



# 2025 Top Legislative Priorities



## **S-91 / H-5493: Building Decarbonization Act**

*Lead Sponsors: Senator Kallman and Representative Kislak*



## **S-996 / H-6207: The Bottle Bill**

*Lead Sponsors: Senator McKenney and Representative McEntee*



## **S-769 / H-5816: Offshore Wind Procurement**

*Lead Sponsors: Senator Zurier and Representative Handy*



## **The “Save RIPTA” Package**

*Multiple Bills and Sponsors, More Info Next Page*



## **Building Decarbonization Act**

*S-091 (Kallman) / H-5493 (Kislak)*

Rhode Island’s building sector (including residential, commercial, and industrial heating) produces nearly 40% of the state’s greenhouse gas emissions. However, our efforts to reduce building emissions have not kept up with the progress we’ve made in the transportation and electricity sectors. This bill **begins to address emissions from both existing buildings and new construction.**

The bill has 3 main parts: 1) Measuring energy use from large existing buildings to better understand how our building stock is using electricity and gas; 2) Improving building operations to lower greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Act on Climate; and 3) Building better by requiring electric-ready new construction, so buildings can be ready for the clean energy transition.

The Building Decarbonization Act addresses a major source of emissions in Rhode Island, while **creating and maintaining good jobs for Rhode Islanders in pursuit of a just clean energy transition.**

*Senate Sponsors: Kallman, Sosnowski, DiMario, Euer, Lawson, Britto, Gu, Gallo, McKenney, Valverde*

*House Sponsors: Kislak, Carson, Spears, Handy, Speakman, McGaw, Boylan, Fogarty, Potter, McEntee*



## **Offshore Wind Procurement**

*S-769 (Zurier) / H-5816 (Handy)*

This bill requires Rhode Island to procure 1,200 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind by 2029. We need to **boost development of offshore wind** resources if the state is going to meet its energy, climate, and economic goals while ensuring grid reliability for the future.

Building up our offshore wind resources will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels—which pollute our air, damage our climate, and have highly volatile prices—and **make Rhode Island more energy independent.** It will also **create good jobs and grow our state’s economy.**

Without further offshore wind procurement, Rhode Island risks missing its climate goals, facing grid reliability issues, ongoing high power prices during the winter, and increasing risks to marine life from continued fossil fuel use. Energy demand is rising. Rhode Island must secure reliable, clean energy sources to meet future needs. New fossil fuel infrastructure is not a viable option.

*Senate Sponsors: Zurier*

*House Sponsors: Handy, Stewart, Boylan, Speakman, Fogarty, McGaw, Bennett, Casimiro, Kislak, Potter*



## The Bottle Bill

S-996 (McKenney) / H-6207 McEntee)

The Joint Legislative Commission on Plastic Bottle Waste recently released its final report on our increasing litter pollution, recycling program failures, and related municipal costs. Rhode Islanders are fed up, and 58% say that they would support a bottle bill. The Commission recommends three potential solutions: A modern bottle deposit and redemption (DRS) program, an extended producer responsibility program (EPR), or a combination of the two. ECRI believes that Chair McEntee's H-6207, which combines DRS and EPR programs, represents the best approach, and it is therefore our first choice.

Modern DRS programs successfully **reduce bottle litter and greatly increase bottle recycling**. EPR programs hold producers accountable for the entire lifecycle of their products, **shifting the cost of recycling from municipalities to producers**. Both programs will require a strong and effective producer responsibility program (PRO) with participation by all companies bringing covered products into the state. The programs would be self-funding and substantially **reduce the millions of dollars spent by Rhode Island and its municipalities on recycling and litter cleanup**.

To reduce our bottle litter, to help our landfill last as long as possible, and to reduce the costs of our current unsuccessful efforts, now is the time for Rhode Island's Bottle Bill, S-996 / H-6207.

*Senate Sponsors: McKenney, Tikoian, Britto, Lawson, Sosnowski, LaMountain, Murray, Gu, Vargas*

*House Sponsors: McEntee, Knight, Bennett, Boylan, Carson, McGaw, Cortvriend, Donovan, Handy, Kazarian*



## The "Save RIPTA" Package

In Rhode Island, transportation makes up the largest percentage of total greenhouse gas emissions. To meaningfully work towards our climate mandates, we must address emissions from this sector, including by **increasing our transportation options** and reducing reliance on cars. Expanding public transportation serves not only as a way to reduce emissions but also **provides essential services and mobility access for all Rhode Islanders**.

