



May 13, 2019

### Contract Continuation Sent to Governor

On Thursday May 9, 2019, the House and Senate passed S 512 Sub A and H 5437 Sub A respectively and sent the bills to the Governor. Both identical bills would continue contracts while negotiations continue. The bills preserve salary and benefits if either party rejected an arbitration award until a new contract is negotiated. The Governor has not announced her intentions to either sign the bill, veto the bill, or allow the bill to be enacted without her signature.

The House vote on the Senate bill and the Senate vote on the House bill matched the votes taken two weeks ago. The votes can be viewed here [mechanical](#)

#### House:

H5437			S0512			H5437			S0512		
Last Name	Sub A	Sub A	Last Name	Sub A	Sub A	Last Name	Sub A	Sub A	Last Name	Sub A	Sub A
Abney	R	R	Craven	R	NV	Maldonado	R	NV			
Ackerman	R	R	Diaz	R	R	Marszalkowski	R	R			
Ajello	R	R	Donovan	R	R	Mattiello	R	R			
Almeida	NV	R	Edwards	R	R	McEntee	R	R			
Alzate	R	R	Fellela	R	R	McKiernan	NV	NV			
Amore	R	R	Filippi	W	W	McLaughlin	R	R			
Azzinaro	R	R	Fogarty	R	R	McNamara	R	R			
Barros	R	NV	Handy	R	R	Mendez	R	R			
Bennett	R	R	Hawkins	R	R	Messier	R	R			
Blazejewski	R	R	Hull	R	R	Millea	R	R			
Caldwell	R	R	Jackson	R	R	Morin	R	R			
Canario	NV	R	Jacquard	R	R	Nardone	W	W			
Carson	NV	R	Johnston	R	R	Newberry	W	W			
Casey	R	R	Kazarian	R	R	Noret	R	R			
Casimiro	R	R	Kennedy	R	NV	O'Brien	R	R			
Cassar	R	R	Kislak	R	R	Phillips	W	W			
Chippendale	W	W	Knight	R	R	Place	W	W			
Cortvriend	R	R	Lima	NV	R	Price	NV	W			
Corvese	R	R	Lombardi	R	R	Quattrocchi	W	W			
Costantino	R	R	Lyle Jr.	R	R	Ranglin-Vassell	R	NV			

**House: Cont.**

	<b>H5437</b>	<b>S0512</b>		<b>H5437</b>	<b>S0512</b>		<b>H5437</b>	<b>S0512</b>
<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Sub A</b>	<b>Sub A</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Sub A</b>	<b>Sub A</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Sub A</b>	<b>Sub A</b>
Roberts	W	W	Shekarchi	R	R	Tobon	NV	R
Ruggiero	R	NV	Slater	R	R	Ucci	R	R
Serodio	R	R	Solomon	R	R	Vella-Wilkinson	R	R
Serpa	R	R	Speakman	R	R	Walsh	R	R
Shanley	R	R	Tanzi	R	R	Williams	R	R

**Senate:**

	<b>S0512</b>	<b>H5437</b>		<b>S0512</b>	<b>H5437</b>		<b>S0512</b>	<b>H5437</b>
<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Sub A</b>	<b>Sub A</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Sub A</b>	<b>Sub A</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Sub A</b>	<b>Sub A</b>
Algiere	W	W	Goldin	R	R	Paolino	W	W
Archambault	W	W	Goodwin	R	R	Pearson	R	R
Bell	R	R	Lawson	R	R	Picard	Re	Re
Cano	R	R	Lombardi	R	R	Quezada	R	R
Ciccone	R	R	Lombardo	W	W	Raptakis	R	R
Conley	Re	Re	Lynch Prata	R	R	Rogers	W	W
Coyne	R	R	McCaffrey	R	R	Ruggiero	R	NV
Crowley	R	R	McKenney	R	R	Satchell	R	NV
de la Cruz	W	W	Metts	R	R	Seveney	R	R
DiPalma	R	R	Miller	R	R	Sheehan	R	R
Euer	R	NV	Morgan	W	W	Sosnowski	R	NV
Felag	R	R	Murray	R	R	Valverde	R	R
Gallo	R	R	Nesselbush	W	W			

R – Right    W – Wrong    NV – No Vote    Re – Recuse

**Education Reform Package Introduced**

On Tuesday May 7, 2019, Senate President Dominick Ruggiero and House Speaker Nicholas Mattiello, along with other legislative leaders, introduced a package of bills meant to address the recent test scores released on the Rhode Island Comprehensive Student Assessment (RICAS) test. House HEW and Senate Education Committees are scheduled to hear testimony on the bills on Wednesday May 15.

The bills are:

863	Gallo	Statewide Academic Standards
864	Satchell	RIDE – Instructional Support
865	Pearson	Principal Authority – School/District Intervention
6084	Amore	Principal Authority – School/District Intervention
866	Sheehan	Testing Requirements for New Teachers
6098	Alzate	Testing Requirements for New Teachers

867	Paolino	Teacher Certification for Specialty Skills
6100	Mendez	Teacher Certification for Specialty Skills
868	Seveney	Teacher Evaluation Requirements
6099	Caldwell	Teacher Evaluation Requirements
869	Metts	Fast Track Principal Certification Program
6085	Barros	Fast Track Principal Certification Program

The House version of Statewide Academic Standards bill was previously introduced by Rep. McNamara, Chair of the House Health, Education and Welfare Committee. The House version of RIDE – Instructional Support legislation has not yet been introduced.

The most significant bill would provide additional statutory authority to Principals. The Senate version of the legislation also contains considerable requirements for low performing schools modeled on the Massachusetts statute. The RIFTHP will closely review the bills and provide testimony at the hearings on Wednesday.

### **Adult Education**

The Senate created a Study Commission to consider where the administration of Rhode Island’s Adult Education programs should be located. Currently, Adult Education administration is handled by staff at the Rhode Island Department of Education. The AFT represents professional staff at RIDE, including those working in adult education. The RIFTHP testified in opposition to moving the program out of RIDE.

The Senate Study commission recommended moving Adult Education to the Governor’s Workforce Board located in the Department of Labor and Training. Legislation to make the change was subsequently introduced by Senator Metts (S 816) and Representative Kislak (H 6107). RIFTHP lobbyist James Parisi and AFT Local 2012 President Joseph DaSilva testified against the move at a hearing of the RIDE budget in the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday May 9. They noted that the Governor’s Commission on Efficiency adopted a report recommending the move to DLT and cut a staff person from the program, thus jeopardizing quality administration of the program.

### **RIDE Budget**

At the Senate Finance hearing on May, 9, 2019, RIFTHP lobbyist James Parisi provided testimony on issues other than adult education. Among the points he made at the hearing were:

- Support for the increased funding for English Language Learners as proposed by the Governor
- Support for taking action to begin review of the existing education funding formula to begin work on revisions to the formula
- Opposition to efforts to pass training school education costs from the state to school districts
- Criticism that over 1/3 of increased education expenditures are for a new charter school and charter school expansion
- Request to add staff at RIDE to work on the curriculum and intervention work being considered by the Assembly