
The SMITH HILL REPORT



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House Committee Assignments

On Thursday, January 30, the House of Representatives announced committee assignments for the 2025-2026 session of the Rhode Island General Assembly. Members of key committees are listed below. To view a list of all House Committee Assignments, [click here](#).

House Education Committee	House Labor Committee	House Finance Committee
Joseph McNamara, Chair	Arthur Corvese, Chair	Marvin Abney, Chair
Thomas Noret, 1st Vice Chair	Mary Messier, 1st Vice Chair	Scott Slater, 1st Vice Chair
Rebecca Kislak, 2nd Vice Chair	Karen Alzate, 2nd Vice Chair	Alex Marszalkowski, 2nd V. Chair
Nathan Biah	Jon Brien	Karen Alzate
Julie Casimiro	Stephen Casey	Jacquelyn Baginski
Megan Cotter	John Edwards	Nathan Biah
Susan Donovan	Deborah Fellela	Terri Cortvriend
Richard Fascia	Richard Fascia	Grace Diaz
Joshua Giraldo	Jenni Furtado	John Edwards
Ramon Perez	Marie Hopkins	Alex Finkelman
Robert Phillips	Carol McEntee	Raymond Hull
Earl Read	Joseph McNamara	George Nardone
Mary Ann Shallcross Smith	David Morales	William O'Brien
Sherry Roberts	Ramon Perez	Sherry Roberts
Brandon Voas	Brandon Potter	Teresa Tanzi

This Week

- The House Finance Committee and the Senate Finance Committee will begin hearings on the FY 2026 budget.
- On Tuesday, the House Judiciary Committee will consider a bill making threats against Superintendents and other school employees a felony.
- On Thursday, the House Education Committee will hear legislation creating a Warwick Schools' Budget Commission.

Bill Introductions

Innovation Schools

([S 0019](#), de la Cruz, Senate Education)

This bill allows for the establishment of innovation schools for the purpose of improving school performance and student achievement through increased autonomy and flexibility.

Strategic Plan -- Council on Postsecondary Education

([S 0020](#), Acosta, Senate Education)

This bill directs the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education to prepare a strategic plan for public higher education which is aligned with the goals of the Board of Education's strategic plan.

Teacher Certification Fee Waiver

([S 0021](#), Acosta, Senate Education)

This bill extends teacher certifications without fee or penalty for three (3) or five (5) years for teachers who hold certifications as of July 1, 2025.

In-State Tuition - Immigration Status - HS Eligibility

([S 0022](#), Ciccone, Senate Education)

This bill reduces the time, from three (3) years to six (6) months, required for a nonimmigrant foreign national student, who has resided in Rhode Island, to be eligible to pay the same in-state tuition as any other Rhode Island student.

Tuition Assistance for Shortage Teaching Fields

([S 0030](#), Acosta, Senate Finance)

This bill creates a postsecondary tuition assistance for shortage teaching fields.

Income Tax Social Security Deduction - \$20,000

([S 0033](#), Felag, Senate Finance)

This bill allows a modification to federal adjusted gross income of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) of social security income for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

Energy Efficient School Regulations

([S 0035](#) / [H 5203](#), Pearson, Senate Finance and Cortvriend, House Finance)

These bills direct the Department of Education to develop and adopt regulations for energy-capable school buildings.

Office of Inspector General

([S 0038](#), de la Cruz, Senate Finance)

This bill establishes the Office of Inspector General as an independent administrative agency charged with the responsibility to investigate, detect, and prevent fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement in the expenditure of public funds.

Municipal Post Retirement Employment - 90 Days

([S 0043](#), Rogers, Senate Finance)

This bill increases the number of days a retired municipal employee could work in a calendar year without interruption of pension benefits to ninety (90) days.

School Education Aid - 1% Maximum Reduction

([S 0102](#), Rogers, Senate Finance)

This bill prohibits total education aid paid to any local education agency from being reduced by more than one percent (1%) of the municipal education appropriation in the previous fiscal year.

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