



March Legislative Highlights

RI Legislative Updates At A Glance:

- **In the General Assembly:** Governor McKee is once again at odds with General Assembly leaders over marijuana, as the legislature appears closer than ever to legalizing cannabis this year. McKee had been mum on the new House-Senate compromise bill that came out March 1, but weighed in this week via a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee from his chief legal counsel Claire Richards, who argued the bill violates separation of powers under the state constitution.
- **On the RI Political Front:** The Democratic primary for governor is now less than six months away, and one of the unanswered questions is how much money (if any) outside groups will spend to influence the outcome. That potential was spotlighted this week when a newly established super PAC — the "4RI PAC" — registered with the Federal Election Commission to raise unlimited funds in support of Helena Foulkes' candidacy.
- **The Following Bills Have Been Introduced in March and have been added to the RIFDA Watch List:**
 - House Bill No. [7593](#)
 - House Bill No. [7721](#)
 - House Bill No. [7765](#)
 - House Bill No. [7852](#)

- House Bill No. [7909](#)
- Senate Bill No. [2430](#)
- Senate Bill No. [2488](#)
- Senate Bill No. [2446](#)
- Senate Bill No. [2486](#)
- Senate Bill No. [2580](#)
- Senate Bill No. [2665](#)
- Senate Bill No. [2673](#)

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

National Legislative Updates At A Glance:

- **\$2.5 Million for White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, Hunger & Health:** Last week, the omnibus spending package signed into law included \$2.5 million to fund a White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, Hunger and Health.
- **White House Launches New Supply Chain Data FLOW Initiative, Additional Participants Sought by DOT:** The White House and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) launched the Freight Logistics Optimization Works (FLOW) initiative this week as a pilot project between logistics stakeholders and several ports aimed at improving supply chain disruptions.
- **Secretary Vilsack Announces USDA Actions on Nutrition Security in Address and New Report:** On March 17, the USDA released the Actions on Nutrition Security report and Secretary Vilsack also gave an address at Teachers College, Columbia University to announce the new report and detail how USDA will be targeting food and nutrition security.
- **DOL Issues Enforcement Bulletin on Retaliation, Holds Training Sessions for Logistics Employers:** The Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division issued Field Assistance Bulletin (FAB) 2022-02 this week to its regional administrators and enforcement directors providing information on how to identify workforce retaliatory actions taken by employers against employees.

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

Industry News

Hybrid meetings are here. Learn how to do them well

Productive hybrid meetings require everyone to have the right technology and training, and it doesn't hurt to let remote participants speak first, write meeting scientist Joseph Allen and Speaker Dynamics CEO Karin Reed. "Hybrid meetings require an intentional approach, but it's not just good business; it's likely a retention tool," they write.

Read The Full Story: [SmartBrief/Leadership](#)

Consumers Crave Comfort Food

Healthy food and mindful meeting may be on trend, but Americans are grabbing comfort food staples now more than ever, report Forbes. A late-2020 survey by Farm Rich found that 70% of respondents said they're consuming more comfort food and envision themselves continuing to consume more.

Read The Full Story: [NACS](#)

Negative feedback can improve your leadership perspective

Negative feedback from a 360-degree review should be seen as useful data on your performance, even if you decide against some of the recommendations, writes Ed Batista. "You need not grant their request or agree with their point of view, but you can empathize with it," Batista writes.

Read The Full Story: [Ed Batista Executive Coaching](#)

How to Hire in a Labor Shortage

The U.S. is dealing with a massive labor shortage, affecting businesses in multiple industries, and the convenience retail industry has not been spared. When applications are sparse, how can c-stores choose the right candidate for their business? Artificial intelligence (AI) may be the answer.

Read the Full Story: [NACS](#)

Train your team to work hard so you don't have to

When you build up your team's skills and experiences, you can free yourself up to do your work without having to look over their shoulders, writes Dan Rockwell. "You might feel important when you give direction, but you're successful when you don't have to," Rockwell writes.

Read The Full Story: [Leadership Freak](#)

How "power with" leadership can transform companies

A "power with" leadership mindset values collaboration, support, dignity and equity to create innovative companies and empowered employees, writes Runa Bouius, founder of the True Power Institute. "Instead of you, as the leader, micromanaging, intimidating, and powering over your people, you give them autonomy to generate their Power and seek new possibilities and actions created without using domination," Bouius writes.

Read The Full Story: [People Development Network](#)

Retail CEOs on how they're putting the customer first

Understanding customers and figuring out how to give them what they want has never been more important for retailers -- or more complicated, executives said at NRF 2022: Retail's Big Show. CEOs from companies including Walmart, Best Buy, Albertsons and Ralph Lauren shared insights into meeting consumer demand for safety, their growing reliance on retail technology and the rise of the hybrid shopping experience.

Read The Full Story: [CO— \(US Chamber of Commerce\)](#)

Why great leaders don't always want the

limelight

Hard work, fairness and sharing the limelight have helped Bridge Housing CEO Ken Lombard succeed, although that requires speaking up against unfair actions. "You can waste so many years in a situation where someone's got their foot on your neck and you're not doing anything about it, and you end up frustrated," Lombard says.

Read The Full Story: [LinkedIn](#)



Thank you to our March Supplier of the Month -
Coca Cola Beverages Northeast



Thank you to our March Retailer of the Month -
Clements' Marketplace



Industry Events

A retailer's best technology tool: traffic analytics

With the emergence of vehicle traffic analytics, retailers can now have a more complete understanding of consumer behavior at a hyper-local level. Join Korem as they discuss traffic analytics solutions and how to develop business intelligence dashboards for brand and marketing managers. [Watch the webinar.](#)

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Show**
A BUYERS
MARKETPLACE

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lunch &
admission
for buyers



10 SIMS AVE • PROVIDENCE • TUESDAY APRIL 5 • 1:00 - 4:00 PM



We're extremely competitive
**about keeping
you competitive.**

At Bozzuto's, we deliver more. More products, more services, more technology and more support — everything you need to win. For over 75 years, we've provided goods and an ever-expanding suite of services to independent retailers in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. From store planning to accounting and payroll, comprehensive logistics to retail technology solutions, Bozzuto's delivers more than fresh food and groceries. We deliver success.

For more information,
contact Steve Capanna at 203-250-5378.



Coming Soon - RIFDA Events

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

July 2022:

- Mon. July 4th Office Closed: Observance of 4th of July Holiday
- Thurs. July 14th Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:30 AM
- Wed. July 20th Legislative Committee Meeting (*Legislative Wrap Up*)

Our Association Member Communications Sponsors



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 |
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