

2007 Legislative Session
Enacted Environmental Laws & Resolutions

Number & Sponsor	Topic	Description
Budget Art. 30 Sub A H-5300 (Watson)	Bays, Rivers & Watersheds Fund	Establishes a Bays, Rivers & Watersheds Fund, projected to approach \$1 million annually, to support Bay monitoring and other priorities set by the Bays, Rivers & Watersheds Coordination Team.
H-5037Baa (Walsh) S-1144 (Sosnowski & Gibbs)	Cesspool Phase Out	Phases-out all cesspools by 2013 that present the highest risks to public health and/or the environment – namely, cesspools located in close proximity to tidal water areas and public drinking waters.
H-5745 (Watson) S-332 (Blais)	Penalties for Hazardous Waste Violations	Increases the maximum penalties for civil and criminal violations of the RI Hazardous Waste Management Act from \$10,000 to \$25,000 per violation, per day.
H-5782Aaa (Ehrhardt) S-492Aaa (Blais)	Mail-in Fines	Shifts several of DEM's most frequently encountered natural resource violations – i.e., those pertaining to certain boating, hunting, freshwater fishing, and management area violations – from the jurisdiction of the District Court to the Traffic Tribunal, allowing violators the option of mailing in payments for fines rather than having to appear personally in court.
H-5731Aaa (Ehrhardt) S-241Aaa (Blais)	Boating Safety	Requires lifejackets to be worn by anyone who is being pulled or towed behind a boat, e.g., while on skis, a surfboard, or a tube.
H-5744 (Watson) S-242 (Blais)	Underground Storage Tanks	Aligns state and federal requirements governing UST inspections by changing the 2-year cycle under state law to a 3-year cycle, applicable to all federally regulated USTs.
H-5577A (Handy) S-943B (Algiere)	Greenhouse Gas Reduction	Sets forth the process for implementing the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.
H-5579A (Segal) S-231Aaa (Walaska)	Renewable Energy	Calls upon the commissioner of energy resources, by February 2008, to adopt goals and a plan, as well as standards and procedures, for renewable energy, facility investment and/or procurement.
H-5566B (Segal)	Distributed Generation from Renewable Energy Systems	Institutes several changes regarding the amounts of distributed generation from renewable energy systems.
H-5574A (Ginaitt) S-566A (Moura)	Diesel Emissions Reduction	Sets forth a program for achieving reductions in emissions from diesel-powered school buses, based on the securement of federal funds.

H-6208A (Naughton)	Air Quality Monitoring at T.F. Green Airport	Establishes a long-term air-quality monitoring program at the airport.
S-1074 (Walaska)		
H-6204A (Carter)	Roadside Emissions Inspections	Allows police officers designated by the State Police to perform roadside emissions inspections.
S-906A (Algiere)		
H-6143Baa (Sullivan)	Stormwater Control	Establishes a July 2008 deadline for amending the RI Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual, and specifies that the changes shall include the incorporation of recharge/infiltration and low-impact development standards.
S-808Aaa (Moura)		
H-5578A (Ginaitt)	Cross-Connection Control Devices	Authorizes the DOH Director to require all community and non-transient, non-community public water systems to prepare and implement cross-connection control plans.
S-376Aaa (Breene)		
H-5581 (Serpa)	All-Terrain Vehicles	Authorizes DEM to enforce laws pertaining to all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on a statewide basis.
S-894 (Sosnowski)		
S-560A (Perry)	Lawn Care Pesticides	Calls upon DEM to develop a report by November 2007 on the risks of lawn care pesticide use at schools and day care centers.
H-5716aa (Shanley)	Tax Relief for Farmers	Establishes a tax exemption for livestock used for food and fiber production.
S-411aa (Levesque)		
H-5437B (Shanley)	Notification to Municipalities Regarding Agricultural Operations	Requires DEM to update and distribute, biannually, a list of all agricultural operations with current level II certificates of exemption to each city and town where such operations are located.
S-399A (Sosnowski)		
H-6062A (Pacheco)	Historic Farms – Food Services	Defines “cultural heritage education facilities” and enables such facilities to operate as food businesses.
H-5483B (Ginaitt)	Land Development – Conservation Restrictions	Requires municipalities to notify the holders of recorded conservation restrictions if properties subject to such restrictions are proposed for development.
S-564A (Sosnowski)		
H-6396A (Ginaitt)	Mercury Reduction	Allows for the continued production and sale of mercury button-cell batteries until July 2011. Also, increases the maximum allowable mercury content in fluorescent bulbs from 10 mg to 100 mg per bulb.
H-5805B (Palumbo)	Plastic Bag Recycling	Requires all retail establishments that sell food or goods directly to consumers and have gross sales in excess of \$8 million annually to provide receptacles in which customers may place unused plastic bags for recycling.
S-244Aaa (Badeau)		
H-6327 (Shanley)	South Kingstown – Residential Solid Waste/Recycling	Authorizes South Kingstown to establish a solid waste management district and to award an exclusive services contract for residential solid waste/recycling collection and disposal services.
S-1002 (Sosnowski)		

