



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Office of the Secretary of State

Matthew A. Brown, *Secretary of State*



Senate Chamber

2006 Legislative Session
Rhode Island General Assembly



House of Representatives Chamber

A C C E S S R E P O R T 2 0 0 6

ACCESS REPORT 2006

- Add.:* An addition to a previously posted agenda, usually involving the inclusion of new bills to be heard.
- Appointments:* A meeting in which the committee considered executive appointments.
- Letter=*
Letter of the Law: Notices that are received less than 48 hours / 2 days before the date of the committee meeting violate the letter of the law. (Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-6.)
- Notice* Each separate document received from a standing or joint committee of the General Assembly. This includes additions and time/date/place changes, but not corrections or cancellations.
- Organizational:* The first meeting held by a committee to set up its procedures.
- Spirit=*
Spirit of the Law: Notices that have more than one hearing date/time listed or give no specific hearing date or have unreasonably long agendas violate the spirit of the law.
- Recess:* A brief break in the legislative session during which committee business can be undertaken.
- Revis.:* A revision made to a previously posted notice.
- Rise:* An expression used to indicate the end of the day when all the members stand to end the session.
- Violations:* Committee meeting notices that violate the letter and/or spirit of the law.

COMPLIANCE FORMULA:

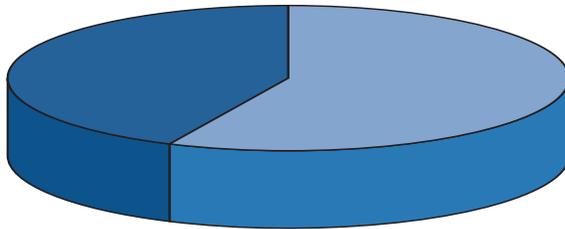
The number of meetings held in violation by a committee was divided by the total number of meetings held by that committee, and that figure was then multiplied by 100 to get the percentage of meetings that were in violation. The percentage of meetings held in violation was then subtracted from 100% to get the percentage of meetings by the committee that were in compliance with the law. Here is an example: **A committee held 25 meetings and 1 of those meetings was in violation. $1/25 = .04 \times 100 = 4\%$ of the meetings were in violation. 4% subtracted from 100% = 96% of the meetings were in compliance with the law.**

PERCENTAGES AND GRADING:

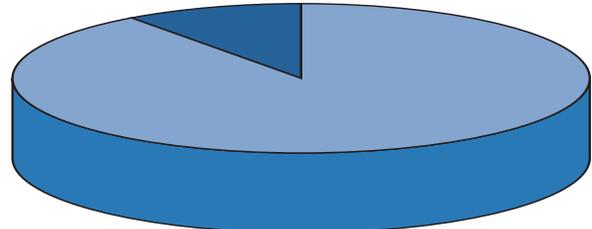
Compliance percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent. Letter grades are assigned as follows: **A** is compliance of 90% and above; **B** is 80% to 89%; **C** is 70% to 79%; **D** is 60% to 69% and **F** is anything below 60%.

HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEES

House Corporations: 30 Meetings Total. 13 Meetings In Violation.



LETTER OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE



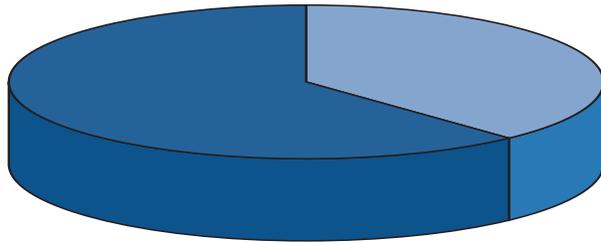
SPIRIT OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE

- 1 Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **57% F**
- 2 Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **90% A**

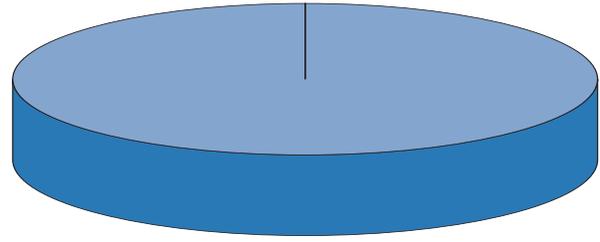
46 Total Notices. Letter Violations: 13. Spirit Violations: 3.

| Date of Meeting | Time | Number of bills | Type of Violation |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| March 14 (add. I) | Rise | 1 bill | Letter |
| April 10 | Rise | 35 bills | Letter |
| April 11 | Rise | 33 bills | Letter and Spirit |
| April 12 (original, add. I-III) | Rise | 18 bills | Letter |
| May 16 | Rise | 27 bills | Letter |
| May 23-24 | Rise | 20 bills | Letter and Spirit |
| June 6 | Rise | 12 bills | Letter |
| June 13 | Rise | 11 bills | Letter |
| June 14 (add. I) | Rise | 2 bills | Letter |
| June 20 | Rise | 6 bills | Letter |
| June 21-22 (rev.) | Rise | 22 bills | Letter and Spirit |
| June 22 (add. I-V) | Rise | 14 bills | Letter |
| June 23 (original, add. I-II) | 1:00 p.m. | 5 bills | Letter |

House Environment and Natural Resources: 13 Meetings Total.
8 Meetings in Violation.



