

**2012 Legislative Session
Environmental Laws & Resolutions**

House of Representatives

Number	Topic	Sponsors	Description
H 7137 Comp. S 2031	Animal Welfare	Petrarca , Winfield	Permits birds exposed to psittacosis to be treated rather than destroyed. In addition, it permits microchip identification by the breeder by whom they were bred.
H 7139 Comp. S 2034	Animal Welfare	Petrarca , Winfield, Keable, Azzinaro	Allows the state DEM veterinarian and/or a general or special agent from the Rhode Island SPCA to act as advocates for animals which are the subject of court actions. This act would also exempt animal care facilities licensed by the United States department of agriculture or holding a public health service assurance of compliance from the provisions of this section.
H7180 Comp. S2191	Animal Welfare/Agriculture	Serpa , Silva, Fellela, Gallison, Coderre	Prohibits the unlawful confinement of any sow or calf in a manner that prevents such animal from turning around freely, lying down, standing up, or fully extending the animal's limbs. There are several exceptions, including during transportation, during the 14 day period prior to the sows expected date of giving birth and until the piglets are weaned, and for veterinary purposes.
H7233 Comp. S2083	Producer Responsibility/Solid Waste	Walsh , Ruggiero, Valencia, Tanzi, Ferri	Creates a comprehensive paint recycling program in Rhode Island. This recycling program, which will be managed by PaintCare, will be up and running by 2014 and will be financed by a small assessment at the time of purchase.
H7249 Comp. S2983	Hunting/Weapons	Chippendale , Tanzi, Walsh, Marcello, Carnevale	Excludes crossbows from the definition of a "firearm". This law allows DEM to expand the use of the crossbow during archery season.
H7261	Air	Ruggiero , Chippendale, Walsh, Bennett, Handy	Establishes The Rhode Island Petroleum Savings and Independence Advisory Commission. DEM will serve as a member of this commission, which will make recommendations and provide input on opportunities to reduce petroleum use and on policies related to petroleum-based fuel consumption.
H7368 Comp. S2563	Planning/DOA	Bennett , Hull, Marcello, McNamara, Edwards (DOA/Governor Bill)	Adds DEM to Statewide Planning Council. The Statewide Planning Council was established to prepare, adopt, and amend strategic plans for the physical, economic, and social development of the state and to recommend these to the governor, the general assembly, and all others concerned.
Resolution H7385 Comp. S2871	Marine	Keable , Nunes, Jackson, Lally	Requests DEM to adopt regulations regarding the placement of vessels in state waters to form artificial reefs and development of a pilot program for the preparation and deployment of a specified obsolete vessel in Rhode Island waters and requests DEM to report on its progress starting in January 2014 through 2019.

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H7412 Comp. S2277	Brownfields/Land Use	Slater , Blazewski, Diaz	Prohibits the siting of schools on properties that pose an ongoing potential for vapor intrusion. In addition, this law requires a municipality or organization contemplating the construction of a school on a contaminated site to prepare a short report and host a public meeting to explain to the public why a contaminated site was chosen as the location for a school.
H7485 Comp. S2619	Planning/Water Resources/DEM Bill	Handy	Removes DEM from membership on the State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects and repeals the chemical purchasing act regarding the administration of chemical purchasing licenses. The Rhode Island Chemical Purchasing Act (RIGL §42-110) imposed unnecessary and redundant regulatory requirements for the purchase and use of certain chemicals commonly used in the metal finishing business.
H7486 Comp. S2721	Planning/Natural Resources/DEM Bill	Petrarca , O'Neill	Amends RIGL 46-5-10 to allow the State to Lease land and structures at 25 India Street, Providence (formerly known as Shooters) for a term of up to 40 years. Voters expressed their support of the transfer of 25 India Street from DOT to DEM in November 2010 with passage of \$3.2 million bond issue, which charged DEM with determining future use and development of the site which would result in a positive economic impact and provide public use and amenities.
H7534 Comp. S2753	Air Resources	Silva , Serpa	Exempts the following from DEM's Stage II vapor collection and control system requirements: new gas stations that began operation after the effective date of the law, existing stations excavating to repair or replace a component of the Stage II system and existing stations that replace more than 50% of its gasoline dispensers.
H7555	Legal/Public Records	Marcello , Ajello, Reilly, Hearn, Malik	Amends the access to public records requirements by ordering compliance with a request to take place within 7 business days and up to an additional 20 business days once it is shown that the request is of a voluminous nature.
H7663 Comp. S 2035	Animal Welfare	DeSimone , Lima, Slater	Establishes penalties for any person that keeps a dog outside tethered, penned, caged, fenced or otherwise confined without adequate shelter from the elements.
H7672	Water Resources/Land Access/Legal	Keable , Chippendale	Grants dam management districts immunity from civil liability for any tort committed upon any lake bed the Dam Management District may acquire, hold, use or lease.
H7697 Comp. S2613	Water Resources/DEM Bill	Keable , Lally, Petrarca, Walsh, Coderre	Modifies DEM's authority provided in existing state law (RIGL 20-1-26) related to aquatic invasive plants to remove provisions specifying criminal penalties for violations and instead specify administrative penalties. This law reconciles the enforcement provisions in RIGL 20-1-26, RIGL 20-1-27, & 20-1-28, which will aid DEM in promulgating regulations related to aquatic invasive species
H7701 Comp. S2611	Agriculture/Marine/DEM Bill	Ruggiero , Handy, Tanzi, Walsh, Martin	Allows the Division of Agriculture to administer a grant program for new farmers and organizations that support the growth, development, and marketing of agricultural and commercial fishing sectors; provides the Director the authority and responsibility to engage in marketing and outreach efforts to support both local agriculture and local seafood products; and establishes an Inter-Agency Food Policy Advisory Council.

