
**National Association of Social Workers - Rhode Island
Chapter
2011 Legislative Agenda**

*“When we tug on a single thing in nature,
we find it attached to everything else.”*

John Muir

“Why has government been instituted at all?”

*“Because the passions of men will not conform to
the dictates of reason and justice, without constraint.”*

As of 3/3/2011*

This document is a work in progress subject to change at any time during the 2008 Rhode Island legislative session. The agenda covers legislative submissions to the Rhode Island General Assembly only and may not include all state legislation that NASW - RI works on during the session. In general, NASW - RI is concerned with legislation that relates to social and economic justice, civil rights, public education, healthcare and/or other areas deemed to be of concern to social workers and those they serve. Any comments, corrections, and/or concerns should be directed to Rick Harris, LICSW, Executive Director (NASW - RI).

Special thanks to NASW - RI representatives: **Cassandra Menz (Providence College), Cathryn Newton (Rhode Island College), and Miranda Cummings (Providence College)** for the many hours of work putting this document together.

All opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the Executive Director and does not necessary represent the opinions of all NASW - RI members. Positions may change based on additional information and/or analysis.

*** A supplemental list of bills introduced after 3/3/2011 and our position is in the Addendum to this document.**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ HOUSE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Through 3/3/2011

H-5012 (S - 0029)

RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO MARRY

Introduced By: Representatives Handy, Fox, Ajello, Ferri, and Ruggiero

Date Introduced: January 11, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would broaden the definition of persons eligible to marry to include persons of the same gender. This act would also provide that members of the clergy would not be required to officiate at any particular marriage.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW – RI believes same gender marriage is a basic human and civil right. This legislation needs to be passed to ensure the many rights and privileges now enjoyed by heterosexual married couples are available to same gender married couples. A more extensive testimony may be found at www.rinasw.info.

H-5027

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- ABORTION

Introduced By: Representatives Brien, Corvese, Savage, Phillips, and Azzinaro

Date Introduced: January 18, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would prohibit any woman from being forced to have an abortion against her will, and would provide a cause of action in tort for the wrongful death of said unborn child.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

No woman under present law can be forced to have an abortion. This law is redundant.

H-5028

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES

Introduced By: Representatives Brien, Corvese, Savage, Palumbo, and Phillips

Date Introduced: January 18, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would make assault on a pregnant woman which causes her to suffer a miscarriage or stillbirth punishable by up to thirty (30) years imprisonment, and life imprisonment if the fetus is 12 weeks or older.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This is a matter for courts utilizing past laws and court decisions.

H-5029

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Brien, Corvese, Savage, Phillips, and Azzinaro

Date Introduced: January 18, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would define and impose penalties for acts of violence upon an unborn child.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support **X** Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This is a matter for courts utilizing past laws and court decisions.

H-5031

RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES--MARIJUANA

Introduced By: Representatives Edwards, Slater, Ferri, Newberry, and Williams

Date Introduced: January 18, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would decriminalize the possession of less than one ounce (1 oz.) of marijuana, and impose a civil penalty of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150).

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

The National Association of Social Workers – RI believes that rehabilitation methods in cases of this nature is more effective in the long run. Also, Rhode Island is experiencing severe financial hardship. If the possession of less than one ounce of marijuana becomes a civil offense, then the payment of the offense will be sent to the municipality or state (depending on jurisdiction). The state can save money by not sending those in possession of less than one ounce through the criminal process.

H-5033

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- HOMICIDE

Introduced By: Representatives DaSilva, Johnston, Keable, Azzinaro, and Marcello

Date Introduced: January 18, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would enhance the penalty for a person convicted of first-degree murder of a state or municipal elected official by allowing the court to order that said person not be eligible for parole from imprisonment.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose **X** Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-5040

RELATING TO PROPERTY - THE RHODE ISLAND FAIR HOUSING PRACTICES ACT Introduced By:

Representatives DaSilva, Johnston, Hull, and Brien

Date Introduced: January 18, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would provide that a landlord does not have to lease a dwelling to persons who either cultivate or intend to cultivate medical marijuana on leased premises. .

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support **X** Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI believes that, on occasion, a person may need to grow their own marijuana, within the law, for medical purposes and should not be discriminated against because they need to grow this medicine. We feel the grower must meet the legal criteria for growing their own marijuana not for profitable or illegal purposes and provide safety measures so that children and others would not be able to obtain the marijuana.

H-5041

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - EMPLOYMENT SECURITY -
RETURN TO WORK ACT

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Savage, Malik, Gallison, and Azzinaro

Date Introduced: January 18, 2011

Referred To: House Labor

This act would establish a return to work program, to be administered by the department of labor and training, to assist unemployed Rhode Islanders in obtaining new job skills and in securing new employment.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

We support programs that allow better connections between potential workers and employers. We'll support this type of program as long as it is voluntary.

H-5043

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- CONTROL OF ILLEGAL
IMMIGRATION

Introduced By: Representatives Palumbo, Trillo, Brien, Corvese, and Malik

Date Introduced: January 18, 2011

Referred To: House Labor

This act would codify into law the provisions of then-governor Carcieri's Executive Order 2008-01 dated March 27, 2008, entitled "Illegal Immigration Control Order" which would require the department of administration to order the executive department to utilize the E-Verify program to verify the employment eligibility of new hires in said departments and businesses doing business for the departments.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support **X** Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI is strongly opposed to E-Verify or any system that is similar that relies on databases that are inaccurate and therefore imposes obstacles to work for individuals who are new to this country. The systems also foster a feeling of fear within communities composed of new residents to the United States. For us, there is too great of a likelihood that purposeful or unintended discrimination based on race or ethnic background may occur utilizing a system such as you E-Verify.

H-5057

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- STATE AID

Introduced By: Representatives Edwards, Brien, Silva, Azzinaro, and Guthrie

Date Introduced: January 19, 2011

Referred To: House Finance

This act would provide that if during any fiscal year the state reimbursement to cities and towns and school districts is insufficient to cover the costs of state mandates as reported by the department of revenue, those affected cities, towns and school districts may cease implementation of state mandates at their discretion up to fifty percent (50%) of the value of the reimbursement shortfall.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support **X** Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

We support the funding of state mandates, but we oppose this bill because the state simply does not have the funding to follow through on it. We would definitely support greater fiscal responsibility by state government for all public education services when the budget allows. Our fear is that if state mandates are not funded by the state under the auspices of this bill, then the mandates would not be carried through.

H – 5058

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Date Introduced: January 19, 2011

Referred To: House Finance

This act would require the state to annually pay for the tuition and related costs for students attending a state elementary or secondary vocational education school. The payments would be made directly to the respective schools.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

State funding would help equalize the quality of education throughout the state, rather than the quality of education being largely dependent on local property taxes.

H – 5060

RELATING TO TAXATION -- BUSINESS CORPORATION TAX

Introduced By: Representatives Walsh, Serpa, Ferri, Valencia, and Ruggiero

Date Introduced: January 19, 2011

Referred To: House Finance

This act would eliminate the minimum corporate tax on small businesses with gross receipts under two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) per year and would establish a graduated minimum tax on businesses with annual gross receipts of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) or greater. The greatest amount to be paid would be three thousand dollars (\$3,000) by a business with gross receipts of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) or more.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support **X** Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would encourage the development and operation of small businesses within state borders. However, due to continued financial difficulties related to revenue for the state, we would encourage a review each year to look at

the financial impact on state revenues. There may be a need for capturing income from the state's larger corporations. or the capturing more tax revenue from large corporations incorporated in other states t afford this bill.

H – 5061

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Diaz, and Savage

Date Introduced: January 19, 2011

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

This act would require compulsory school attendance until the age of eighteen (18) and would allow the waiver of the compulsory attendance for pupils over the age of sixteen (16) who are involved with an alternative learning plan.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor **X** More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

If a child does not have a high school diploma, studies indicate these children are five times more likely to live their life in poverty. Wanting children to continue and complete secondary education is a good intent, but until more analysis is completed, the implications for extended compulsory attendance may contain problems not yet visioned.

H – 5077

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- INSURANCE RATES

Introduced By: Representatives Fellela, Ucci, Carnevale, and Serpa

Date Introduced: January 20, 2011

Referred To: House Corporations

This act would prevent the consideration of an applicant's credit history in determining automobile insurance rates.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

We can see no connection between a person's credit history and potential for accidents of driving a motor vehicle.

