



February Legislative Highlights

RI Legislative Updates At A Glance:

- **RI Governor's Race:** The departure of **Seth Magaziner** from the Democratic gubernatorial primary leaves **Dan McKee**, **Helena Foulkes** and **Nellie Gorbea** as the three candidates on track to raise significant money.
- **Update on Federal Funds in RI:** Federal money has long been an important component of Rhode Island's state budget, with billions of dollars a year flowing annually from Washington to Smith Hill.
- **State of the Pandemic:** Another sign of Rhode Island shifting into a new phase of the pandemic: Recent legislative debate over extending **Governor McKee's** emergency powers.
- **Other Significant Political/Legislative Events:** This could be a consequential month for the future of Rhode Island's hospital industry. There could be clarity soon on where the proposed merger of Lifespan and Care New England is heading — the FTC is expected to render its decision by the end of this month, while at the state level the AG and Department of Health hit their deadline next month.

National Legislative Updates At A Glance:

- **New Approved States for P-EBT and FMI SNAP, P-EBT Chart:** Recently, four new states have been approved for P-EBT plans for the school year 21/22. Delaware, Colorado, Rhode Island, and Vermont join the eight other states that have been approved so far.
- **USDA AMS Develops New Program to Purchase Local, Domestic Food:** In December, the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service established the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA) that will grant up to \$400 million to go toward domestic, local food purchases.
- **Recycling Update: Biden Administration Releases BIL Guidebook as Senate EPW Committee Holds Hearing on Two Recycling Bills:** On Monday, the Biden administration released a Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Guidebook that outlines the funds available for programs covered under the law, as well as timeframes for when this money will become available.
- **Department of Labor Announces Heightened Enforcement of Warehouse, Logistics Workforce, FMI Requests Engagement with Regulators:** Last week, the Department of Labor's (DOL) Wage and Hour Division announced an initiative "to take heightened action to ensure that warehouse and logistics workers' wages and workplace rights are protected," in light of the current supply chain challenges.
- **White House Union Task Force Report Released:** Last week, the White House Task Force on Worker Organization and Empowerment released its report to the President on "nearly 70 recommendations to promote worker organizing and collective bargaining for federal employees, and for workers employed by public and private-sector employers."

[Click here to learn more about National Legislation.](#)

Our Association Member Communications Sponsors



Industry News

The Retail SNAP Incentive Program

The Need

Food insecurity and a lack of access to produce is a problem for many Americans. And here in Rhode Island, food insecurity rates are incredibly high, with 1 in 6 households reporting not having enough food each month. The Retail SNAP Incentive Program offers a sustainable method to alleviate food insecurity for Rhode Island's most vulnerable families.

Learn More [Here](#)

How to build a culture of leadership

A culture of leadership provides opportunities for everyone to be responsible and accountable, as well as mentoring and feedback to grow those skills, writes Tom Dobbins. "The culture has to encourage collaboration, thoughtful risk taking, making decisions and ultimately not punishing failure or falling short of goal," Dobbins writes. **Full Story:** [Core Affinity](#)

6 things to consider before interrupting a colleague

Employees are more apt to welcome an interruption when they are not engrossed in a task or they feel the new task is more important or won't take too much time, writes University of Massachusetts Lowell researcher Elana Feldman. "While switching gears and shuffling our schedules around to accommodate an unexpected task can be frustrating, interruptions can feel positive if they seem like a good use of our time," Feldman writes. **Full Story:** [Harvard Business Review](#)

The Retail Revolution: Delivering a New Customer Experience

Retail is nearly unrecognizable from its pre-COVID days. No wonder 73% of brands are rethinking their entire business model. Watch as CX and retail experts from SAS discuss: which changes will remain and which CX processes will revert to pre-pandemic models, how analytics can identify trends, and strategies to meet expectations. [Watch the webinar.](#)

How to craft social media promotions without bragging

Social media self-promotion should be about how the audience can benefit from the success story, professors Adaira Landry and Resa Lewiss write. They discuss what types of details to share, how to include underrepresented groups, why to avoid the "humblebrag" and other techniques. Full Story: [Fast Company](#)

