**At the State House**

As the General Assembly continues to wait for word from Washington DC concerning a potential state aid package, it is also working virtually due to the detection of positive COVID-19 cases in the State House. Hearings held within the State House may be able to resume next week. It is appearing more likely that a FY2021 budget will not be voted on until mid-September at the earliest.

**This Week**

On **Tuesday, at 4:00 pm, the Senate Finance Committee** will meet virtually to discuss the **Governor’s request for increase bonding and a request to borrow in anticipation of revenues**. Members of the public wishing to testify may submit written testimony to: SLegislation@rilegislature.gov .Testimony submitted prior to 3:00 PM on the date of the hearing will be provided to the members of the committee at the hearing and will be included in the meeting records. Testimony submitted after that time will be placed on file. The meeting will be streamed live online via Capitol TV at: <http://www.rilegislature.gov/CapTV/Pages/default.aspx>

Governor Raimondo is requesting the inclusion of a new Article “**Relating to Tax Anticipation Notes.”** The Article would allow the State to borrow up to $300 million in anticipation of revenues to be received in FY2021 and would rescind the passage of an earlier bill to allow the RI Disaster Emergency Funding Board to borrow $300 million for COVID-19 related needs. Any funds borrowed in connection with the Tax Anticipation Note would have to be re-paid by June 30, 2021.

As previously reported, the Governor’s request to amend **Article 5 - Capital Bonding** includes the following:

1.  Additional $5 million for recreational facility improvements, and I-195 infrastructure

2.  Additional $223 million for housing and infrastructure of which $40 million would go to community development housing projects, $107 million for health laboratories, $35 million for off-shore wind, and industrial land preparation projects, $11 million for Quonset dredging of Pier II, and a new $30 million bond for transportation infrastructure to make up for the decrease in gas tax revenue

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| Topic Original Request New Article Change |
| Higher Education $117.3 million $117.3 million $0Environment & Recreation $ 64.0 million $ 69.0 million $5 millHousing & Infrastructure $ 87.5 million $310.5 million $223.0 millTotal Bond Request $268.8 million $496.8 million $228.0 mill |

The Environment & Recreation bond shifts $1 million from the RICAP (a state pay–as-you-go fund) for beaches, parks and campgrounds to a bond and also shifts $4 million for the I-195 Park to a bond.

For a more thorough look at what is in the proposal, the Department of Health’s presentation on the medical laboratory can be viewed at: <http://www.rilegislature.gov/Special/comdoc/House%20Finance/07-29-2020%20%20RIDOH%20COE%20for%20Laboratory_7.29.pdf>

And Secretary Pryor’s presentation on the economic development portion of the bond request can be accessed at: <http://www.rilegislature.gov/Special/comdoc/House%20Finance/07-29-2020%20%20Commerce%20RI%20House%20Finance%20Bond%20Hearing_7.29.2020.pdf>