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H7702 Comp. 2617	Dam Safety/DEM Bill	Handy	Provides DEM the authority to record a notice or order regarding an unsafe dam in the land evidence records of the city or town wherein the dam is located. This will make potential purchasers of property that includes a dam aware of unsafe conditions at that dam.
H7801 Comp. S2610	Marine/Boaters Registration	Malik , Gallison, Morrison	Increases the boaters registration fee to fund the removal of derelict vessels, abandoned vessels, and other navigational obstructions in Rhode Island waters. A five member commission will provide the Director of DEM recommendations for fund disbursement.
H7803 Comp. S2445	Planning/Water Resources	Handy , Edwards, Slater, Naughton, Ferri	Amends 45-61.2 of the Smart Development for Cleaner Bay Act of 2007 to provide authority to cities and towns to pass ordinances and/or promulgate regulations that may require compliance with the Rhode Island stormwater design and installation standards manual, as amended, for any development, re-development, or land disturbance.
H7804 Comp. S2612	Planning/Water Resources	Edwards , Reilly, Dickinson, Gallison, Nunes *RIBA bill	Requires municipalities that have proposed zoning ordinances which set forth standards for on-site sewage disposal systems or wetland requirements to submit those proposed ordinances to either/both DEM and DOH, as applicable, for approval of the technical merits of the ordinances.
H7910 Comp. S2395	Solid Waste/Air Quality/C&I	Ucci , Fellela, Petrarca, Carnevale	Requires the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation to establish six ambient air monitoring stations, four in Johnston and two in Cranston. The objective of the monitoring network is to monitor for the odorous compounds found in landfill gas, in particular hydrogen sulfide.
H7936 Comp. S2086	Water Resources	McNamara	Provides that within the city of Warwick any abutting owner or occupant of land upon any street in which there is a sewer shall only be required to connect to the sewage system when the mayor requires connection due to public health concerns or at point-of-sale. This law amends Section 17 of Chapter 254 of the 1962 Public Laws.
H7961 Comp. S2548	Agriculture/Wetlands/CRMC	Tanzi , Walsh	Provides that agricultural wetlands in the state's coastal regions that are used by a farmer for normal farming activities are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction and enforcement of DEM.
H8024	General/Regulations /Business	Serpa , Morgan, Guthrie, Ferri, Keable	Require a cost/benefit analysis and periodic review of all regulations governing or impacting small businesses in coordination with the Office of Regulatory Reform within the Office of Management and Budget.
H8124	Fish & Wildlife	Fox , Ehrhardt, O'Neill, Blazejewski, Watson	Includes crossbows as a weapon prohibited under the provisions 11-47-42. Specifically, this law was passed as a companion to H7249/S2983 to ensure proper procedures and protocol were in place in the case of unlawful use of a crossbow against another person.
H8173 Comp. S2618	Animal Welfare/Agriculture	Chippendale , Handy, Marcello, Walsh, Ruggiero	Establishes the Rhode Island Livestock Welfare and Care Standards Advisory Council Act of 2012. This six member council is charged with reviewing and evaluating laws and rules of the state applicable to the care and handling of livestock.
H8189 Comp. S3029	Solid Waste	Ucci , Fellela, Petrarca, Marcello, and Carnevale	Makes unlawful the use of construction debris or organic material as cover material at the facilities operated by the Resource Recovery Corporation.