LETTER OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE



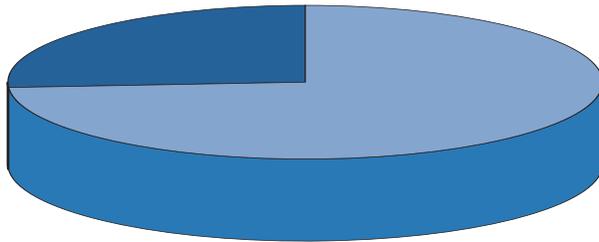
SPIRIT OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE

-
- ▶ ■ 1 Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **38% F**
 - ▶ ■ 2 Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**
-

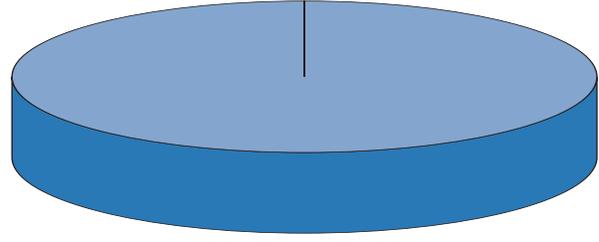
13 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 8. Spirit Violations: 0.

| Date of Meeting | Time | Number of bills | Type of Violation |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| March 29 (original, add. I) | 1:30 p.m. | 10 bills | Letter |
| April 11 | 3:00 p.m. | 14 bills | Letter |
| April 12 (add. II-III) | Rise | 3 bills | Letter |
| June 8 (add. I) | 1:30 p.m. | 1 bill | Letter |
| June 15 | 2:00 p.m. | 11 bills | Letter |
| June 20 (add. I) | 3:00 p.m. | 4 bills | Letter |
| June 21 (original, add. I) | Rise | 5 bills | Letter |
| June 22 (original, add. I-III) | Rise | 4 bills | Letter |

House Finance: 106 Meetings Total. 28 Meetings In Violation.



LETTER OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE



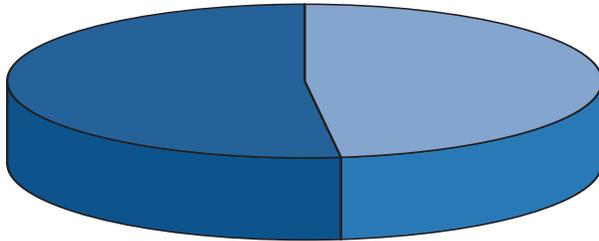
SPIRIT OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE

- 1 Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **74% C**
- 2 Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

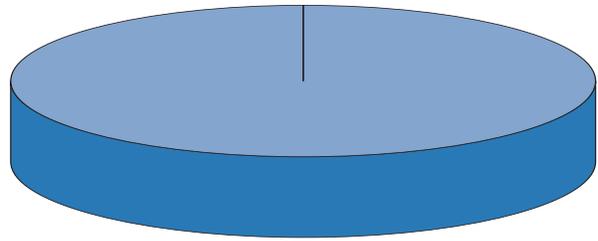
174 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 28. Spirit Violations: 0.