RIPTA currently faces a budget deficit of \$32.6 million, which if not addressed will force mass layoffs of employees and leave bus riders stranded across the state. The "Save RIPTA" Package includes 7 bills, all aimed at filling this funding gap. These bills range from one-time budget allocations to the creation of more sustainable revenue streams, including allocating tax dollars and revenue from rideshare charges to fund transit.

To avoid service cuts and layoffs, and to ensure that all Rhode Islanders have access to safe, reliable, lower-carbon transportation services, RIPTA must be funded.

The bills in this package are:

|                                          |                       |                     |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| \$32.6 Million Budget Allocation         | S-342<br>(McKenney)   | H-6020<br>(Alzate)  |
| Rideshare Sales Tax Reallocation         | S-419<br>(Britto)     | H-5405<br>(Morales) |
| Commuter Transportation Benefits Act     | S-382<br>(Bissaillon) | H-5304<br>(Hull)    |
| Transit Master Plan Bond Referenda       | S-446<br>(Vargas)     | H-5470<br>(Tanzi)   |
| Motor Fuel Tax – 30% Allocation to RIPTA | S-46<br>(Zurier)      | H-5467<br>(Stewart) |
| Motor Fuel Tax – Two-year Inflation Rate | S-47<br>(Zurier)      | H-5468<br>(Tanzi)   |
| Rideshare Surcharge                      | S-92<br>(Kallman)     |                     |

For more information on individual bills, please visit <https://pvdstreets.org/save-ripta/>.

## About ECRI / More Info

The Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI) is a coalition of more than 60 Rhode Island organizations that advocate for policies to protect and enhance the environment. Our policy priorities address some of Rhode Island's most pressing environmental issues.

ECRI's list of legislative priorities may be updated from time to time. This initial issue is on **May 6, 2025**. Any updates will be indicated in the upper right corner of the Legislative Agenda table. The most recent version will be posted on our website.

ECRI publishes its Green Report Card every two years, after the legislature adjourns, and prior to the election of a new General Assembly. The Report Card reviews the environmental events of the legislature, including individual voting records, the administration, and related affairs. We hope that it will keep legislators, environmental advocates and the public aware of Rhode Island environmental policy issues and promote their informed participation in supporting our environment.

The 2023 - 2024 edition of ECRI's Green Report Card is available on the first page of our website.

Please contact our Co-VPs of Policy with any questions:  
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# ECRI LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2025