H - 5087

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES - ASSAULTS

Introduced By: Representatives DaSilva, Johnston, Gallison, Edwards, and Azzinaro

Date Introduced: January 20, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would provide that choking or strangling another person would be a felony assault, whether or not the choking or strangling results in serious bodily injury.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Although NASW-RI is concerned with the number of crimes that at one time were consider lesser crimes and now are considered felonies. Potential for bodily harm is great enough fro us to support consideration as a felony.

H – 5089

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - STATE POLICE

Introduced By: Representatives Ajello, JP O'Neill, Walsh, E Coderre, and Handy

Date Introduced: January 20, 2011
Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would make the definitions of disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression the same as set forth in Rhode Island general laws section 11-24-2.1.

Executive Director's Recommendation
 Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Civil Rights laws are passed to protect groups who otherwise may suffer oppression and discrimination by the majority or by those in power. We believe that expansion of this law incorporates groups that now fall under that definition.

H – 5092

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - IDENTIFICATION AND APPREHENSION OF CRIMINALS

Introduced By: Representatives Reilly, Newberry, Johnston, Phillips, and Corvese

Date Introduced: January 20, 2011
Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would require the division of sheriffs to verify the immigration status of each incarcerated person presented to the court for any hearing.

Executive Director's Recommendation
Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI does not believe that this is a good use of law enforcement resources. As we continue to experience racial profiling and other discriminatory practices by the public, this law would further breed a culture of fear by newly arrived individuals who now live in our state.

H – 5093

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS -- DUTY TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION

Introduced By: Representatives Martin, DaSilva, Carnevale, and Ucci

Date Introduced: January 20, 2011
Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would allow law enforcement and the attorney general administrative subpoena power to obtain information relative to the distribution or storage of child pornography as well as the exploitation of children or online child enticement from Internet service providers. It would also place the duty to disclose certain information on the Internet service provider relative to the name and address of an Internet service subscriber relative to the investigation of suspected related criminal violations. The act would also provide for judicial review of the subpoena no later than seventy-two (72) hours after certification under oath that the subpoena is necessary.

Executive Director's Recommendation
Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Although this act is designed to target individuals involved in child pornography exploitation, we believe it does not have sufficient protection for individuals who were innocent and/or may have accidentally downloaded child pornography materials due to unscrupulous website providers. The concept: that names would be publicly published

without due process of law to prove guilt is against the basis of our legal system. We believe that all searches should be backed by a warrant that has been issued by a judge based on information that substantially points to the guilt of an individual. We have not yet decided to support or oppose this legislation.

H – 5095

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES--
DRIVING WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL

Introduced By: Representative Joseph M. McNamara

Date Introduced: January 20, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would enable judges, as an alternative to statutory mandatory imprisonment, to sentence repeat offending drunk driving motorists to participate in a sobriety program which requires them to submit to twice-a-day breathalyzer testing.

Executive Director's Recommendation
Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 5101

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR
PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES

Introduced By: Representatives Slater, and Williams

Date Introduced: January 20, 2011

Referred To: House Labor

This act would ensure that businesses employ fair policies relating to the screening and identification of persons with criminal backgrounds through the BCI system.

Executive Director's Recommendation
 Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

If an individual's criminal background check is the only component of the application process preventing that person from obtaining employment and that background is irrelevant to the position, then it should not determine whether or not that person is hired. Individuals need chances to succeed, and if a background check unfairly prevents people from obtaining employment, then they are not receiving equal opportunities.

H – 5115

RELATING TO TAXATION - SALES AND USE TAXES - LIABILITY AND
COMPUTATION

Introduced By: Representatives Gallison, San Bento, and Petrarca

Date Introduced: January 25, 2011

Referred To: House Finance

This act would change the definition of a retailer for sales and use tax purposes regarding sales and tangible personal property through an independent contractor or other representative, if the retailer enters into an agreement with a resident of this state, under which the resident, for a commission or other consideration, directly or indirectly refers potential customers, whether by a link on an Internet website or otherwise, to the retailer.

Executive Director's Recommendation
Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-5120 (S-0046)

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Slater, McNamara, Silva, and Serpa

Date Introduced: January 25, 2011

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

This act would require schools with excessive suspensions to establish a team of professionals to establish in-house suspension programs.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose **X** Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-5125

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- FETAL PROTECTION ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Edwards, Brien, Palumbo, Azzinaro, and McLaughlin

Date Introduced: January 25, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would establish the Fetal Protection Act.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support **X** Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act appears to be of an attempt restrict the right of a woman to control her own reproductive choices by defining the rights of an unborn child.

H-5129

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION

Introduced By: Representatives Palumbo, Edwards, Schadone, Corvese, and Brien

Date Introduced: January 25, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would create the Sexual Offender Registration and Community Notification Act with registration requirements including timing of registration, required information, tiered offenses, duration of registration and frequency of verification.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose **X** Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H - 5132 (S - 0120)

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- DNA DETECTION OF SEXUAL AND VIOLENT OFFENDERS

Introduced By: Representatives Kennedy, Palumbo, E Coderre, Gallison, and McNamara

Date Introduced: January 25, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would require the collection of DNA samples for any person arrested for a crime of violence as defined in this act. This act would expand the list of crimes for which a DNA sample is required. The samples would be included in the Rhode Island DNA database to be administered by the FBI's national DNA identification index system, which allows for the storage and exchange of DNA records submitted by state and local forensic DNA laboratories for the identification and/or exclusion of individuals who are the subject of criminal investigations or prosecutions.

Executive Director's Recommendation
Support Conditional Support Oppose **X Monitor** More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would require the collection of DNA for any person arrested. NASW-RI's current thinking is that DNA should not be collected unless an individual has been convicted.

H-5150

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- TAXATION

Introduced By: Representatives Petrarca, Ucci, and JP O'Neill

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011

Referred To: House Corporations

This act would expand the definition of the owners of motor vehicles for registration and property tax purposes, to include partnerships, firms, associations, corporations, limited liability companies, and other legal entities which operate on state roads for more than thirty (30) days.

Executive Director's Recommendation
X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would capture potential revenues lost.

H-5152

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY

Introduced By: Representatives Gordon, Costa, Chippendale, Reilly, and Morgan

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011

Referred To: House Corporations

This act would give residents of the State of Rhode Island the right to purchase or refuse to purchase health insurance with no penalty to be incurred for the refusal to purchase health insurance.

Executive Director's Recommendation
Support Conditional Support **X Oppose** Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is in full support of National Health Care, and this law would permit someone to refuse to participate, therefore undermining the intent of Congress.

H-5154

RELATING TO EDUCATION - THE RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY

Introduced By: Representatives Schadone, and Winfield

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011

Referred To: House Finance

This act would require the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority (RISLA) to sell its federal student loan portfolio to any interested party offering the best price. The revenue generated from this sale would be directed to the state's general fund.

Executive Director's Recommendation
Support Conditional Support **X Oppose** Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is opposed to privatization of services. Once in private hands, the possibility that profit motives may scuttle the original intent of the loan program is imminent

H-5155

RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCE -- STATE BUDGET

Introduced By: Representatives Schadone, Malik, and Corvese

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011

Referred To: House Finance

This act would limit increases in state spending to correspond with increases in the Consumer Price Index, but would not increase by more than three percent (3%).

Executive Director's Recommendation
Support Conditional Support **X Oppose** Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act is similar to Colorado and California acts which resulted in increasing state deficits and lower availability of needed services.

H-5163

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- ESTABLISHING THE RHODE ISLAND TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAM

Introduced By: Representative Joseph M. McNamara

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011

Referred To: House Finance

This act would codify the establishment of a tobacco control program in the department of health and would provide funding at the level provided in the fiscal year 2010 budget as originally enacted.

Executive Director's Recommendation
X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Tobacco has been known to be a leading cause of health-related problems, and a tobacco control program would help educate people in the community of these risks.

H- 5170

RELATING TO TAXATION - PERSONAL INCOME TAX

Introduced By: Representatives Guthrie, Bennett, Tanzi, Cimini, and Handy

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011

Referred To: House Finance

This act would add a four percent (4%) additional tax on all personal income over five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Adding an additional 4% tax on all personal income over five hundred thousand dollars would help reduce the state deficit and allow more services to be provided to people who require them.

H- 5171

RELATING TO TAXATION - PERSONAL INCOME TAX

Introduced By: Representatives Guthrie, Bennett, Tanzi, Cimini, and Handy

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011

Referred To: House Finance

This act would add a two percent (2%) additional tax on all personal income over five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Adding an additional 2% tax on all personal income over five hundred thousand dollars would help reduce the state deficit and allow more services to be provided to people who require them. See rationale for bill # 5170.