| Date of Meeting | Time | Number of bills | Type of Violation |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| February 14 | 2:00 p.m. | Revised appropriations: | Letter |
| March 7 | Rise | 1 bill | Letter |
| March 10 (add. I) | 12:00 p.m. | 1 bill | Letter |
| March 15 (add. I) | 1:00 p.m. | 1 bill | Letter |
| March 16 | 3:30 p.m. | 2 bills | Letter |
| March 16 | Rise | 3 bills | Letter |
| March 23 (add. I) | 2:00 p.m. | Budget Article 13 | Letter |
| April 10 (add. II) | 12:30 p.m. | 1 bill | Letter |
| April 25 (add. II) | 1:00 p.m. | 1 bill | Letter |
| April 27 | 1:00 p.m. | 7 bills | Letter |
| May 2 (add. I) | 1:00 p.m. | 7 bills | Letter |
| May 9 | 1:00 p.m. | 15 bills | Letter |
| May 16 | 2:00 p.m. | 35 bills | Letter |
| May 17 (add. I) | 1:00 p.m. | 5 bills | Letter |
| May 22 | 3:00 p.m. | 1 bill | Letter |
| May 23 (add. I) | 1:00 p.m. | 1 bill | Letter |
| June 1 (original, add. I-III) | Rise | 5 bills | Letter |
| June 6 (add. I) | 1 p.m. | 1 bill | Letter |
| June 13 | 1 p.m. | 1 bill | Letter |
| June 14 | 1:00 p.m. | 9 bills | Letter |
| June 14 | Rise | 26 bills | Letter |
| June 15 | 1:00 p.m. | 7 bills | Letter |
| June 16 | 1:00 p.m. | 23 bills | Letter |
| June 20 | 1:00 p.m. | 32 bills | Letter |
| June 21 (orig., add. I,III-IV,VII) | Rise | 37 bills | Letter |
| June 22 (orig., add. I-IV) | 1:00 p.m. | 24 bills | Letter |
| June 22 (orig., add. I-V) | Rise | 27 bills | Letter |
| June 23 (original, add. I-VII) | 1:00 p.m. | 13 bills | Letter |

House Health, Education and Welfare:
 25 Meetings Total. 13 Meetings In Violation.



LETTER OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE



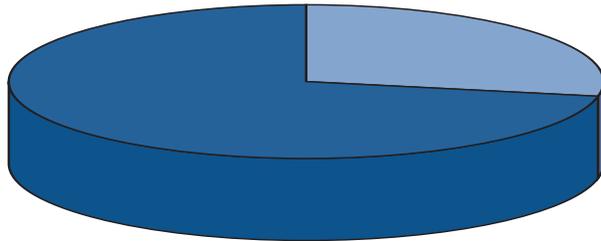
SPIRIT OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE

- 1 Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **48% F**
- 2 Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

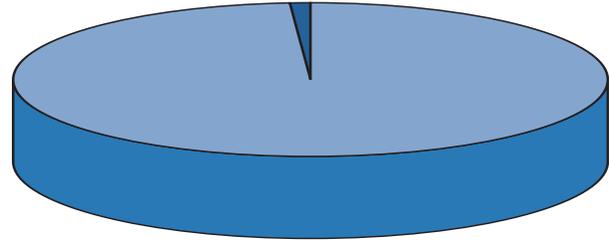
44 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 13. Spirit Violations: 0.

| Date of Meeting | Time | Number of bills | Type of Violation |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| January 18 | Rise | 2 bills | Letter |
| March 15 (add. I) | Rise | 1 bill | Letter |
| March 29 (add. I) | Rise | 1 bill | Letter |
| April 10 | Rise | 28 bills | Letter |
| April 12 | Rise | 13 bills | Letter |
| May 17 | Rise | 4 bills | Letter |
| June 1 | Rise | 1 bill | Letter |
| June 7 | Rise | 2 bills | Letter |
| June 13 | Rise | 5 bills | Letter |
| June 20 | Rise | 16 bills | Letter |
| June 21 (original, add. I) | Rise | 7 bills | Letter |
| June 22 (original, add. I-IV) | Rise | 6 bills | Letter |
| June 23 | 1:00 p.m. | 4 bills | Letter |

House Judiciary: 32 Meetings Total. 23 Meetings In Violation.



LETTER OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE



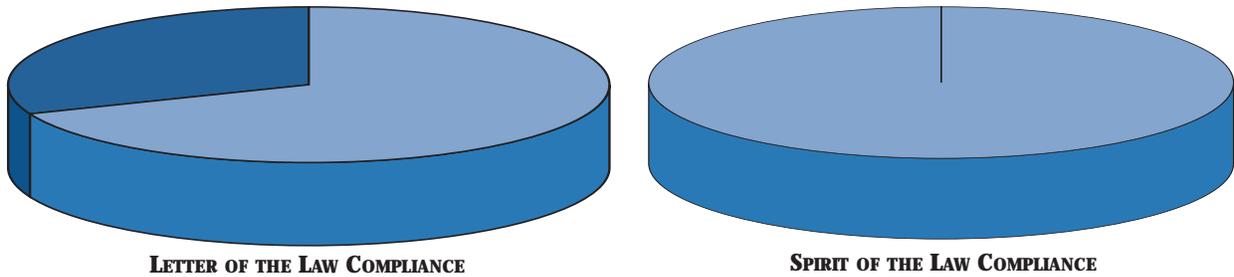
SPIRIT OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE

- 1 Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **28% F**
- 2 Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **97% A**

61 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 23. Spirit Violations: 1.