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Senate

Bill #	Subject	Sponsors	Description
S 2031 Comp. H 7137	Animal Welfare	Tassoni , Lynch, Doyle	Permits birds exposed to psittacosis to be treated rather than destroyed. In addition, it permits microchip identification by the breeder by whom they were bred.
S 2034 Comp. H 7139	Animal Welfare	Tassoni , Lynch, Perry, Pinga	Allows the state DEM veterinarian and/or a general or special agent from the Rhode Island SPCA to act as advocates for animals which are the subject of court actions. This act would also exempt animal care facilities licensed by the United States department of agriculture or holding a public health service assurance of compliance from the provisions of this section.
S 2035 Comp. H 7138	Animal Welfare	Tassoni , Lynch, Perry, Pinga	Establishes penalties for any person that keeps a dog outside tethered, penned, caged, fenced or otherwise confined without adequate shelter from the elements.
S2083 Comp. H 7233	Producer Responsibility/Solid Waste	Ruggerio , Sosnowski, Lombardo, DiPalma, Miller	Creates a comprehensive paint recycling program in Rhode Island. This recycling program, which will be managed by PaintCare, will be up and running by 2014 and will be financed by a small assessment at the time of purchase.
S2086 Comp. H7936	Water Resources	McCaffrey , Lynch	Provides that within the city of Warwick any abutting owner or occupant of land upon any street in which there is a sewer shall only be required to connect to the sewage system when the mayor requires connection due to public health concerns or at point-of-sale. This law amends Section 17 of Chapter 254 of the 1962 Public Laws.
S2191 Comp. H7180	Animal Welfare/Agriculture	Ruggerio , Perry, Miller, Tassoni	Prohibits the unlawful confinement of any sow or calf in a manner that prevents such animal from turning around freely, lying down, standing up, or fully extending the animal's limbs. There are several exceptions, including during transportation, during the 14 day period prior to the sows expected date of giving birth and until the piglets are weaned, and for veterinary purposes.
S2192	Animal Welfare/Agriculture	Ruggerio , Sosnowski, Walaska, McCaffrey, Bates	Prohibits the docking of the tails of bovines. Exceptions are provided for tail docking performed for veterinary purposes. The penalty provision does not apply to any person who purchases an animal with a docked tail from a state that allows tail docking.
S2277 Comp. H7412	Brownfields/Land Use	Pichardo , Jabour, Metts, Picard, Crowley	Prohibits the siting of schools on properties that pose an ongoing potential for vapor intrusion. In addition, this law requires a municipality or organization contemplating the construction of a school on a contaminated site to prepare a short report and host a public meeting to explain to the public why a contaminated site was chosen as the location for a school.
S2395 Comp. H7910	Solid Waste/Air Quality/C&I	Lombardo , Lanzi, Cote, Picard, Sheehan	Requires the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation to establish six ambient air monitoring stations, four in Johnston and two in Cranston. The objective of the monitoring network is to monitor for the odorous compounds found in landfill gas, in particular hydrogen sulfide.