H-5279 (Lewiss) S-82 (Algiere)	Biodiesel Fuel	Clarifies that all biodiesel fuels, not just “organically produced biodiesel fuels,” are exempt from the state fuel tax, if manufactured in RI.
S-134A (Cote)	Rules of the road for bikeways	Repeals the law that was slated to go into effect on July 1, 2008, which would have required all users of bikeways to stay to the right.
H-5305 (Ginaitt)	Beach Vehicle Registration Permits	Authorizes CRMC, and authorized agents serving on behalf of the agency, to issue beach vehicle registration permits.
H-5169 (Maik)	Injured-On-Duty Status	Renders Environmental Police Officers and Criminal Investigators from DEM eligible for coverage under the injured-on-duty statute.
H-5676aa (Winfield)	Joint Resolution Creating a Special Legislative Commission to Study Lyme Disease in RI	Creates an 11-member commission, which includes the DEM Director or a designee, to study all aspects of Lyme disease in RI and to report out its findings by February 7, 2008.
H-6174 (Shanley)	House Resolution Proclaiming the First Saturday in June to be Tick Control Awareness Day in RI	Establishes first Saturday in June as Tick Control Awareness Day, and calls upon URI’s Center for Vector-Borne Disease, along with DOH, to carry out public education programs and provide for the expansion of efforts concerning the prevention, education, treatment and research activities relative to Lyme Disease and other tick-borne illnesses.
H-5715 (Shanley) S-520 (Sosnowski)	Joint Resolution Creating a Special Legislative Commission to Study the Taxation of Farm, Forest, and Open Space Land	Creates a 19-member commission, which includes the chiefs of DEM’s divisions of agriculture and forestry or their designees, to study all matters relating to the effects of taxation on the preservation of farm, forest and open space land and to examine the consistency of the administration of laws pertaining to the valuation and taxation of farm, forest and open space land, and to report out its findings by April 1, 2008.
H-6308 (Palumbo)	House Resolution Creating a Special House Oversight Commission to Undertake a Comprehensive Study of the Enactment of Solid Waste Reuse Legislation in RI, and to Ensure Proper Supervision, Meaningful Disclosure, Full Understanding, Compliance, Environmental and Public Health Protection, Nuisance and Blight Abatement, and Public Awareness about Remedial Actions Soon to be Taken at the Cranston Sanitary Landfill Pursuant to Such Solid Waste Reuse Legislation	Creates a 5-member commission, comprised entirely of Representatives, to study all aspects of and implications relating to the enactment of Solid Waste Reuse Legislation, to make any necessary recommendations regarding new enactments or deletions to any previously enacted laws relating to solid waste reuse legislation, to determine and assess the liabilities and obligations of all parties involved, and to work with the PRPs to establish requirements and/or guidelines necessary to ensure proper supervision, meaningful disclosure, compliance with directives, environmental protection, health protection, nuisance and blight abatement, and public awareness with respect to the remedial and betterment actions proposed to be taken at the Cranston Sanitary Landfill Site, including but not limited to (a number of specific issues). The commission shall expire at the close of all remedial actions and improvement actions agreed to be performed at the site upon confirmation of satisfaction by DEM and the commission.
H-6151 (Fox)	House Resolution Creating a Special Legislative Commission to Study Water Use, Supply and Distribution in RI	Creates a 9-member commission, comprised entirely of Representatives, to make a comprehensive study of water use, supply, and distribution in RI, and to report its findings by February 5, 2008.

<p>H-6520 (Jackson)</p>	<p>House Resolution Extending the Reporting Date of the Special Legislative Commission to Study the Requirements for the Remediation of Naturally Occurring Arsenic in Soil</p>	<p>Extends the reporting deadline for the commission to May 29, 2008.</p>
<p>H-6546 (Walsh)</p> <p>S-1123 (Algiere)</p>	<p>Joint Resolution Requesting Governor Carcieri to Preserve Camp Pastore and Pursue the Sale of State Lands to the Dept. of Interior for the Purpose of Expanding the John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge</p>	<p>As stated.</p>
<p>S-1020 (Sosnowski)</p>	<p>Senate Resolution Designating May 27, 2007 to be “Rachel Carson Day” in RI</p>	<p>Establishes May 27, 2007 as Rachel Carson Day, and calls upon all citizens to refrain from use of chemical pesticides and to explore low-risk alternatives to pest management methods.</p>