| Date of Meeting | Time | Number of bills | Type of Violation |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| January 17 | Rise | 1 bill | Letter |
| January 24 | Rise | 1 bill | Letter |
| February 7 | Rise | 12 bills | Letter |
| February 28 | Rise | 23 bills | Letter |
| March 7 | Rise | 17 bills | Letter |
| March 9 | Rise | 15 bills | Letter |
| March 14 | Rise | 23 bills | Letter |
| March 23 | Rise | 22 bills | Letter |
| March 28 | 3:30 p.m. | 19 bills | Letter |
| March 30 (add. I) | Rise | 1 bill | Letter |
| April 10 | Rise | 36 bills | Letter and Spirit |
| April 11 (original, add. I) | Rise | 18 bills | Letter |
| April 12 (original, add. I-IV) | Rise | 23 bills | Letter |
| April 27 | 3:45 p.m. | 2 bills | Letter |
| May 16 | Rise | 16 bills | Letter |
| May 23 (original, add. I) | Rise | 3 bills | Letter |
| June 6 (original, add. I) | Rise | 10 bills | Letter |
| June 13 | Rise | 11 bills | Letter |
| June 15 (original, add. I) | Rise | 2 bills | Letter |
| June 20 | Rise | 23 bills | Letter |
| June 21 (original, add. I-III, V) | Rise | 13 bills | Letter |
| June 22 (original, add. I-IV) | Rise | 10 bills | Letter |
| June 23 (original, add. I) | 1:00 p.m. | 6 bills | Letter |

House Labor: 16 Meetings Total. 5 Meetings In Violation

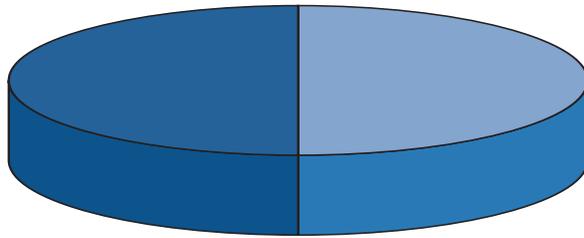


-
- 1 Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **69% D**
 - 2 Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**
-

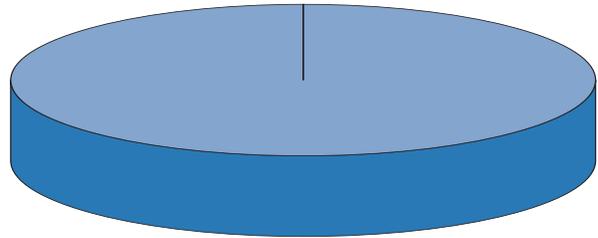
18 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 5. Spirit Violations: 0.

| Date of Meeting | Time | Number of bills | Type of Violation |
|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| June 8 | Rise | 1 bill | Letter |
| June 13 | Rise | 6 bills | Letter |
| June 20 | Rise | 1 bill | Letter |
| June 21 (original, add. 1) | Rise | 2 bills | Letter |
| June 22 | 1:30 p.m. | 1 bill | Letter |

House Rules: 2 Meeting Total. 1 Meetings In Violation.



LETTER OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE



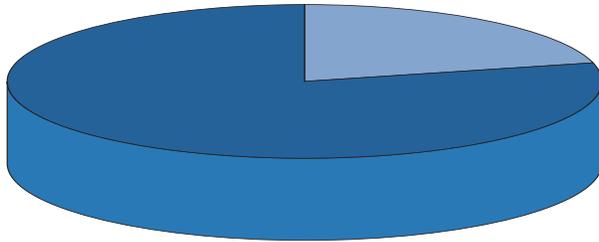
SPIRIT OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE

-
- 1 Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **50% F**
 - 2 Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**
-

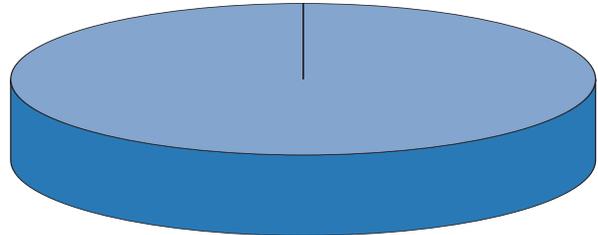
2 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 1. Spirit Violations: 0.

| Date of Meeting | Time | Number of bills | Type of Violation |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| February 8 | Rise | 3 bills | Letter |

House Separation of Powers:
 13 Meetings Total. 10 Meetings in Violation.



