

An Update from the State House

House and Senate Name Committee Assignments

There are some new faces on the House Committees as released this week. Rep. Robert Jacquard (D-Cranston) was named Chairman of the House Corporations Committee, replacing long time Chairman Brian Patrick Kennedy. Rep. Kennedy was named Speaker Pro Tempore and will now be on the rostrum when Speaker Nicholas Mattiello is not able to lead the floor. Rep. Jacquard was elected to the House in 1992, making him one of the most senior members of the House. He is a retired police sergeant and a self-employed attorney.

Leading the House Labor Committee will be Rep. Robert Craven Sr. (D-North Kingstown). Rep. Craven was first elected to the House in 2012 and is currently an attorney at Robert E. Craven & Associates in North Kingstown. He is an assistant solicitor and probate judge in Charlestown and an assistant solicitor in East Providence.

Below is a list of committees that hear business issues periodically. Please note the committee membership for your Senator and Representative.

House Finance

Chairman Marvin Abney
Vice Chair Kenneth Marshall
Vice Chair Teresa Tanzi
Rep. Gregg Amore
Rep. Jean-Philippe Barros
Rep. Grace Diaz
Rep. Antonio Giarrusso
Rep. Joy Hearn
Rep. Alex Marszalkowski
Rep. James McLaughlin
Rep. Kenneth Mendonca
Rep. Michael Morin
Rep. William O'Brien
Rep. Robert Quattrocchi
Rep. Scott Slater
Rep. Carlos Tobon

House Labor

Chairman Robert Craven
Vice Chair Mary Messier
Vice Chair Stephen Casey
Rep. Christopher Blazejewski
Rep. Helder Cunha
Rep. John Edwards
Rep. Kathleen Fogarty
Rep. Deborah Fellela
Rep. Kenneth Marshall
Rep. Carol Hagan McEntee
Rep. Daniel McKiernan
Rep. Robert Nardolillo
Rep. Brian Newberry
Rep. Jared Nunes
Rep. Aaron Regunberg
Rep. Stephen Ucci

House Corporations

Chairman Robert Jacquard
Vice Chair Mary Messier
Vice Chair Raymond Johnston Jr
Rep. Stephen Casey
Rep. Michael Chippendale
Rep. Antonio Giarrusso

House Health, Education & Welfare

Chairman Joseph McNamara
Vice Chair Dennis Canario
Vice Chair Mia Ackerman
Rep. Samuel Azzinaro
Rep. David Bennett
Rep. Julie Casimiro

Rep. Raymond Hull
Rep. Katherine Kazarian
Rep. Brian Patrick Kennedy
Rep. Charlene Lima
Rep. Michael Morin
Rep. Jeremiah O'Grady
Rep. Joseph Solomon, Jr.
Rep. Anastasia Williams

Rep. Susan Donovan
Rep. Arthur Handy
Rep. Robert Lancia
Rep. Shelby Maldonado
Rep. Ramon Perez
Rep. Robert Phillips
Rep. Marcia Ranglin-Vassell
Rep. Sherry Roberts
Rep. Moira Walsh

House Judiciary Committee

Chairman Cale Keable
Vice Chair Edith Ajello
Vice Chair Carol Hagan McEntee
Rep. Joseph Almeida
Rep. Dennis Canario
Rep. Arthur Corvese
Rep. David Coughlin
Rep. Robert Craven
Rep. John Edwards
Rep. Blake Filippi
Rep. Jason Knight
Rep. Jeremiah O'Grady
Rep. Justin Price
Rep. Sherry Roberts
Rep. Evan Shanley
Rep. Camille Vella-Wilkinson

House Environment & Natural Resources

Chairman Arthur Handy
Vice Chair David Bennett
Vice Chair Jeremiah O'Grady
Rep. Susan Donovan
Rep. Raymond Hull
Rep. Katherine Kazarian
Rep. Robert Lancia
Rep. John Lombardi
Rep. Alex Marszalkowski
Rep. Carol Hagan McEntee
Rep. Robert Nardolillo
Rep. William O'Brien
Rep. Marcia Ranglin-Vassell
Rep. Aaron Regunberg
Rep. Carlos Tobon