H-5180

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES - PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ACT -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND ABORTIONS

Introduced By: Representative Anastasia P. Williams

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would require general public assistance and medical assistance benefits to be provided to eligible beneficiaries, including victims of rape or incest, for the performance of abortions to be determined exclusively by the pregnant woman and a physician of her choice if necessary to ameliorate a condition that is deleterious to the pregnant woman's physical and/or psychological health.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI believes that women who are poor should have the same rights in regards to processes outlined in Roe vs. Wade that women of means have.

H-5181

RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE IN PARTICULAR ACTIONS

Introduced By: Representative Peter J. Petrarca

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would permit parents of a deceased child who are divorced, separated, living apart or never married to file a motion requesting the judge to apportion fairly any amount awarded in a wrongful death action.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose **X Monitor** More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

No analysis has been developed at this time.

H - 5182 (S-0023)

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- FAILURE TO PAY CHILD SUPPORT

Introduced By: Representative Peter J. Petrarca

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would decrease the amount of child support arrearage constituting a felony from ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose **X Monitor** More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-5185

RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION -- EXEMPT EMPLOYERS

Introduced By: Representatives Hull, McLaughlin, Bennett, DaSilva, and Nunes

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011

Referred To: House Labor

This act would exempt employers with three (3) or fewer employees from the workers' compensation laws.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support **X Oppose** Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Employees still get hurt regardless of the size of the company. This bill would take away a basic worker right of employees in a small company. Unless the government took over this responsibility for employees, NASW can not support a piece of legislation of this nature.

H-5192

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Introduced By: Representatives Schadone, Malik, and Corvese

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011

Referred To: House Small Business

This act would create a small business revolving loan and credit enhancement fund to be administered by the Rhode Island economic development corporation to help Rhode Island employers with one hundred (100) or fewer employees.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support **X Conditional Support** Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Small businesses are the backbone of Rhode Island's economy, therefore we should do everything we can to insure support of the operation and development of small businesses in RI. A program of this nature should be closely monitored from a fiscal analytical process.

H-5206

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- THE RHODE ISLAND WORKS PROGRAM

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Gallison, Slater, Valencia, and Bennett

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Finance

This act would allow people initially eligible for child care assistance to remain eligible as long as their income does not exceed two hundred twenty-five percent (225%) of the federal poverty level, and the child care is necessary in order to maintain employment.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

A single parent who is also poor can not maintain steady employment unless adequate governmental supports are provided. As parents improve their financial conditions, support then can be incrementally withdrawn. We believe supports like this one actually improve RI's economy.

H-5207

RELATING TO TAXATION -- THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX

Introduced By: Representatives Walsh, Fellela, Guthrie, Valencia, and Gallison

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Finance

This act would add to Rhode Island personal income tax return forms a refund deduction for a contribution to the Rhode Island Agricultural Lands Preservation Commission. This act would further make the contribution tax deductible.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Rhode Island is a much healthier community if open agricultural space is left undeveloped. Individual landowners need to make financial decisions inline with their family financial status. This program would help generate funds so individual landowners could sell their property to the government for the purpose of maintaining open and undeveloped land remaining and creating a win-win situation.

H-5212

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- CHILDREN

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Slater, Valencia, Williams, and Blazejewski

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

This act would include various forms of cigars, flavored cigars, flavored and unflavored blunt wraps and rolling papers as items subject to the restrictions contained in section 11-9-13, which prohibits the sale of certain tobacco products to minors.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

These items contain tobacco or are used to wrap tobacco and therefore should be under the same list as other tobacco products that are not available to minors.

H-5213

RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS - UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT

Introduced By: Representatives DaSilva, Edwards, Guthrie, Azzinaro, and Petrarca

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would treat a second offense of possession of marijuana as a misdemeanor.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

We do not believe in encouraging the increase use of marijuana, just as we would not increase the use of alcohol. We view these drugs as very similar and are very concerned about the number of marijuana possession cases that are defined as felonies or otherwise end in jail terms. We believe this is a nonproductive use of punishment and contributes to the hardship of individuals and their families and does not serve the public good.

H-5214

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - SENTENCE AND EXECUTION

Introduced By: Representatives Blazewski, Newberry, Slater, Williams, and Diaz

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would change the sentencing laws regarding sentencing violators of deferred probation and suspended sentences, limiting the amount of time a defendant may be sentenced to jail on a violation of their sentence, to the time remaining on their original sentence, or less.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI believes that one should not have to stay in jail for longer than their initial anticipated sentence.

H-5216 (S-0119)

RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- DIVORCE AND SEPARATION

Introduced By: Representatives Menard, Naughton, MacBeth, and Flaherty

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would allow that if child support has been terminated, suspended or expired the court can re-establish child support if the child has severe mental impairment or a severe impairment if the situation fits the criteria and factors in this statute.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

We believe the responsibility of a parent does not end at an arbitrary age. This is especially true when additional resources are needed to due to a child's significant disability.

H-5218

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- ROAD TEST

Introduced By: Representatives Williams, Silva, DaSilva, Slater, and Ajello

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would, at no cost to the state, allow a person who is bilingual or not proficient in the English language, to be assisted in his or her road test by a translator of their native language who is at least eighteen (18) years of age.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

We do not believe that language should be a barrier to obtain a driver's license as long as a basic understanding of the road signs and other traffic instructions is demonstrated by the person taking the test.

H-5221

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- RHODE ISLAND WORKER PROTECTION AND JOB LOSS NOTIFICATION ACT

Introduced By: Representatives DaSilva, Azzinaro, Guthrie, Blazejewski, and Hull

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Labor

This act would create the "Rhode Island Worker Protection and Job Loss Notification Act" which would require an employer to give certain notifications to employees in businesses with at least seventy-five (75) employees, operating for more than three (3) years, where at least one-third (1/3) of the workforce would be subject to a mass layoff or temporary suspension of work. This act would also create a response team within the department of labor and training to give certain employment counseling to the employees, and work with the employer in an attempt to avoid the loss of jobs.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Employees have the right to know if they are at risk of being laid off. They should also be provided with counseling if they are laid off.

H-5222 (S-0236)

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Introduced By: Representatives Carnevale, Williams, DeSimone, Medina, and Ucci

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Labor

This act would require the department of children, youth, and families to apply to the bureau of criminal identification, the state police, or local police department for a national and state criminal records check of any applicant for employment. The director will promulgate rules to determine what items of information would disqualify an applicant for employment.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI believes that those applying to work for DCYF should have a background check before they are hired.

H-5223 (S-0125)

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - WORKERS' COMPENSATION - BENEFITS

Introduced By: Representative Thomas Winfield

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Labor

This act would prevent a petition for benefits for a permanent disfigurement of the body from being filed until one year has passed from the date of the disfiguring event.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support **X** Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

A disfigurement of the body would call for immediate financial relief. Any employee with disfigurement should not have to wait a year until they can petition for benefits.

H-5224 (S-0129)

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- WORKER'S COMPENSATION-- PROCEDURE

Introduced By: Representative Thomas Winfield

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Labor

This act would prohibit an injured employee from filing a petition for workers' compensation benefits until they have provided the employer or insurer the necessary documentation to support their claim and would provide them with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily accept the claim.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support **X** Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Definition of a "reasonable opportunity to voluntarily accept the claim" is too vague.

H-5225

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Blazejewski, Slater, and Bennett

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Labor

This act would provide that, except as required by federal law or as a condition of receiving federal funds, neither the state nor its municipalities shall require an employer to use an electronic employment verification system as a condition of receiving a government contract or applying for or maintaining a business license. This act would also create standards for the use of electronic employment verification systems.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

We believe the E-Verify system is too flawed to use.

H-5226 (S-0127)

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - WORKERS' COMPENSATION -

BENEFITS

Introduced By: Representative Thomas Winfield

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Labor

This act would provide that a reduction in benefits shall not be delayed for more than ninety (90) days after maximum medical improvement has been found.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose **X Monitor** More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is monitoring, no analysis has been developed at this time.

H-5227

**RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- WORKERS' COMPENSATION--
PROCEDURE**

Introduced By: Representative Thomas Winfield

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Labor

This act would prohibit an injured employee from filing a petition for workers' compensation benefits, if the employee was being paid benefits under a nonprejudicial memorandum of agreement or hadn't received notice that his/her benefits would be terminated.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose **X Monitor** More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is monitoring, no analysis has been developed at this time.