LETTER OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE



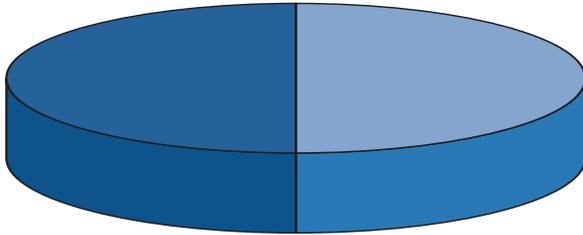
SPIRIT OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE

- ▣1 Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **22% F**
- ▣2 Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

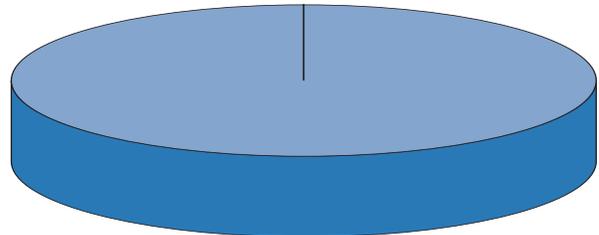
17 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 10. Spirit Violations: 0.

| Date of Meeting | Time | Number of bills | Type of Violation |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| January 26 | Rise | 5 bills | Letter |
| February 9 | Rise | 2 bills | Letter |
| March 7 | Rise | 9 bills | Letter |
| March 14 | Rise | 17 bills | Letter |
| March 23 | Rise | 11 bills | Letter |
| April 12 | 3:30 p.m. | 6 bills | Letter |
| May 18 | Rise | 6 bills | Letter |
| May 23 | Rise | 5 bills | Letter |
| June 6 | Rise | 5 bills | Letter |
| June 22 | 1:30 p.m. | 2 bills | Letter |

House Veterans' Affairs: 2 Meetings Total. 1 Meetings in Violation.



LETTER OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE



SPIRIT OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE

-
- ▣¹ Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **50% F**
 - ▣² Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**
-

3 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 1. Spirit Violations: 0.

| Date of Meeting | Time | Number of bills | Type of Violation |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| June 21 | 3:30 p.m. | 1 bill | Letter |

AVERAGE COMPLIANCE FOR HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEES:

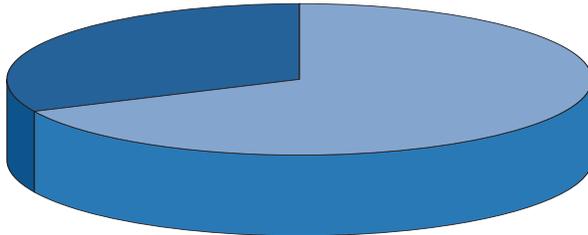
Total Meetings: 239. Total Meetings In Violation: 102.

378 Total Notices. Letter Violations: 102. Spirit Violations: 4.

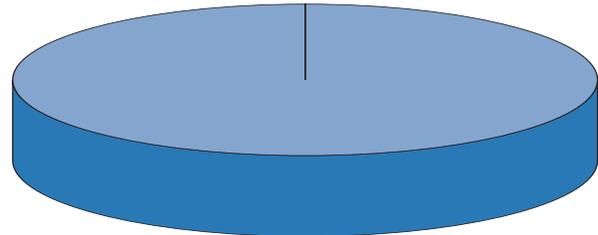
Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **57% F**
 Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **98% A**

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES

Senate Commerce, Housing and Municipal Government:
 18 Meetings Total. 6 Meetings in Violation.



LETTER OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE



SPIRIT OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE

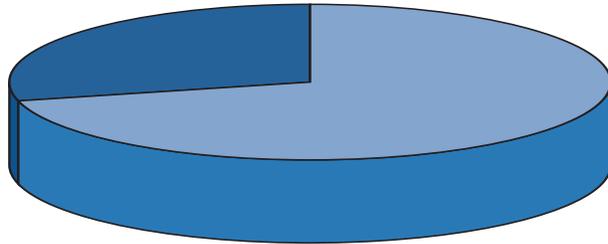
-
- ¹ Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **67% D**
 - ² Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**
-

23 Notices Total. Letter Violations 6. Spirit Violations: 0.

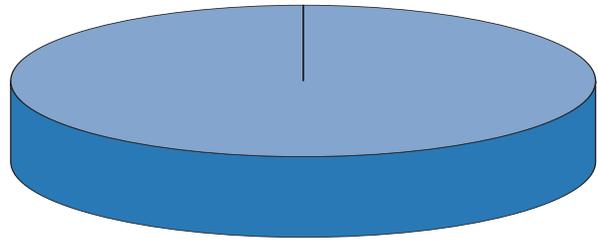
| Date of Meeting | Time | Number of bills | Type of Violation |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| April 25 | 3:30 p.m. | 1 bill | Letter |
| May 2 | 3:30 p.m. | 17 bills | Letter |
| May 23 | 3:30 p.m. | 18 bills | Letter |
| June 15 | 3:30 p.m. | Appointments | Letter |
| June 20 | 3:00 p.m. | 24 bills | Letter |
| June 22 (add. I-II) | 3:00 p.m. | 8 bills | Letter |