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S2445 Comp. H7803	Land Development	Miller , McCaffrey, Lynch, Gallo, Sosnowski	This act would establish guidelines for the use of alternative paving materials for non-residential driveways and parking lots under the soil erosion and sediment control model ordinance.
Resolution S2547	Marine Fisheries	Sosnowski , Walaska, McCaffrey, Felag, Sheehan	Senate resolution respectfully requesting DEM to develop comprehensive pair-trawl regulations for RI waters.
S2548 Comp. 7961	Agriculture/Wetlands/CRMC	Sosnowski , Felag, DiPalma, Walaska, McCaffrey	Provides that agricultural wetlands in the state's coastal regions that are used by a farmer for normal farming activities are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction and enforcement of DEM.
S2563 Comp. H7368	Planning/DOA	Tassoni , DeVall, Kettle, DiPalma	Adds DEM to Statewide Planning Council. The Statewide Planning Council was established to prepare, adopt, and amend strategic plans for the physical, economic, and social development of the state and to recommend these to the governor, the general assembly, and all others concerned.
S2610 Comp. H7801	Marine/Boaters Registration	Felag , DiPalma, Bates, Sosnowski, McCaffrey	Increases the boaters registration fee to fund the removal of derelict vessels, abandoned vessels, and other navigational obstructions in Rhode Island waters. A five member commission will provide the Director of DEM recommendations for fund disbursement.
S2611 Comp. H7701	Agriculture/Marine/DEM Bill	Sosnowski , Walaska, McCaffrey, Felag, Sheehan	Allows the Division of Agriculture to administer a grant program for new farmers and organizations that support the growth, development, and marketing of agricultural and commercial fishing sectors; provides the Director the authority and responsibility to engage in marketing and outreach efforts to support both local agriculture and local seafood products; and establishes an Inter-Agency Food Policy Advisory Council.
S2612 Comp. H7804	Planning/Water Resources	Walaska	Requires municipalities that have proposed zoning ordinances which set forth standards for on-site sewage disposal systems or wetland requirements to submit those proposed ordinances to either/both DEM and DOH, as applicable, for approval of the technical merits of the ordinances.
S2613 Comp. H7697	Water Resources/DEM Bill	Sosnowski , Fogarty, Ruggerio, Walaska, McCaffrey	Modifies DEM's authority provided in existing state law (RIGL 20-1-26) related to aquatic invasive plants to remove provisions specifying criminal penalties for violations and instead specify administrative penalties. This law reconciles the enforcement provisions in RIGL 20-1-26, RIGL 20-1-27, & 20-1-28, which will aid DEM in promulgating regulations related to aquatic invasive species
S2617 Comp. H7702	Dam Safety/DEM Bill	Fogarty , Sosnowski, Tassoni, Algiere, Maher	Provides DEM the authority to record a notice or order regarding an unsafe dam in the land evidence records of the city or town wherein the dam is located. This will make potential purchasers of property that includes a dam aware of unsafe conditions at that dam.
S2618 Comp. H8173	Animal Welfare/Agriculture	Sosnowski , Felag, Ruggerio, Goodwin, Perry	Establishes the Rhode Island Livestock Welfare and Care Standards Advisory Council Act of 2012. This six member council is charged with reviewing and evaluating laws and rules of the state applicable to the care and handling of livestock.
Resolution S2640	Solid Waste/Water Resources	Tassoni , Doyle, Gallo, Sosnowski	Senate Resolution creating a special legislative commission to study public health threats from pharmaceutical human waste contamination in the water supply. DEM is named as a member of this seven member

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			commission.
S2721 Comp. H7486	Planning/Natural Resources/DEM Bill	Perry , Miller, Metts, Pichardo	Amends RIGL 46-5-10 to allow the State to Lease land and structures at 25 India Street, Providence (formerly known as Shooters) for a term of up to 40 years. Voters expressed their support of the transfer of 25 India Street from DOT to DEM in November 2010 with passage of \$3.2 million bond issue, which charged DEM with determining future use and development of the site which would result in a positive economic impact and provide public use and amenities.
S2753 Comp. H7534	Air Resources	Walaska , Felag	Exempts the following from DEM's Stage II vapor collection and control system requirements: new gas stations that began operation after the effective date of the law, existing stations excavating to repair or replace a component of the Stage II system and existing stations that replace more than 50% of its gasoline dispensers.
S2871 Comp. H7385	Marine Fisheries	Tassoni	Requests DEM to adopt regulations regarding the placement of vessels in state waters to form artificial reefs and development of a pilot program for the preparation and deployment of a specified obsolete vessel in Rhode Island waters and requests DEM to report on its progress starting in January 2014 through 2019.
S2983 Comp. H7249	Hunting/Weapons	Maher , Hodgson, Ciccone, Shibley, Moura	Excludes crossbows from the definition of a "firearm". This law allows DEM to expand the use of the crossbow during archery season.
Resolution S3028	Marine	Sosnowski , Walaska, Sheehan, Algieri, Bates	Senate resolution supporting the RIDEM in developing a statewide shellfish management plan in collaboration with the Coastal Management Resources Management Council (CMRC), the Rhode Island Department of Health (DOH), and the University of Rhode Island.
Resoluton S3073	EPR	Paiva Weed , Ruggerio, Goodwin	Senate resolution establishing a special legislative commission to study producer responsibility models for paper and packaging. This nine member commission shall make a comprehensive study of the opportunity to preserve long-term landfill capacity for Rhode Island municipalities by continuing to expand the diversion of paper and packaging through a producer responsibility program.