H-5245

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- STUDENT EQUAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Slater, Ajello, Silva, and Williams

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Finance

This act would identify those students who are exempt from paying nonresident tuition at public universities, colleges or community colleges.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This will open up the opportunity for more students to attend public Rhode Island universities and in the long run encourage economic development and greater expertise within the borders of Rhode Island.

H-5249

RELATING TO TAXATION - PERSONAL INCOME TAX

Introduced By: Representatives Newberry, Costa, Reilly, Ehrhardt, and Chippendale

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Finance

This act would require the state to pay interest on tax refunds not issued within sixty (60) days. This act would take effect upon passage and would apply to all tax returns filed after its effective date.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Whenever possible, the State should use good business practice. Sixty days to pay a bill seems reasonable.

H-5251 (S-0061)

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS—LICENSING OF GENETIC COUNSELORS

Introduced By: Representatives Naughton and E Coderre

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

This act would provide a statutory framework for the licensing and regulations of genetic counselors.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Those responsible for genetic counseling ought to be licensed. Genetic Counselors should also adhere to regulations in order to protect their clients.

H-5254

RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Introduced By: Representatives Hearn, Medina, Carnevale, Marcello, and Petrarca

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would eliminate underage nights at nightclubs where alcoholic beverages are served.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI believes those who attend the clubs where alcoholic beverages are served should be at least twenty-one years old. Although, not overly concerned regarding individuals ages 18-21, we are very concerned with youth 18 and under who attend a concert where there is no real adult supervision.

H-5255 (S-0348)

RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE - EVIDENCE

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, and Bennett

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would provide that expressions of sympathy, statements by a health care provider to a patient or to the patient's family regarding the outcome of such patient's medical care and treatment, including reports of medical/health care errors or unanticipated outcomes as required by or in accordance with JCAHO's standards, and any offers by a health care provider to undertake corrective action to assist the patient shall be inadmissible as evidence or an admission of liability in any claim or action against the provider.

Executive Director's Recommendation
Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor **X** More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-5256

RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS - SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

Introduced By: Representatives Guthrie, Azzinaro, Ajello, Walsh, and Blazejewski

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would authorize a marriage ceremony to be performed by any person the bride and groom chooses.

Executive Director's Recommendation
X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI believes that a bride and groom should be permitted to choose whomever they would like (from the list in the bill) to complete their marriage ceremony, and this marriage would be completely valid.

H-5257

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS & GOVERNMENT

Introduced By: Representatives Walsh, Ruggiero, Tanzi, Ajello, & Costa

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would create the Healthy Pregnancies for Incarcerated Women Act in order to provide restrictions on the physical restraint of pregnant prisoners.

Executive Director's Recommendation
X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

See website for testimony. www.rinasw.info

H-5262 (S-0122)

RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS - EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION - CHILD SUPPORT

Introduced By: Representatives Gallison, Fellela, Messier, Martin, and Keable

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would provide that if a party is activated for military service or deployment out of state, that fact would not by itself be sufficient to justify a modification of a custody or visitation order.

Executive Director's Recommendation
X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Although the party has been activated for military service, this alone is not a sufficient reason to modify a custody or visitation order.

H-5263

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - COMPREHENSIVE RACIAL

PROFILING PREVENTION ACT OF 2010

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Slater, Valencia, Williams, and Blazejewski

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would amend the law banning racial profiling in traffic stops by state and municipal law enforcement agencies by imposing additional requirements upon law enforcement agencies to collect data and complete regular reports of findings and statistics regarding traffic stops.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Studies indicate that racial profiling does occur. Stops are made of a higher percentage of individuals or races other than white and produce less contraband compared to the percentage of stops made of individuals from Caucasian racial heritage. This indicates an institutional, discrimination process, however not necessarily an intentional process.

H-5264 (S-0334)

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT

Introduced By: Representatives E Coderre, Serpa, Fellela, Naughton, and San Bento

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would add the crime of cyberstalking and cyberharassment pursuant to section 11-52-4.2 to the list of crimes and offenses that constitute domestic violence.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI believes that cyberstalking and cyberharassment have shown negative effects to those stalked and/or harassed, and should be added to the list of crimes under domestic violence.

H-5275 (S-0107)

RELATING TO INSURANCE--AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Introduced By: Representatives Palumbo, Schaldone, Menard, Petrarca, & McCauley

Date Introduced: February 08, 2011

Referred to: House Corporations

This act would require coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Incidence of his disorder is continuing to increase in our population. We can see no reason not to have coverage.

H5304

RELATING TO INSURANCE--INDIVIDUAL HEALTH COVERAGE

Introduced by: Representatives Morrison, Gallison, & Blazejewski

Date Introduced: February 9th, 2011

Referred to: House Corporations

This act would require the Department of Business Regulation to appoint the Health Insurance Commissioner as an Ombudsman to assist and mediate problems that individuals have with their ERISA claims.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-5305

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS & GOVERNMENT-HEALTHCARE COSTS

Introduced by: Walsh, Tanzi, Kennedy, Azzinaro, and Dickinson

Date Introduced: February 9th, 2011

Referred to: House Corporations

This act would establish procedures to provide for more efficient and equitable administration of healthcare costs.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act will help expand healthcare coverage.

H-5390

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - CLEAN ENERGY BIOFUELS

Introduced By: Representatives Naughton, and Walsh

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

The act would establish a study commission to investigate the use and promotion of such fuels within the state.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Use of fuel will improve the environment and most likely result in a decrease in the amount of gasoline being used..

H-5393

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Introduced By: Representatives Naughton, E Coderre, and Edwards

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: House Finance

This act would establish the emergency communication and public telecommunication access fund to create an emergency communication program for the deaf and hard-of-hearing.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Those who are not deaf or hard-of-hearing have an emergency communication program. It is critical for safety reasons that individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing have an emergency communication program.

H-5395

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES – PUBLIC ASSISTANCE – FOOD STAMPS

Introduced By: Representatives Baldelli-Hunt, and Williams

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: House Finance

This act would impose a fee of five dollars (\$5.00) for each replacement EBT card issued by the department of human services.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support **X** Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This legislation imparts a punitive measure on the people who use EBT cards that lose them. The loss of the EBT cards may not be their fault, and EBT cards are a service provided to people who face financial difficulties, so it is not right to charge these individuals for replacement cards.

H-5396

RELATING TO EDUCATION – THE LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Introduced By: Representative Arthur J. Corvese

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: House Finance

This act would permit the board of regents to extend the school year in districts which are not demonstrating sufficient progress towards educational goals.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose **X** Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW – RI is monitoring, no analysis has been developed at this time.

H-5397

RELATING TO EDUCATION – SCHOOL BUDGETS

Introduced By: Representatives Morgan, Watson, Brien, Ucci, and Chippendale

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: House Finance

This act would repeal the “Caruolo Act”, so-called, pertaining to school budgets.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor **X** More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

More analysis is required for this legislation.

H-5399

RELATING TO EDUCATION - FOUNDATION EDUCATION AID FORMULA

Introduced By: Representatives Morrison, Gallison, Malik, Walsh, and Tomasso

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: House Finance

This act would provide for additional education aid funding for regional school districts.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Regional school districts will likely lead to savings at the school district and administrative level. Regional school districts also provide greater opportunities of choice for students.

H-5404

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES—MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES

Introduced By: Representatives Williams, Petrarca, JP O'Neill, E Corderre and Carnevale

Date Introduced: February 26, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would impose a period of probation in specified instances of refusal to submit a chemical test, and enhanced conditions of probation, such as obtaining from alcohol and the mandatory use of an alcohol monitoring device.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-5405

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES-MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES

Introduced By: Representatives Williams, Petrarca, JP O'Neill, E Corderre and Carnevale

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would impose a period of probation in specifies instances of driving under the influence of liquor or drugs and enhanced conditions of probation such as abstaining from alcohol and the mandatory use of alcohol.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H - 5406

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES-MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES

Introduced By: Representatives Williams, Petrarca, JP O'Neill, E Corderre and Carnevale

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would increase the penalties for driving under the influence of liquor or drugs by requiring a sentencing judge to impose additional conditions of probation such as requiring abstinence of alcohol and the continuous use of an alcohol monitoring bracelet.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-5407

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT-ENFORCEMENT OF IMMIGRATION LAWS

Introduced By: Representatives Palumbo, Trillo, Menard, Gordon & Reilly

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would create the “In Support of our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhood Act” which would authorize and empower state and local law enforcement to work together with federal authorities to discourage and deter the unlawful entry and presence of aliens and economic activity by persons unlawfully in the United States.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support **X** Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This bill may contribute to an environment of fear where individuals may feel that they are living in a constant policed state. This may also lead to racial profiling and individuals could be subjected to unnecessary psychological harm due to errors in the system.