Senate Constitutional and Gaming Issues:

14 Meetings Total. 4 Meetings In Violation.



LETTER OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE



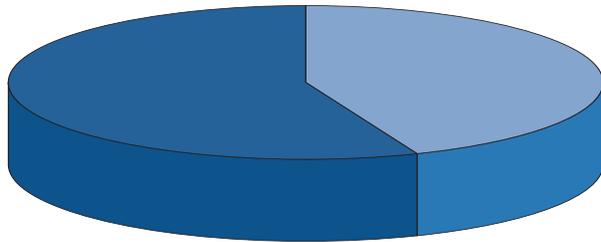
SPIRIT OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE

- 1 Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **71% C**
- 2 Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

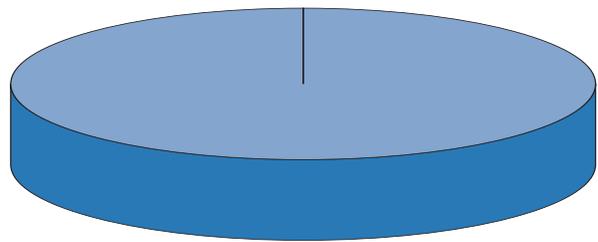
18 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 4. Spirit Violations: 0.

| Date of Meeting | Time | Number of bills | Type of Violation |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| March 15 | 4:30 p.m. | 5 bills | Letter |
| May 17 | 4:15 p.m. | 3 bills | Letter |
| June 7 (add. I) | 4:15 p.m. | 1 bill | Letter |
| June 21 (orig., add. I) | 3:00 p.m. | 12 bills | Letter |

Senate Education: 7 Meetings Total. 4 Violations.



LETTER OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE



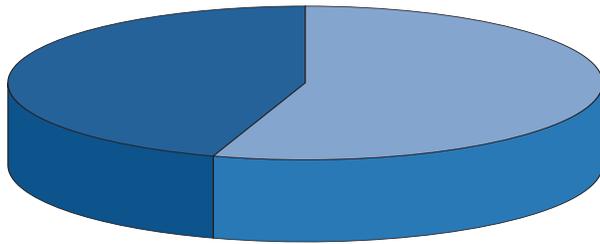
SPIRIT OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE

- ¹ Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **43% F**
- ² Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

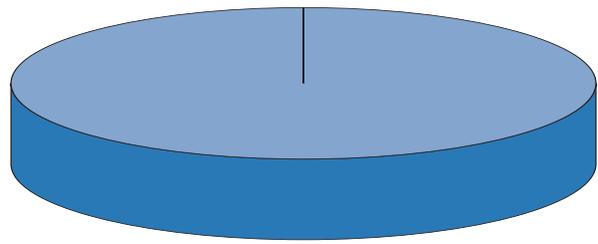
8 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 4. Spirit Violations: 0.

| Date of Meeting | Time | Number of bills | Type of Violation |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| March 29 | 4:15 p.m. | 7 bills | Letter |
| May 3 | 4:15 p.m. | 3 bills | Letter |
| June 15 | 3:45 p.m. | Reappointments | Letter |
| June 21 | 4:15 p.m. | 3 bills | Letter |

Senate Environment and Agriculture: 18 Meetings Total. 8 Meeting In Violation.



LETTER OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE



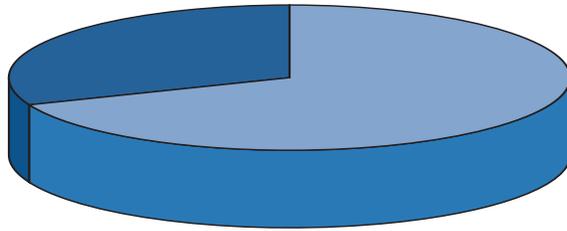
SPIRIT OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE

- 1 Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **56% F**
- 2 Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

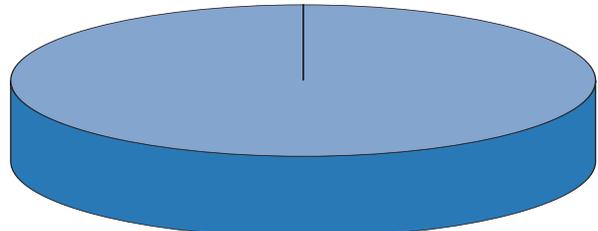
19 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 8. Spirit Violations: 0.

| Date of Meeting | Time | Number of bills | Type of Violation |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| March 8 | 4:45 p.m. | Reappointment | Letter |
| May 17 | 4:30 p.m. | 2 bills | Letter |
| May 24 | 4:15 p.m. | 6 bills | Letter |
| May 31 | 4:15 p.m. | 2 bills | Letter |
| June 14 (original) | 4:30 p.m. | 2 bills | Letter |
| June 21 (orig., add. I) | 3:00 p.m. | 4 bills | Letter |
| June 22 | 5:00 p.m. | 1 bill and appointment | Letter |
| June 23 | 5:30 p.m. | 2 bills | Letter |

Senate Finance: 26 Meetings Total. 8 Meetings In Violation.



