraordinary special education costs in fiscal years 2027 and 2028, and would also provide additional funds for excess costs for special education students who move into a district after a district has approved its fiscal year budget.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: SB 109: 1/31/2025 Introduced and referred to Senate Committee on Finance.</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: SB 109: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/SenateText25/S0109.pdf</p> |
| <p>SB 110</p> | <p>See HB 5233.</p> |
| <p>SB 116</p> | <p>This bill, introduced in the Senate by Senators Ujifusa, Lawson, Murray, Valverde, Mack, Acosta, Euer, Zurier, and Dimitri, would limit the use by insurers of step therapy utilization management, a protocol or program that establishes a specific sequence in which prescription drugs for a specified medical condition are covered by an insurer by allowing medical providers to request step therapy exceptions.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: SB 116: 1/31/2025 Introduced and referred to Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: SB116: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/SenateText25/S0116.pdf</p> |
| <p>SB 120</p> | <p>See HB 5218.</p> |
| <p>SB 147</p> | <p>This bill, introduced in the Senate by Senators Raptakis, Thompson, Valverde, Murray, Sosnowski, and Gu, would expand the deinstitutionalization subsidy aid program in the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals to include adoptive parents(s) or sibling(s), and would allow such adoptive parent(s) or sibling(s) to care for a child or adult if the parent was unable to do so. This act would also allow such adoptive parent(s) or sibling(s) who are providing care to receive a subsidy through the aid program.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: SB 147: 1/31/2025 Introduced and referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary.</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: SB147: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/SenateText25/S0147.pdf</p> |
| <p>SB 176</p> | <p>See HB 5280.</p> |

| Bill Number | Description |
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| SB 231 | See HB 5164. |
| SB 234 | <p>This bill, introduced in the Senate by Senators Quezada, Appollonio, Bell, and Bissaillon, would require transition planning for high school students with disabilities, who have a “504” plan, like the transition planning required for high school students with disabilities, who have an individualized education program (IEP).</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: SB 234: 2/13/2025 Introduced and referred to Senate Committee on Education.</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: SB234: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/SenateText25/S0234.pdf</p> |
| SB 247 | See HB 5462. |
| SB 253 | <p>This bill, introduced in the Senate by Senator Morgan, would establish a new program where the per pupil funding, calculated annually by the department of education (RIDE), may be transferred into a newly created educational funding account (EFA) administered by the children's scholarship fund if a student qualifies, to pay for certain educational expenses such as, tuition and fees at a private school, tutoring, textbooks, computers, among other items.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: SB 253: 2/13/2025 Introduced and referred to Senate Committee on Finance.</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: SB0253: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/SenateText25/S0253.pdf</p> |
| SB 275 | See HB 5374. |
| SB 283 | <p>This bill, introduced in the Senate by Senator Morgan, would require that only the mail ballot voter, their spouse, court appointed guardian, cohabitant, or any adult person related to the voter by blood or marriage, be allowed to physically mail the voted mail ballot. A violation would be a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment not to exceed one year or a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or both.</p> <p>Action(s) Taken: SB 283: 2/13/2025 Introduced and referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary.</p> <p>Related Bill(s):</p> <p>Links: SB283: http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/SenateText25/S0283.pdf</p> |