H-5408

RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS-UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE ACT

Introduced By: Representatives JP O’Neill, Petracca, Blazejewski, Lally and O’Grady

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would change the minimum hours of community services from not less than one hundred hours to up to one hundred hours for persons convicted of certain drug offenses.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Community service can be a valuable rehabilitative tool for individuals who commit a crime but do not need to go to jail.

H-5411

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES—FAILURE TO PAY CHILD SUPPORT

Introduced By: Representatives JP O’Neill, Petrarca, DaSilva, Johnston and Philips

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

This act would decrease the amount of child support arrearage constituting a felony from ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor **X** More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-5733

RELATING TO INSURANCE-ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS RATE REVIEW

Introduced By: Representatives: Keable, Blazejewski, & Silva

Date Introduced: March 03, 2011

Referred to: House Health, Education & Welfare

This act would require the health insurance commissioner to give prior written approval to a proposed change in a rate or rating formula to be used by any health insurer. The act would also expand and give greater transparency to the process by which a health insurer may seek such a change in rate or a rating formula. Certain contested hearings would be held by the health insurance commissioner. This act would also provide that the final order of the health insurance commissioner may approve, disapprove, or modify the filing proposed by the health insurer and may include such conditions as the commissioner determines are necessary.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI believes that the insurance should be closely monitored in relation to rate increases. We also believe that unsubstantiated large rate increases are harmful to the public, to businesses, and to the community at large.

H-5858

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- HEALTH INSURANCE

Introduced By: Representative Joseph M. McNamara

Date Introduced: March 08, 2011

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

This act would authorize the health insurance commissioner and department of health to
2 update their regulations pursuant to federal health care laws. (Mental Health Parity Enforcement via enforcement of federal health care laws.)

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Rhode Island's mental health parity system is one of the strongest in the country. We believe that mental health parity is much more enforceable at the state level than from a national perspective. Shifting this responsibility to a national entity could result in a watering down of mental health parity intent and leave the process open to influences outside of state control.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ SENATE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

S- 0013

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE

Introduced By: Senators Tassoni, Bates, Doyle, and Felag

Date Introduced: January 11, 2011

Referred To: Senate Finance

This act would establish an Ocean State Youth Challenge Academy for at-risk youth through a cooperative agreement between the Rhode Island National Guard and the Rhode Island Attorney/Adjunct General.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor **X** More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI's position on this program would depend on how it is designed. The Executive Director of NASW-RI has extensive experience in designing and operating alternative schools and is available for consultation.

S-0023 (H-5182)

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- FAILURE TO PAY CHILD SUPPORT

Introduced By: Senators Tassoni, Bates, Lombardo, and Doyle

Date Introduced: January 11, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

This act would decrease the amount of child support arrearage constituting a felony from ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose **X** Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW – RI is monitoring, no analysis has been developed at this time.

S-0024

RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- DIVORCE AND SEPARATION

Introduced By: Senators Tassoni, Bates, Lombardo, and Felag

Date Introduced: January 11, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

This act would provide that if a party is activated for military service and deployment out of state that fact would not by itself be sufficient to justify a modification of a custody or visitation order.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Although an individual is activated and deployed for military services, this fact alone does not hold enough merit to change the visitation or custody orders the party has with the child(ren) that would be affected.

S-0026

RELATING TO PROPERTY - RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD TENANT ACT

Introduced By: Senator John J. Tassoni

Date Introduced: January 11, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

This act would allow a landlord who has a tenant that is more than ten (10) days in arrears in rent, as opposed to the current fifteen (15) days, to send a letter to the tenant giving them five (5) more days to pay their rent before filing a complaint for eviction. It would abolish the landlord's current obligation to physically remove tenants and store their possessions, after they have been served by a court possession execution by a sheriff or constable.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support **X Oppose** Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Tenants who are behind in rent should not have an even shorter amount of time to pay their rent prior to receiving an eviction notice.

S-0028 (H-5095)

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES

Introduced By: Senators Tassoni, Sosnowski, Lombardo, and Doyle

Date Introduced: January 11, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

This act would increase the penalties for refusing to submit to a chemical test, extends the period for subsequent offenses to ten (10) years and prohibits the sealing of records until ten (10) years have passed.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose **X Monitor** More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-0029 (H-5012)

RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO MARRY

Introduced By: Senators Perry, Sosnowski, Miller, Pichardo, and Nesselbush

Date Introduced: January 11, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

This act would broaden the definition of persons eligible to marry to include persons of the same gender. This act would also provide that members of the clergy would not be required to officiate at any particular marriage.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI believes that people should have the right to marry anybody they choose to, regardless of gender. Married individuals receive benefits from the State, and everybody deserves the right to have their marriage recognized by the state and receive the benefits accompanied by legal marriage.

S-0045 (H-5244)

RELATING TO INSURANCE - LIFE INSURANCE BENEFICIARIES' BILL OF RIGHTS

Introduced By: Senators Walaska, and Bates

Date Introduced: January 19, 2011
Referred To: Senate Corporations

This act would provide greater amounts of information and transparency for purchasers and beneficiaries of life insurance products.

Executive Director's Recommendation
X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Purchasers and beneficiaries of life insurance products have the right to receive complete information and transparency regarding the life insurance they plan to use.

S-0060

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- WOMEN'S CARDIOVASCULAR SCREENING AND RISK REDUCTION PILOT PROGRAM

Introduced By: Senators Crowley, Sosnowski, DeVall, Perry, and Miller

Date Introduced: January 19, 2011
Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

This act would establish a women's cardiovascular screening and risk reduction pilot program.

Executive Director's Recommendation
X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI supports a women's cardiovascular screening and risk reduction pilot program. Cardiovascular disease is the number one cause of death for women each year, so by implementing a preventative program, the incidence of cardiovascular disease can be decreased.

S – 0062

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - LABORATORIES

Introduced By: Senator V. Susan Sosnowski

Date Introduced: January 19, 2011
Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

This act would prohibit laboratories or stations from examining or reporting on specimens without proper documented requests and/or procedures.

Executive Director's Recommendation
X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

It is medical ethical practice to first request permission to perform examinations and fulfilling reports on specimens used in a laboratory.

S-0071

AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Picard, Ottiano, Bates and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: January 19th, 2011
Referred To: Senate Labor

This act would extend the notification requirements regarding the dismissal, suspension or lay-offs of teachers from March 1 to June 1.

Executive Director's Recommendation
Support Conditional Support Oppose **X** Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-0072

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHER RETIREMENT

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, DaPonte, Sheehan, Sosnowski, and Lombardo

Date Introduced: January 19, 2011

Referred To: Senate Labor

This act would allow any teacher employed in at least a half (1/2) program including a job share program in a school district or between two (2) or more different school districts to remain a contributing member of the retirement system and receive credit for that part-time service.

Executive Director's Recommendation
X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Any teacher employed in an aforementioned program ought to be able to financially contribute to that school district's retirement system and receive credit for that service. Other school personnel (i.e., school social workers) should also be included in this category.

S-0087

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT-HEALTH CARE—HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE

Introduced By: Senators Paiva-Weed, Algieri, Perry Ruggiero, and Lynch

Date Introduced: January 27th, 2011

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

This act would establish the Rhode Island Health Insurance Exchange and the method by which members to its executive board are appointed.

Support Conditional Support **X** Conditionally Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

We would have reluctantly supported this act prior to Sub A. Overall we are concerned with what we believe to be over reliance of commercial insurance without a strong public option. However, with the sub A. in place, a women's right to make certain reproductive choices would be effectively eliminated. If Sub. A. is removed or significantly modified insuring a women's right to make her own reproductive choices, we will once again provide conditional support.

S-0089

RELATING TO INSURANCE -- CASUALTY INSURANCE RATING

Introduced By: Senators Tassoni, P Fogarty, and DeVall

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011

Referred To: Senate Corporations

This act would provide that insurers shall not use credit ratings to underwrite or rate risks.