House Small Business

Chairwoman Deborah Ruggiero
Vice Chair Daniel McKiernan
Vice Chair Michael Morin
Rep. Lauren Carson
Rep. Gregory Costantino
Rep. Helder Cunha
Rep. Deborah Fellela
Rep. Arthur Handy
Rep. John Lombardi
Rep. Jared Nunes
Rep. Robert Phillips

Rep. Justin Price
Rep. Robert Quattrocchi
Rep. Evan Shanley
Rep. Teresa Tanzi
Rep. Thomas Winfield

Senate Finance

Chairman Daniel DaPonte
Vice Chair Louis P. DiPalma
Vice Chair Walter S. Felag
Sen. Ryan Pearson
Sen. James Doyle
Sen. Maryellen Goodwin
Sen. Nicholas Kettle
Sen. James Seveney
Sen. Susan Sosnowski

Senate Health and Human Services

Chairman Joshua Miller
Vice Chair Gayle Goldin
Sen. James Sheehan
Sen. Jeanine Calkin
Sen. Elizabeth Crowley
Sen. Thomas Paolino
Sen. Adam Satchell
Sen. Susan Sosnowski

Senate Environment

Chairwoman Hanna M. Gallo
Vice Chair Harold M. Metts
Sen. Adam Satchell
Sen. Louis DiPalma
Sen. Thomas Paolino
Sen. Ryan Pearson
Sen. Ana Quezada
Sen. James Seveney
Sen. James Sheehan

Senate Commerce

Chairman Roger Picard
Vice Chair Marc Cote
Sen. Hanna Gallo
Sen. Frank Ciccone III
Sen. Paul Fogarty
Sen. Frank Lombardo III
Sen. Elaine Morgan
Sen. Ana Quezada

Senate Labor

Chairman Paul Fogarty
Vice Chair Frank Lombardo III
Sen. Frank Lombardi
Sen. Frank Ciccone III
Sen. James Doyle
Sen. Mark Gee
Sen. Gayle Goldin
Sen. Maryellen Goodwin
Sen. Michael McCaffrey

Senate Judiciary

Chairman Michael McCaffrey
Vice Chair Paul Jabour
Sen. Erin Lynch Prata
Sen. Stephen Archambault
Sen. William Conley Jr.
Sen. Cynthia Coyne
Sen. Mark Gee
Sen. Frank Lombardi
Sen. Harold Metts
Sen. Donna Nesselbush
Sen. Leonidas Raptakis

House Oversight Committee To Discuss Retail Renewal Permit Process

On Thursday, January 19th, At the Rise (around 4:20 p.m.), the House Oversight Committee will be hearing testimony from Director Robert Hull of the Department of Revenue and the Tax

Administrator, Neena Savage about the current process for the application or renewal of Retail Sales Permits. The hearing will be held at the State House in Room 101.

The following bills were filed last week:

House Bill No. [5056](#), AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- DRIVE-THROUGH WINDOWS -- ASSISTANCE TO DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING (Requires businesses with drive-through windows to install hard-of-hearing equipment at the ordering station.)

House Bill No. [5057](#), AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MINIMUM WAGE (Increases the minimum wage to ten dollars and fifty cents (\$10.50) commencing July 1, 2017.)

House Bill No. [5058](#), AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN (Requires children who seek a special limited work permit to successfully complete a worker rights' training program established and funded by the department of labor and training.)

House Bill No. [5069](#), AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (Repeals the "Rhode Island Health Care Reform Act of 2004 – Health Insurance Oversight" as well as the "Rhode Island Health Benefit Exchange, and establishes the Rhode Island comprehensive health insurance program.)

House Bill No. [5078](#), AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT (Changes the period of time required for occupancy for transient lodging accommodations from 30 days to 6 days.)

House Bill No. [5107](#), AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - MINIMUM WAGES (Commencing on January 1, 2018, require that all developmental disabilities organizations that employ five (5) employees or more and who are reimbursed for such services by the state, to pay their employees at least fifteen (\$15.00) dollars per hour.)

House Bill No. [5108](#), AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY (Encourages commercial property owners to install vehicle barriers at their retail establishment locations, and also permit insurers to consider the installation of such barriers to provide a discount on the owner's insurance policy.)

House Bill No. [5113](#), AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE (Permits the use of fax or email transmission of the medical certificate required for issuance of a CDL by the division of motor vehicles.)