How tech will influence food trends this year

Technology-related food trends expected to emerge this year include the acceleration of alternative protein technology, sustainability initiatives and digital supply chain transformation, according to the Science and Policy Initiatives team at the Institute of Food Technologists. The industry will likely experience a heightened focus on food safety traceability due to the pending finalization of the Food Safety Modernization Act's food traceability rule and clarifications from the FDA regarding what "healthy" means, the team reports. Full Story: [Candy & Snack Today](#)

How empathy can help people get back on track

"Empathy is essential for a useful conversation," writes Scott Blanchard, who outlines why showing genuine concern can lead to better business results and retention. Blanchard also discusses why empathy is not primarily about coddling or being nice, but more about situational treatment that is helpful, kind and forthright. Full Story: [Blanchard LeaderChat](#)



Thank you to our February Supplier of the Month - Bozzuto's Inc.



Thank you to our February Retailer of the Month - Shaw's



Industry Events

Service Dogs: Pawsitively THE Info Your Business Needs To Know!

Thursday, March 24, 2022
9:00-10:00 AM

When a customer walks into your business accompanied by a service animal, you may have a situation covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (the "Act"). What can you legally ask and do?

This free webinar, presented by an experienced compliance professional from the Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights, will help you navigate the process of complying with the Act.

This presentation includes a brief overview of the Act and answers these questions:

- What businesses does the Act cover? In other words, what is a "place of public accommodation"?
- What is considered a "service animal"?
- What if the business has a "no dogs/pets" policy? Or prepares or sells food?
- What can a "place of public accommodation" lawfully ask about "service animals"?
- Plus more, including Q&A!

This webinar is free of charge, but registration is required.
TO REGISTER, [CLICK HERE](#) OR GO TO <http://ow.ly/SVC950HKUpf>



Coming Soon - RIFDA Events

March 2022:

- Wed. Mar. 16th Legislative Committee Meeting
- Thurs. Mar. 24th Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:30 AM

April 2022:

- Wed. - April 6th: Legislative Committee Meeting @ 9 AM
- Thurs. April 14th @ 9:30 AM: Potential WIC/SNAP Meeting??
- Thurs. – Fri.: Apr 21st & 22nd: Distribution of Best Bagger Contest Kits to Retailers
- Thurs. – Fri.: Apr 28th & 29th: Distribution of Trade Day Invitations
- Thurs. April 28th Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:30

May 2022:

- Wed. May 11th Legislative Committee Meeting (Bill Tracking – Hearings)
- Wed. May 18th: BOD 2nd Quarter Meeting (@ TBD)
- Mon. May 30th: Office Closed Memorial Day Holiday

June 2022:

- Wed. June 15th Legislative Committee Meeting
- Thurs. June 16th @ 7:30 AM: Executive Committee Meeting
- Wed. June 22nd 2022 Trade Day (Best Bagger, Food Demos, Networking Reception, Industry Dinner) @ Kirkbrae Country Club, Lincoln RI

SAVE THE DATE:

2022 Annual

Trade Day is June 22

Best Bagger Competition
Meet the RI Food Entrepreneurs
Networking Cocktail Reception
Annual Industry Dinner
Dinner Program



Please support our Legislative efforts by supporting our PAC.



Satisfied Member?

Spread the Word, Tell Your Industry Friends & Vendors.

As a member, the benefit advantages such as our food safety renewal classes, WIC/EBT updates, legislative representation and updates, national industry affiliations and updates, networking events, energy programs and food industry camaraderie, as well as a number of other initiatives make RIFDA a great opportunity for new members.

Throughout each year there are exciting events as well as sponsorship and advertising opportunities. It is members like yourselves that make this all happen.

With new memberships RIFDA moves into the future as a stronger and more vibrant representative of the Rhode Island food community.

[Learn
More](#)



Call: (401) 431-0880 | Email: admin@rifda.com or sarthurs@rifda.com |
Visit: www.rifda.com