Executive Director's Recommendation
 Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Personal credit scores should not determine motor vehicle insurance risk policies. The relationship between these two factors are at question

S-0099

RELATING TO TAXATION - CRANSTON

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Lanzi, and Miller

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011

Referred To: Senate Finance

This act would permit the city of Cranston, by ordinances, to abate property taxes on homeowners' primary residences for the period of time the home was uninhabitable due to flooding in the spring of 2010.

Executive Director's Recommendation
Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW – RI believes this act should be expanded to other areas affected by the flooding in the spring of 2010.

S-0103

RELATING TO TAXATION - BUSINESS CORPORATION TAX AND FRANCHISE TAX

Introduced By: Senators Kettle, Ottiano, Bates, Hodgson, and Shibley

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011

Referred To: Senate Finance

This act would repeal the minimum business corporation tax and the minimum franchise tax.

Executive Director's Recommendation
Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-0106 (H-5627)

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- TANNING FACILITY SAFETY STANDARDS

Introduced By: Senators Perry, Tassoni, P Fogarty, Sosnowski, and DeVall

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

This act would require the director of the department of health to include, as minimum safety standards for tanning facilities, a prohibition on the use of such facilities by persons younger than eighteen (18) years of age unless prescribed by a physician.

Executive Director's Recommendation
 Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

There may be health risks associated with tanning, therefore it is rational to prohibit persons younger than 18 years of age to engage in this activity unless a physician provides approval for this behavior.

S-0107 (H-5275)

RELATING TO INSURANCE -- AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Introduced By: Senators E O'Neill, Gallo, Metts, Perry, and Paiva Weed

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

This act would require that health insurance contracts and plans issued or renewed in Rhode Island on or after January 1, 2012, provide coverage for the screening, diagnosis, and treatment of autism spectrum disorders.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Health insurance contracts should provide coverage for the screening, diagnosis, and treatment of autism spectrum disorders due to the potential disabling affects without treatment.

S-0108

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY—TOXIC MOLD PROTECTION ACT

Introduced By: Senators Lanzi, DiPalma, Ciccone, Lynch, and Walaska

Date Introduced: January 27th, 2011

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

This act would create a mold advisory board to advise the department of health with respect to establishing permissible exposure and procedures for the assessment of the health risk posed by the presence of mold and would promulgate mold remediation procedures.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

For some individuals mold in indoor environments can be a serious health risk.

S-0109 (H-5216)

RELATING TO INSURANCE -- REIMBURSEMENT RATE DISCLOSURE

Introduced By: Senators Algiere, Maher, Sosnowski, and Hodgson

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

This act would require all health insurers to disclose the reimbursement rate to hospitals in Rhode Island for medical services, equipment and other associated costs.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

We believe that transparency is good business. This is especially true when additional resources are needed due to a child's significant disability.

S-0120 (H-5132)

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- DNA DETECTION OF SEXUAL AND VIOLENT OFFENDERS

Introduced By: Senators Bates, Walaska, Hodgson, Jabour, and McCaffrey

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011
Referred To: Senate Judiciary

This act would require the collection of DNA samples for any person arrested for a crime of violence as defined in this act. This act would expand the list of crimes for which a DNA sample is required. The samples would be included in the Rhode Island DNA database to be administered by the FBI's national DNA identification index system, which allows for the storage and exchange of DNA records submitted by state and local forensic DNA laboratories for the identification and/or exclusion of individuals who are the subject of criminal investigations or prosecutions.

Executive Director's Recommendation
Support Conditional Support Oppose **X Monitor** More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would require the collection of DNA for any person arrested. NASW-RI's current thinking is that DNA should not be collected unless an individual has been convicted.

S-0129 (H-5224)

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- WORKER'S COMPENSATION--
PROCEDURE

Introduced By: Senator Roger Picard

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011
Referred To: Senate Labor

This act would prohibit an injured employee from filing a petition for workers' compensation benefits until they have provided the employer or insurer the necessary documentation to support their claim and would provide them with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily accept the claim.

Executive Director's Recommendation
Support Conditional Support **X Oppose** Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Definition of a "reasonable opportunity to voluntary accept the claim" is too vague.

S-0130

RELATING TO WORKERS COMPENSATION - BENEFITS

Introduced By: Senator Roger Picard

Date Introduced: January 27, 2011
Referred To: Senate Labor

This act would provide that in all workers' compensation petitions for recurrence or decrease of incapacity to work that neither party shall be required to document a comparative change of condition.

Executive Director's Recommendation
Support Conditional Support Oppose **X Monitor** More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-0149

RELATING TO EDUCATION—FOUNDATION LEVEL SCHOOL SUPPORT

Introduced By: Representatives Williams,Petrarca, JP O'Neill, E Corderre and Carnevale

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011
Referred To: Senate Finance

This act would prohibit housing aid from being used in the costs of remediation and it would also prohibit siting schools on toxic waste sites.

Executive Director's Recommendation
Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor **X** More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-0161
RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURES
Introduced By: Senators Metts, Pichardo, Jabour, Perry and Miller

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011
Referred To: Senate Judiciary

This act would allow the issuance of a court ordered certificate of rehabilitation. This certificate would enable those who have successfully completed their court-imposed sentences to more easily gain re-entry into society.

Executive Director's Recommendation
X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

See purpose above.

S-0162
JOINT RESOLUTION
TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF
AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (MARRIAGE)
Introduced By: Senators Tassoni, Cote, Maher, and Pinga

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011
Referred To: Senate Judiciary

Executive Director's Recommendation
Support Conditional Support **X** Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI believes in the basic premise that cannot necessarily make civil rights decisions for the minority due to imbalance of power. Although not intended here, this kind of thinking can lead to horrendous and unfair practices that have been demonstrated in many fascist and some democratic states.

S-0165
RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - CORRECTIONS
Introduced By: Senators Perry, Metts, Miller, DeVall, and Lynch

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011
Referred To: Senate Judiciary

This act would set standards for the treatment of pregnant prisoners.

Executive Director's Recommendation
X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

A woman's health, especially during her pregnancy, supercedes the small chance a woman would escape from

prison. There are a variety of health risks to the mother and the baby if the woman is shackled during pregnancy and/or labor. Shackling is also known to be very humiliating for women during their pregnancy and labor.

S-0203

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY--DETERMINATION OF NEED FOR NEW HEALTH CARE EQUIPMENT AND NEW INSTITUTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Introduced By: Senators Perry, DeVall, Tassoni, Crowley and Nesselbush

Date Introduced: February 09, 2011

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

This act would add home nursing care providers, home care providers and hospice providers to the definition of "health care facility" for the purpose of the Health Care Certificate of Need Act of Rhode Island.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

We believe that, to the rising cost of health care, all healthcare facilities should come under the scrutiny of this CON process.

S-0236 (H-5222)

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT-- DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Introduced By: Senators Ciccone, Picard, Lanzi, Walaska and Ruggerio

Date Introduced: February 09, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

This act would require the department of children, youth, and families to apply to the bureau of criminal identification, the state police, or local police department for a national and state criminal records check of any applicant for employment. The director will promulgate rules to determine what items of information would disqualify an applicant for employment.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-0285

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- TERMINATION OF SERVICE

Introduced By: Senators Metts, Jabour, Goodwin, Perry, and Pichardo

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Corporations

This act would amend the process of the termination of service to the elderly, disabled and seriously ill by simplifying the regulations and rules, instituting rules for a person in arrears of payment, and changing the chapter name.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

There are times that compassion dictates and overrides the practices of public utility regulation.

S-0286

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- TERMINATION OF SERVICE

Introduced By: Senators Metts, Jabour, and Pichardo

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Corporations

This act would amend the process of the termination of service to the elderly, disabled and seriously ill by simplifying the regulations and rules and institute rules for a person in arrears of payment and amend the chapter name.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

There are times that compassion dictates and overrides the practices of public utility regulation.

S – 0289

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Gallo, Felag, Miller, and Maher

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Education

This act would require the advice and consent of the Senate on the appointment of the commissioner of elementary and secondary education. The act would also delete certain language regarding the governor serving as an additional member of the board of regents in certain instances.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Because the commissioner of elementary and secondary education greatly impacts the lives of Rhode Island students and their families, elected officials representing these students and their families ought to have influence regarding the appointment of that individual.

S-0290

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Introduced By: Senator Joshua Miller

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Education

This act would require the department of education to implement a genocide education program.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI supports the implementation of a genocide education program because students should know the dangers of extreme nationalism and feelings of ethnic superiority.