LETTER OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE



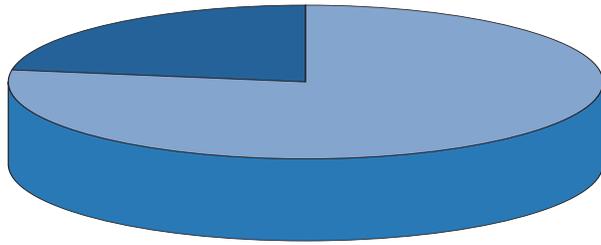
SPIRIT OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE

- ¹ Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **69% D**
- ² Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

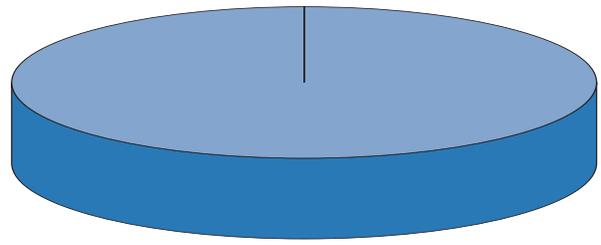
42 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 8. Spirit Violations: 0.

| Date of Meeting | Time | Number of bills | Type of Violation |
|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| March 31 (add. I) | 4:30 p.m. | Articles, 9 bills | Letter |
| May 2 | 4:15 p.m. | 1 bill | Letter |
| May 23 (add. I-III) | 4:15 p.m. | 6 bills | Letter |
| June 8 (original, add. I) | 4:15 p.m. | 4 bills | Letter |
| June 13 | 4:30 p.m. | 12 bills | Letter |
| June 20 (original, add. I) | 3:00 p.m. | 7 bills, appointment: | Letter |
| June 21 (original, add. I) | 4:15 p.m. | 2 bills | Letter |
| June 23 (original, add. I) | 6:00 p.m. | 4 bills | Letter |

Senate Financial Services, Technology, and Regulatory Issues:
 17 Meetings Total. 4 Meetings In Violation.



LETTER OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE



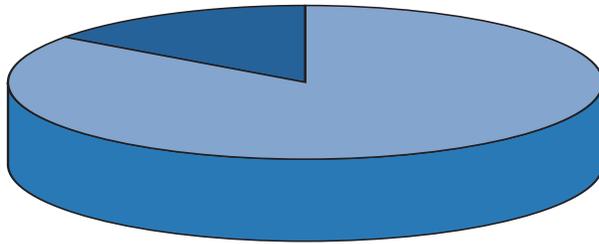
SPIRIT OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE

-
- ▶ 1 Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **77% C**
 - ▶ 2 Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**
-

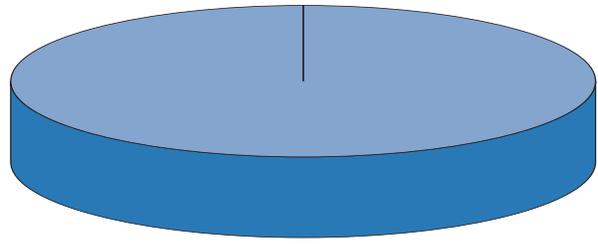
20 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 4. Spirit Violations: 0.

| Date of Meeting | Time | Number of bills | Type of Violation |
|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| March 7 | 4:30 p.m. | Appointments | Letter |
| June 13 | 4:30 p.m. | 5 bills | Letter |
| June 15 | 4:30 p.m. | Appointment | Letter |
| June 20 (original, add. I) | 3:30 p.m. | 6 bills | Letter |

Senate Government Oversight: 7 Meetings Total. 1 Meeting in Violation.



