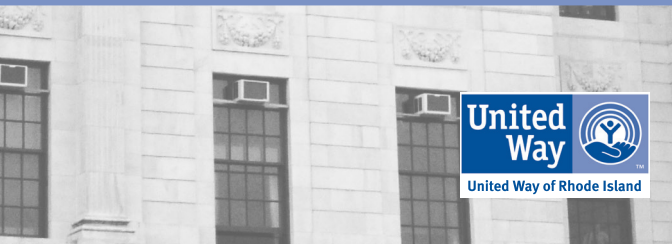




**2011 – 2012
Rhode Island Government
Quick Reference Guide**





2011 – 2012

Rhode Island Government Quick Reference Guide

The Rhode Island Government Quick Reference Guide is produced by United Way of Rhode Island as a public service. Thank you to the Office of the Secretary of State, the RI Senate and the RI House of Representatives for their assistance in preparing this Quick Reference Guide.

The information presented is current as of April 2011 and is subject to change over time. Please visit our website for a PDF version with up-to-date revisions. For additional copies of this guide, call 401-444-0600.

www.LIVEUNITEDri.org

Cover photo: Keri Greenwalt



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R.I. JUDICIAL SYSTEM

The RI Judicial System is comprised of the Supreme, Superior, Family, District, Worker's Compensation and Traffic Tribunal Courts. For more information go to: www.courts.ri.gov

Mailing address for all General Assembly members listed below: State House, Providence, RI 02903. For legislator biographies, bills, general laws and House and Senate rules, please go to: www.rilin.state.ri.us.

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For a complete listing of State Agencies, please go to:
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This office makes government more open and accessible. Public documents are filed there, including Lobbying Disclosures, Public Meeting Notices and Minutes, and Appointments to State Boards and Commissions. Get guidance on legislative and lobbying issues, use computers, and follow live coverage of the General Assembly on Capitol TV in the Public Information Center. The office is open weekdays 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (except holidays) and whenever the General Assembly is in session.

State Archives Division

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This office preserves and gives public access to Rhode Island historical records dating back to 1638. The reception area features exhibits that are free and open to the public. This office is open weekdays 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (except holidays).

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The following resources are available:

- A listing of all legislation introduced in the Rhode Island General Assembly
- Reference copies of bills introduced
- A computerized index of legislation by sponsor or subject
- Record of floor votes
- Reports and publications of departments, agencies, boards and commissions
- Public access to computers for use of online services
- Copies of RI General and State Laws
- Access to federal documents and federal laws

State of Rhode Island General Assembly
Legislative Data Systems

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Office hours are Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
This office, the technical support agency of the Rhode Island General Assembly, facilitates public monitoring of legislation, indexed by number and committee assignment.

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Capitol Television programming covers RI Senate and House sessions as well as various legislative proceedings and hearings, and can be seen on Channel 15 on both Cox Cable of Rhode Island and Full Channel Cable.

STATE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

LEGISLATIVE EVENT	DATE
Opening Day	First Tuesday in January
Last day for House Public Bill Introduction	Mid-February
Last day for Senate Public Bill Introduction	Mid-February
Winter Recess	Third week of February
Reconvene	Tuesday following Winter Recess
Last day for House Committee Consideration of House Bills	Late April
Last day for Senate Committee Consideration of Senate Bills	Late April
Spring Recess	Third week of April
Reconvene	Tuesday following Spring Recess
Ethics Commission Financial Statements Due	Late April

Act

A bill passed by the Senate and House.

Adjournment

The end of a legislative day. Regular adjournments set the date for the next meeting. Adjournment *sine die* (without a day) marks the end of the session, since it does not set a time for reconvening.

Amend

To formally modify by adding to or deleting from a measure.

Appropriation

Authorization for the expenditure of public funds for a stated purpose.

Bill

A draft of a law presented for enactment.

Calendar

List of bills awaiting action, entered in order reported.

Caucus

Meeting of legislators of the same political party to decide policy and course of action.

Debate

Formal discussion and decision on matters before the body.

Enabling act

A law that permits a state official or a subordinate governmental unit to take specific action.

Floor

The main level of the Senate and House chambers.

Hearing

A formal meeting of a committee or commission at which testimony is presented.

Introduction

The presentation of a bill.

Journal

Record of daily proceedings in the Senate and House.

Lobbyist

A person hired by others to influence the legislative process.

Point of order

A question raised by a legislator concerning the rules of procedure.

Quorum

The number of members required to conduct business.

Recommittal

Sending a bill back to the committee that reported it out for consideration.

Resolution

Expresses the will of the legislature or on either branch but does not, generally, have the scope or authority of law.

Session

The period during which the legislature meets and carries on its business.

Government Websites

U.S. Government's Official Web Portal: www.usa.gov

En Español: www.usa.gov/gobiernousa/index

U.S. White House: www.whitehouse.gov

U.S. Senate: www.senate.gov

U.S. House of Representatives: www.house.gov

U.S. Library of Congress Government Resource Page:
www.loc.gov

Congressional Budget Office: www.cbo.gov

Office of Management and Budget: www.whitehouse.gov/omb

R.I. Budget Office: www.budget.ri.gov

National Governors Association: www.nga.org

National Conference of State Legislatures: www.ncsl.org

U.S. Conference of Mayors: www.usmayors.org

Federal Emergency Management Agency: www.fema.gov

R.I. Emergency Management Agency: www.riema.ri.gov

Nonprofit and Advocacy Websites

Advocacy Center at ISC: www.advocacy.org

Center for Law and Social Policy: www.clasp.org

Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest: www.clpi.org

Center for Nonprofit Management: www.cnmsocal.org

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: www.cbpp.org

Independent Sector: www.independentsector.org

National Council of Nonprofits: www.councilofnonprofits.org

Nonprofit Action: www.npaction.org

Office of Management Budget Watch: www.ombwatch.org

Urban Institute: www.urban.org

UNITED WAY OF RHODE ISLAND

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UNITED WAY 2-1-1 IN RHODE ISLAND



Get Connected. Get Answers.

Rhode Islanders needing assistance can get help 24 hours a day by dialing 2-1-1.

Dial 2-1-1 for free information regarding:

- basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter
- health care
- child care
- counseling
- crisis intervention
- senior services/elder care
- disability services
- job training
- transportation assistance
- veterans' services
- and much more...

www.211ri.org

REACH OUT A HAND TO ONE AND INFLUENCE THE CONDITION OF ALL.

**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
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**Our vision is a Rhode Island with fewer people in need.
Our mission is to mobilize the caring power of our
community to improve the lives of people in need.**

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4/2011 - 10M