S-0291

RELATING TO EDUCATION - SCHOOL AND YOUTH PROGRAMS CONCUSSION ACT

Introduced By: Senators Felag, McCaffrey, DeVall, Lanzi, and Ottiano

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Education

This act would establish further safeguards and procedures governing how to treat youth athletes who receive concussions.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW – RI supports the right for youth athletes to receive proper health services from qualified adults in the event that they receive concussions.

S-0292

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Introduced By: Senators DeVall, Crowley, DiPalma, Picard, and Gallo

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Education

This act would enable the department of education to implement its final report on the creation of a demonstration program for after school and summer learning for Rhode Island school children. This act would provide funding for the operation of that demonstration program.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

While it is important to have after school and summer learning programs for Rhode Island school children, NASW – RI believes that the Senate ought to confirm the appointment of the commissioner of education.

S – 0293

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITY - RATES

Introduced By: Senators Miller, Sosnowski, Goodwin, DaPonte, and Walaska

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

This act would harmonize electric and natural gas energy efficiency funding with the provisions of the least-cost procurement law. It would also enable investment in all energy efficiency resources that are cheaper than supply, lowering consumer energy bills and extend the renewable energy fund.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

As a community, we must find ways to both lower energy use and cost.

S-0294

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Felag, Sheehan, Bates, and Walaska

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Finance

This act would require recipients of certain tax credits to annually file reports with the state tax administrator. The reports would contain employment information for all of their employees. It would also require the director of the department of revenue to annually compile and publish an annual unified economic development report regarding the economic effect of the tax credits and benefits.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Transparency in government operations and understanding the value of tax expenditures is critical in for the public to analyze the value of such expenditures.

S-0297

RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCE -- STATE BUDGET

Introduced By: Senators Kettle, Cote, Moura, Maher, and E O'Neill

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Finance

This act would provide that all legislative grants awarded by the general assembly must be included in the annual state budget.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

A basic principle of good budget planning is to include all known expenditures in a total but. The state's budget should be no different.

S-0298

RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCE -- STATE BUDGET

Introduced By: Senators Kettle, Cote, Shibley, Moura, and Maher

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Finance

This act would require that the governor submit a zero based budget to the general assembly. The zero based budget would be phased in over a five (5) year period.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Zero based budgeting cannot predict the future and this process would most likely lead to inadequate funding for services and programs

S-0299

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Introduced By: Senators Ottiano, Bates, Shibley, E O`Neill, and Lynch

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Government Oversight

This act would require all entities that provide professional liability insurance to healthcare professionals and healthcare facilities to report all claims, settlements, judgments and arbitration awards to the department of health.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Transparency and all forms of insurance business is necessary for an informed public. NASW-RI supports the right of the public to have access to healthcare insurance records.

S-0300

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - DETERMINATION OF NEED FOR NEW HEALTH CARE EQUIPMENT AND NEW INSTITUTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Introduced By: Senators Perry, Miller, Nesselbush, Walaska, and Maher

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

This act would increase the dollar value in definitions used in determining the need for new health care equipment and new institutional health services.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

A necessary ingredient in developing a universal healthcare access program, is understanding the cost of healthcare services and equipment. Because profit motive may overshadow actual healthcare needs, this law is necessary to maintain healthcare costs at a reasonable level.

S-0301

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES - HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE FOR WORKING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Introduced By: Senator Walter S. Felag

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

This act would change the determination of eligibility, premiums and co-sharing of workers with disabilities enrolled into the Sherlock Medicaid Buy-In program. This act would also establish the legal authority for the department of human services to undertake a series of programmatic reforms geared toward the restructuring of its Medicaid programs in FY 2012.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor **X** More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-0302

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS - INTERPRETERS FOR THE DEAF

Introduced By: Senators Walaska, Lynch, McCaffrey, and Bates

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

This act would empower the "state of board of examiners for interpreters for the deaf to administer, coordinate, and enjoy the provisions of the general laws pertaining to interpreters for the deaf with the assistance of the department of health and would make several amendments regarding the licensing and disciplinary procedures for interpreters under this chapter.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW – RI supports the right of deaf individuals to receive services from properly trained and licensed interpreters.

S-0303

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Introduced By: Senators Ottiano, Bates, Kettle, Cote, and Perry

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

This act would remove the allowance for "graduate practice" status for physician assistants, would grant immunity from liability for gratuitous emergency assistance to state - licensed and federally-credentialed physician assistants, and would allow physician assistants to participate in disaster and emergency care with any available physician supervision or without physician supervision if none is available.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose **X** Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-0304

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- ADULT CRISIS INTERVENTION AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, and Lynch

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

This act would establish an adult crisis intervention program for vulnerable elders and adults with disabilities within the executive office of health and human services. It would create a single statewide toll-free, twenty-four (24) hour a day, seven (7) days a week telephone line for an adult crisis intervention program, for reporting assaults, abuse, neglect, exploitation and self neglect of patients/clients in health and human service facilities, or by health and human service practitioners, providers, or caregivers.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW – RI supports the creation of a toll-free telephone line for an adult crisis intervention program because financial obstacles should not prevent the reports of abuse or neglect.

S-0305

RELATING TO INSURANCE -- NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY RESIDENCE INSURANCE FUND

Introduced By: Senator Roger Picard

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

This act would authorize operators of non-profit community residences, acting as a group, to self-insure health care costs for employees, retirees and other beneficiaries and allow a third-party administrator to administer said program.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-0313

RELATING TO PROPERTY - MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE AND SALE

Introduced By: Senators Metts, Pichardo, Jabour, P Fogarty, and Goodwin

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

This act would require a mortgagee to notify tenants of the date, time and place of a foreclosure sale along with contact information for Rhode Island Legal Services and HUD approved counseling agencies in Rhode Island. It would also require that any successor in interest to a foreclosed mortgagor continue to provide essential services such as heat, running water, hot water, electric or gas if the foreclosed mortgagor had provided said services prior to foreclosure. This act would require a successor in interest to a foreclosed mortgagor to give tenants written notice to quit at least sixty (60) days in advance.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

In today's housing market of premature foreclosures, consumers need protection and more time to react to potential loss of their home.

S-0315

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- WORKERS' COMPENSATION -- GENERAL PROVISIONS

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, McCaffrey, Walaska, Lynch, and Tassoni

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011
Referred To: Senate Labor

This act would require all bidders on public works projects to provide evidence of workers' compensation coverage.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Workers compensation is a very basic form of worker protection. No public works project should encourage companies, through their hire, not to have this basic protection

S-0316

RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY - ORGANIZATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Introduced By: Senators Hodgson, Cote, Ottiano, Lanzi, and Tassoni

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011
Referred To: Senate Special Legislation

This act would require both chambers of the general assembly to keep for a period of three (3) years, an audio or video recording on the general assembly's website within twenty-four (24) hours of the debate and testimony occurring in committees established by the rules of the respective chamber.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI supports keeping general assembly records available for public access.

S-0317

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- INSURANCE RATES

Introduced By: Senators Pic hardo, Goodwin, Jabour, Metts, and Crowley

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011
Referred To: Senate Corporations

This act would prevent the consideration of an applicant's credit history in determining automobile insurance rates.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

We do not see their relationship between these two factors.

S-0318

RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW--GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS

Introduced By: Senators Picard, and Sheehan

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011
Referred To: Senate Corporations

This act would establish penalties for unfair practices by electronic payment systems.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Consumers need more support and protection in this area.

S-0319

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Gallo, Felag, Miller, and Maher

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Education

This act would require the advice and consent of the senate on the appointment of the commissioner of higher education. This act would also delete certain language regarding the governor serving as an additional member of the board governors in certain instances.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

The appointment this position affects many Rhode Islanders and their families. We believe filling of this position should have legislative oversight.

S-0320

RELATING TO TAXATION -- MOTOR VEHICLE TAX ELIMINATION

Introduced By: Senators Lombardo, Nesselbush, Shibley, Bates, and Ottiano

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Finance

This act would allow anyone who receives social security retirement or disability and who meets certain income and net worth limitations to a local exemption of six thousand dollars (\$6,000) of the excise tax on the motor vehicle.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This law would help some of Rhode Island's poorest families.