May 19, 2025

| Senate # | House # | SUPPORTED BILLS                                                             | Senate Sponsor | House Sponsor |
|----------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
|          |         | <b><i>Environmental Justice</i></b>                                         |                |               |
| 185      | 5245    | Percentage of income Payment Plan (PIPP) for utility bills                  | Sosnowski      | Slater        |
| 713      | 5953    | Temperature alerts and more warming and cooling centers                     | Mack           | Tanzi         |
| 327      | 5732    | RI Green Amendment: "All people have a <i>right</i> to a clean environment" | Sosnowski      | Bennett       |
|          |         | <b><i>Labor</i></b>                                                         |                |               |
| 586      | 5305    | Protections for employees from excessive heat and cold                      | DiPalma        | Morales       |
|          |         | <b><i>Climate &amp; Energy</i></b>                                          |                |               |
| 769      | 5816    | Mandates state and utilities to develop offshore wind power                 | Zurier         | Handy         |
| 35       | 5203    | Regulations for energy capable schools                                      | Pearson        | Cortvriend    |
| 407      | 5167    | RI Clean Heat Standard                                                      | Zurier         | Cortvriend    |
| 91       |         | Building Decarbonization Act (with EJ Advisory Board)                       | Kallman        |               |
|          | 5493    | Building Decarbonization Act (different text)                               |                | Kislak        |
| 641      | 5343    | Lead by Example: plastic bottles, Evs, and Energy Efficiency                | Valverde       | Boylan        |
| 338      |         | Economic and Climate Resilience Act: funding from fossil fuels              | Sosnowski      |               |
| 326      | 5424    | Climate Superfund: oil companies to pay for climate damages                 | Ujifusa        | Boylan        |
|          | 5450    | All electric new construction from 2027 onward                              |                | Handy         |
| 261      | 5535    | No sales tax for behind-meter batteries in solar systems                    | Valverde       | Boylan        |
| 593      | 5818    | Utility Spending Prohibitions (lobbying, travel, gifts, etc.)               | Euer           | Handy         |
| 862      | 5573    | Grid Enhancing Technologies: consider and include if beneficial             | Britto         | Solomon       |
| 378      | 5815    | PUC intervenor support program (costs of testifying, etc.)                  | Acosta         | Morales       |
|          | 5580    | Solar Net Metering Update, ends prior consumption rule                      |                | Potter        |
|          | 5819    | Changes excess net-metering credit to wholesale rate                        |                | Lima          |
|          | 5970    | Requests special commission to consider Whole-Home Repairs                  |                | Handy         |
|          | 5576    | Thermal Energy Network and Jobs Act (comprehensive program)                 |                | Cortvriend    |
|          | 5106    | Limits on electricity rate increases                                        |                | Lombardi      |
|          |         | <b><i>Transportation</i></b>                                                |                |               |
|          | 5105    | Dual Commuter Rail Passes for RIPTA and MBTA                                |                | Lombardi      |
| 46       | 5467    | Allocates 30% of Motorfuel Tax to RIPTA *                                   | Zurier         | Stewart       |
| 342      | 6020    | \$32,594,799 as appropriation to support RIPTA in 2026 budget *             | McKenney       | Alzate        |
| 446      | 5470    | Calls for vote on \$100 million bond (RIPTA) *                              | Vargas         | Tanzi         |
| 47       | 5468    | Motor fuel tax adjusted every 2 years for inflation *                       | Zurier         | Tanzi         |
| 382      | 5304    | Commuter Transportation Benefit (large companies) *                         | Bissailon      | Hull          |
| 92       |         | 75 cent surcharge on rideshares to fund RIPTA *                             | Kallman        |               |
| 419      | 5405    | All sales and use tax from ride-shares goes to RIPTA *                      | Britto         | Morales       |
|          | 5475    | Exempts new and used bicycles from sales tax                                |                | Handy         |
|          |         | <b><i>Buildings &amp; Homes</i></b>                                         |                |               |
| 711      | 5310    | RI Housing and Conservation Trust Fund                                      | Bissailon      | Speakman      |
| 58       | 5446    | Gives tenants rights to make minor energy efficiency repairs                | Gu             | Handy         |
|          |         | <b><i>Food &amp; Agriculture</i></b>                                        |                |               |
| 104      | 5195    | Composting and Organic Waste Diversion                                      | Valverde       | Cortvriend    |
| 781      | 5607    | Redefines "farm" to include lower revenue values                            | Sosnowski      | Cotter        |
| 436      | 5342    | Restricted fund in DEM for receipts from farmers                            | DiPalma        | Chippendale   |
| 431      | 5534    | Exempts city and small farmers from various taxes                           | Mack           | McGaw         |



