

2025 Legislative Summary

| Issue | Summary | House | Senate |
|--|--|-------|--------|
| STUDENT HEALTH & WELLBEING CRISIS | | | |
| Categorical Funding | Provide additional funding for districts to hire social workers, paras, and other staff to help students mental/behavioral health, similar to how we did this for MLL. Not likely to pass this year but an absolutely vital piece of the puzzle. | 5532 | 256 |
| Student Safety and Behavioral Health Committee | The first step to securing better policies and support for student behavior and mental health is requiring each district to form a committee with teacher and ESP union reps. These committees review policies and report to the school committee annually, ensuring real support for students—not just shifting the burden to teachers. | 5165 | 235 |
| Cell Phone Policy | Requires each district to establish a cell phone policy with language that ensures teachers won't become the "phone police." | 5598 | |
| Paraprofessional Grant | Working with the Institute of Labor Studies and Research to create an apprenticeship-like program where paras can take PD to become behavior specialists or RBTs and increase their income. | | |

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| STATE FUNDING | | | |
| Education Finance K-12 | Fighting for more K-12 education funding, especially for districts who took a cut. Charters got a 7% increase, districts got a 2% increase, so working to balance that more equitably. | 5076 Article 1 Appropriations | |
| | Bill to increase funding for districts cut by funding formula. | 5749 | |
| Higher Ed | We will be fighting for more funding for CCRI and URI for our negotiations there to win fair contracts. | 5076 Article 1 Appropriations | |
| Revenue for RI | Raises taxes on filers in the top 1% (above \$625,000 per year) | 5473 | 329 |

| PENSION | | | |
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| Penalty reduction to 3% | Reduces the penalty for early retirement to 3% each year. A more achievable goal than the Rule of 90 but achieves similar results. A significant lift this year. | 5407 | 420 |
| 135 days for parental/medical leave | Allows teachers to miss up to 45 days unpaid in a year for parental/medical leave and still have that year count towards their pension. Especially helpful for members without a lot of sick time. | 5279 | 454 |
| Increase accrual rate | Increases the pension accrual rate based on years of service. A significant lift this year. | 5762 | |
| 5 to 3 for retirees between '12 and '24 | People who retired between 2012 and 2024 got left out of our 5 to 3 win last year. This would fix that. | 5318 | 257 |
| Teacher survivor benefits | Would increase teacher survivor benefits. | 5472 | 249 |
| Rule of 90 | Restores Rule of 90. Not likely to pass this year | | |

| STRENGTHENING OUR ORGANIZATION | | | |
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| Bargaining unit lists | Requires each public sector employer to provide a list of Bargaining Unit info multiple times a year. Absolutely vital to our data/member organizing/political organizing/dues monitoring/etc. | 5266 | 127 |
| Labor Board updates | Makes the labor board a whole lot more efficient and gives it more teeth. | 5187 | 124 |
| Charter school neutrality | Requires charter schools to stay neutral in union organizing efforts. Based off Illinois law. Not likely to pass this year. | 5840 | |

| SUPPORTING SAFE HEALTHY SCHOOLS FOR ALL STUDENTS | | | |
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| Library (Freedom to Read) | Increases protections for libraries and librarians from getting sued by people who want to censor books. | 5726 | 238 |
| Assault weapons | Bans assault-style weapons | 5436 | 359 |
| Healthy School Meals for All | Creates statewide program to provide free, healthy breakfast and lunch to all public school students. A significant lift this year. | 5742 | 430 |

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