S-0321

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- STUDENT EQUAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT

Introduced By: Senators Pichardo, Metts, Perry, Crowley, and Jabour

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Finance

This act would identify those students who are exempt from paying nonresident tuition at public universities, colleges or community colleges.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-0323

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES - THE RHODE ISLAND WORKS PROGRAM

Introduced By: Senators Lanzi, Nesselbush, Miller, Tassoni, and Lynch

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Finance

This act would prevent the interruption in paid employment for parents receiving child care subsidies whose income fluctuates between one hundred eighty percent (180%) and two hundred twenty-five percent (225%) of the federal poverty level.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

At this income level, childcare subsidies are still needed.

S-0324

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES - MUNICIPAL DETENTION FACILITY CORPORATIONS

Introduced By: Senators Crowley, Jabour, Sosnowski, DaPonte, and DeVall

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Finance

This act would strip any municipal detention facility corporation of tax exempt status including the Wyatt Detention Facility, and subject them to full state and local tax obligation.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

If a municipality is going to profit from operating a facility, that on occasion requires state and community supports, these facilities should be treated like any other business in respect to taxes.

S-0325

RELATING TO TAXATION -- IMAGING SERVICES SURCHARGE

Introduced By: Senators Perry, Miller, Sosnowski, Crowley, and Nesselbush

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

This act excludes mammography services from the surcharge imposed on net patient revenue of service providers of imaging services.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Mammography services should be made available to women as easily and affordable as possible due to the extreme threat that breast cancer poses to women.

S-0327

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAMS

Introduced By: Senators Pichardo, Goodwin, Miller, and Felag

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Housing & Municipal Government

This act would authorize municipalities to provide loans to willing property owners, in order to provide financing for clean energy installation and improvement projects.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Due to extreme environmental threats, such as global warming, we need to encourage clean energy in all aspects of our businesses and community living.

S-0331

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- ARREST

Introduced By: Senators Jabour, McCaffrey, Lynch, Metts, and Nesselbush

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

This act would require the electronic recording of custodial interrogations in their entirety in cases where the potential sentence is one of life imprisonment.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-0332

RELATING TO PROPERTY -- MORTGAGE AND FORECLOSURE SALE

Introduced By: Senators Metts, Jabour, and Pichardo

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

This act would require mortgagees, upon filing a notice of intent to foreclose against a mortgagor, to file a copy of that notice with the city or town municipal clerk and appoint an agent for service of process within the State of

Rhode Island. Further, the act would require a mortgagee who initiates a foreclosure proceeding against a residential property located in the municipality to maintain the property if the municipality determines that the property is in violation of state and local housing codes if and when the property becomes vacant during the foreclosure proceeding.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

We believe that all interrogations should be recorded electronically.

S-0333

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, and Lynch

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

This act would allow the results of a breath test to be given to a person at the time of the test.

This act would take effect upon passage

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-0334 (H-5264)

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT

Introduced By: Senators Goodwin, Crowley, Lanzi, Nesselbush, and Gallo

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

This act would add the crime of cyberstalking and cyberharassment pursuant to section 11-52-4.2 to the list of crimes and offenses that constitute domestic violence.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI beliefs that cyberstalking and cyberharassment have shown negative effects to those being stalked and/or harassed, and should be added to the list of crimes under domestic violence.

S-0337

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- CONTROL OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Introduced By: Senators Maher, Cote, Kettle, Sheehan, and Moura

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

This act would codify into law the provisions of then-governor Carcieri's Executive Order 2008-01 dated March 27, 2008, entitled "Illegal Immigration Control Order" which would require the department of administration to order the executive department to utilize the E-Verify program to verify the employment eligibility of new hires in said departments and businesses doing business for the departments.

Executive Director's Recommendation
Support Conditional Support **X** Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

E-Verify is not a perfect system and has too many errors can be used in this fashion. We also oppose this legislation because we believe it may also lead to Xenophobic reactions in the community.

S-0339

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- COMMUNITY OBLIGATIONS AND BANKING
OFFENSES --THEFT, EMBEZZLEMENT, FALSE PRETENSES, AND
MISAPPROPRIATIONS

Introduced By: Senators Lynch, and McCaffrey

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

This act would amend the larceny and unlawful conversion provisions of the general laws pertaining to when a crime is to be treated as a felony, by increasing the threshold amount from five hundred dollars (\$500) to one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500).

Executive Director's Recommendation
X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

We have expanded the use of the "felony" definition in recent years to the extent that we have over crowded prisons. Due to institutional discrimination processes, this process has also resulted in racial disparities. It is our belief we should concentrate on rehabilitative community options whenever possible

S-0340

RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY - COMPOSITION OF SENATE - COMPOSITION
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced By: Senators Metts, Pichardo, Jabour, Goodwin, and Perry

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

This act would assign a voting district to incarcerated individuals.

Executive Director's Recommendation
X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

We believe the key element in helping incarcerated individuals assume responsible roles and integrate into the community is the right to vote.

S-0347

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE IN CRIME

FIGHTING

Introduced By: Senators Pichardo, Goodwin, Jabour, Metts, and Miller

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

This act would establish the “Immigrant Assistance in Crime Fighting Act” to promote the safety and health of all residents by making it more likely that immigrants would report violations of state and local law and by prohibiting law enforcement or other government agents from inquiring as to a complainant’s or witness’s legal status in this country.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Individuals living in the country, regardless of status, need to be assured that there are not negative consequences when trying to help solve crimes.

S-0349

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- STATEWIDE REFERENDA ELECTIONS

Introduced By: Senators E O`Neill, Cote, Hodgson, Metts, and Algieri

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

This act would provide a procedure for statements for and against statewide referenda ballot measures and would require that they be included with the publication of questions submitted to voters.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Transparency in government is critical to maintaining effective democracy.

S-0360

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced By: Senators Perry, Miller, Sosnowski, Nesselbush, and Pichardo

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

This act would remove the department of health from operating under the executive office of health and human services.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

The Department of Health’s main purpose is the protection of the public and should not be held under the influence of the executive Office of Health and Human services and, in our opinion, needs to function independently.

S-0372

**JOINT RESOLUTION
TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (INITIATIVE AND
REFERENDUM)**

Introduced By: Senators Cote, Picard, E O`Neill, Bates, and Pinga

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011
Referred To: Senate Special Legislation

This resolution would propose an amendment to the state constitution by establishing a voter initiative process to allow voters to initiate proposed legislation which would, upon vote of the electorate, become law.

Executive Director's Recommendation
Support Conditional Support **X** Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

The voter initiative process is far to vulnerable, "knee-jerk and panic" reactions and to excessive financial influence by special interest groups. It does not allow for proper vetting of important potential regulations and changes to law. States that have implemented this procedure have seen vast swings in public law resulting in confusion and poor fiscal decisions.

S-0374

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

Introduced By: Senators Cote, Picard, E O`Neill, Bates, and Pinga

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011
Referred To: Senate Special Legislation

This act would provide a detailed process by which a proponent of a voter initiative and referendum proposal would present the proposal to the secretary of state, the general assembly and the governor.

Executive Director's Recommendation
Support Conditional Support **X** Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

The voter initiative process is far to vulnerable "knee-jerk and panic" reactions and to excessive financial influence by special interest groups. It does not allow for proper vetting of important potential regulations and changes to law. States that have implemented this procedure have seen vast swings in public law resulting in confusion and poor fiscal decisions.

S-0375

RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY - ORGANIZATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Introduced By: Senators Hodgson, Cote, Ottiano, Lanzi, and Tassoni

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011
Referred To: Senate Special Legislation

This act would make voting records of all legislators including floor roll call votes, committee votes on bills, motions, amendments and resolutions to be placed on the general assembly's website within twenty-four (24) hours of the vote.

Executive Director's Recommendation
X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Transparency is key to good democratic process.

S-0376

RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- DOMESTIC UNIONS

Introduced By: Senator Dawson T. Hodgson

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

This act creates a statutory right to enter into domestic unions.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support

Conditional Support

X Oppose

Monitor

More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

We do not support the concept of civil unions because "separate is not equal".

☆☆☆☆☆ **ADDENDUM** ☆☆☆☆☆

Bills submitted after 3/3/2011

House	Senate	Position
5432	0295	Support
5627	0106	Support
	0471	Support
5831	0484	Monitor
5851		Support
5859		Support
5860		Moniator
5877		Support
5878		Support
5941	0732	More Analysis Needed
	0441	Support
	0442	Support
	0451	Support
	0472	Support
	0527	Oppose
	0636	Support
	0637	More Analysis Needed
	0665	Support
	0671	Oppose
	0677	Support
	0732	More Analysis Needed