# ECRI LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2025

May 19,202

| Senate #             | House #              | SUPPORTED BILLS                                                                | Senate Sponsor | House Sponsor |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
|                      |                      | <b>Water &amp; Toxics</b>                                                      |                |               |
| <a href="#">646</a>  | <a href="#">5216</a> | Pesticide and rodenticide controls for school grounds                          | Vargas         | Carson        |
| <a href="#">241</a>  | <a href="#">5019</a> | Prohibits PFAS in firefighting turn-out gear                                   | Felag          | Speakman      |
| <a href="#">406</a>  | <a href="#">5492</a> | Prohibits products with microplastic particles                                 | Vargas         | Boylan        |
| <a href="#">863</a>  | <a href="#">5340</a> | Chain-of-custody report required for artificial turf and infill                | Valverde       | Boylan        |
| <a href="#">651</a>  | <a href="#">5704</a> | Rodent-Integrated Pest Mgmt. pilot programs for municipalities                 | Murray         | Kislak        |
| <a href="#">650</a>  | <a href="#">5844</a> | Quarterly testing of biosolids for PFAS and report to DEM                      | DiMario        | Cortvriend    |
|                      |                      | <b>Waste</b>                                                                   |                |               |
| <a href="#">24</a>   | <a href="#">5166</a> | Prohibits high heat plastic waste facilities                                   | Ujifusa        | McGaw         |
| <a href="#">324</a>  | <a href="#">5293</a> | Public education program created on textile recycling                          | DiMario        | Hull          |
| <a href="#">997</a>  | <a href="#">6206</a> | Beverage Container Recycling Act - the "Bottle Bill"                           | Valverde       | Spears        |
| <a href="#">996</a>  | <a href="#">6207</a> | Bottle Bill with Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)                        | McKenney       | McEntee       |
|                      |                      | <b>Land - Forest - Shore</b>                                                   |                |               |
| <a href="#">775</a>  | <a href="#">5706</a> | Replaces CRMC with new state agency                                            | McKenney       | Cortvriend    |
| <a href="#">349</a>  | <a href="#">5960</a> | Qualified abandonment of public roads, easement access                         | Gu             | Cortvriend    |
| <a href="#">174</a>  | <a href="#">5477</a> | "Main Street RI" Coordinating Program                                          | Urso           | Handy         |
|                      |                      | <b>Resilience</b>                                                              |                |               |
| <a href="#">672</a>  | <a href="#">5155</a> | State protection for disaster response architects                              | Bissaillon     | Cotter        |
| <a href="#">671</a>  | <a href="#">5157</a> | State protection for disaster response workers                                 | Bissaillon     | Cotter        |
| <a href="#">923</a>  | <a href="#">6016</a> | \$400K to CRMC for URI's Storm tools, etc.                                     | DiMario        | Cortvriend    |
|                      |                      | <b>OPPOSE</b>                                                                  |                |               |
|                      | <a href="#">5905</a> | Public use of private lands: ADDS RISKS FOR STATE and TOWNS                    |                | Craven        |
| <a href="#">652</a>  |                      | Creates Advanced Recycling Facilities                                          | Rogers         |               |
|                      | <a href="#">5033</a> | G.A. approval for nuclear plants no longer required                            |                | Kennedy       |
| <a href="#">891</a>  |                      | PUC and DPUC to review all energy programs re costs                            | Patalano       |               |
|                      | <a href="#">6201</a> | Adds nuclear energy to renewable resource list                                 |                | Chippendale   |
|                      | <a href="#">6202</a> | No new contracts: net metering, heat pump subsidies, LTCs Solar or Wind        |                | Chippendale   |
|                      | <a href="#">6203</a> | Repeals Renewable Energy Growth Program                                        |                | Chippendale   |
|                      | <a href="#">6204</a> | Repeals Energy Efficiency Charge                                               |                | Paplauskas    |
|                      |                      | <b>SUPPORTED as of May 19, 2025</b>                                            |                |               |
| <a href="#">1038</a> |                      | Environmental Justice Act                                                      | Euer           |               |
| <a href="#">23</a>   |                      | Sen. Commission - To Study Act on Climate & Recommend                          | Zurier         |               |
|                      | <a href="#">6085</a> | Preferred Site or Elevated Energy Systems not subject to cap or rate reduction |                | Speakman      |
| <a href="#">977</a>  |                      | Standards for school air quality with testing                                  | DiPalma        |               |
|                      | <a href="#">5422</a> | Various rules for school food donations & disposals (Composting)               |                | Carson        |
| <a href="#">1005</a> |                      | Allows clinical lab to test kids aged under 6 years for blood lead levels      | Murray         |               |
| <a href="#">982</a>  |                      | Testing & mitigation for lead water service lines - updating                   | Ruggerio†      |               |
|                      | <a href="#">6252</a> | OK's RI Infrastructure Bank fund for local resilience projects                 |                | Cortvriend    |
|                      |                      | <b>OPPOSE - Added</b>                                                          |                |               |
| <a href="#">998</a>  | <a href="#">6126</a> | Reforms CRMC to 7 members (while maintaining current structure)                | Sosnowski      | Finkleman     |
|                      | <a href="#">6204</a> | Repeals energy efficiency charge                                               |                | Paplauskas    |
|                      | <a href="#">6316</a> | Requires utility (RIE) to procure long-term NG pipeline capacity               |                | Chippendale   |