LETTER OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE



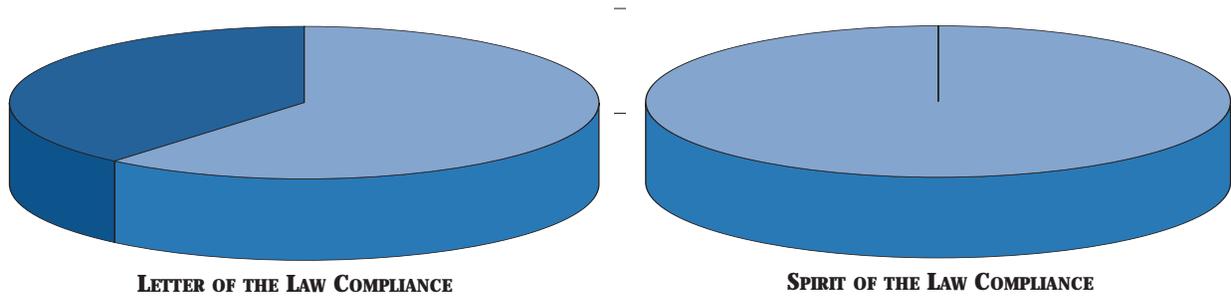
SPIRIT OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE

-
- 1 Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **86% B**
 - 2 Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**
-

11 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 1. Spirit Violations: 0.

| Date of Meeting | Time | Number of bills | Type of Violation |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| June 22 | 3:00 p.m. | 2 bills | Letter |

Senate Health and Human Services: 19 Meetings Total. 7 Meetings In Violation.

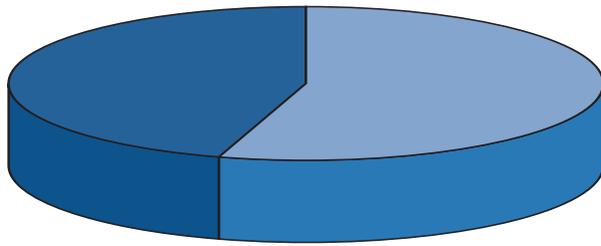


- 1 Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **63% D**
- 2 Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

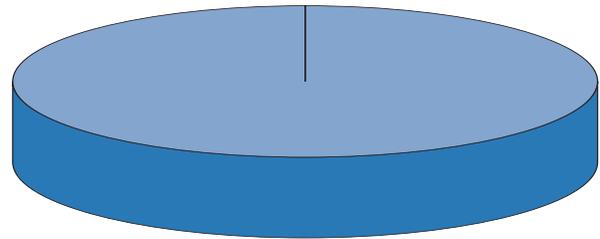
27 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 7. Spirit Violations: 0.

| Date of Meeting | Time | Number of bills | Type of Violation |
|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| March 1 | 4:30 p.m. | 10 bills | Letter |
| March 15 | 4:30 p.m. | 9 bills | Letter |
| March 29 | 4:30 p.m. | 15 bills | Letter |
| April 26 | 4:30 p.m. | 8 bills | Letter |
| May 17 | 3:30 p.m. | 8 bills | Letter |
| June 7 | 4:30 p.m. | 4 bills | Letter |
| June 20 (orig., add. I-II) | 4:15 p.m. | 17 bills | Letter |

Senate Judiciary: 37 Meetings Total. 15 Meetings In Violation.



LETTER OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE



SPIRIT OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE

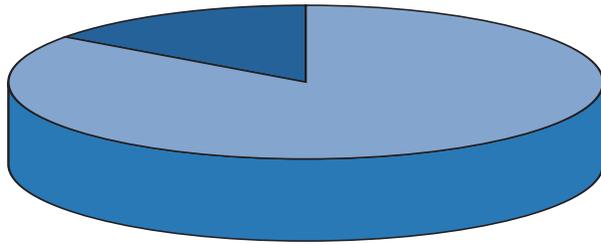


- 1 Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **59% F**
- 2 Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

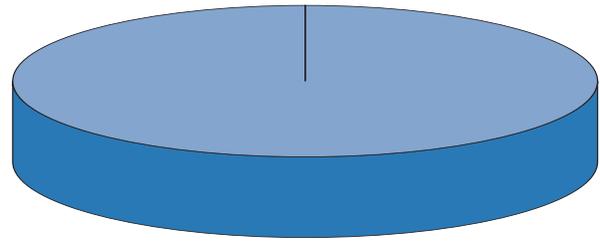
57 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 15. Spirit Violations: 0.

| Date of Meeting | Time | Number of bills | Type of Violation |
|-----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| January 12 | 4:30 p.m. | Appointment | Letter |
| March 9 | 4:30 p.m. | 18 bills | Letter |
| March 23 | 5:00 p.m. | Appointment | Letter |
| April 11 | 4:15 p.m. | 1 bill | Letter |
| May 2 | 4:15 p.m. | Appointment/6 bills | Letter |
| May 11 (add. I+II) | 4:30 p.m. | 5 bills | Letter |
| May 23 | 3:00 p.m. | 18 bills | Letter |
| May 23 | 4:30 p.m. | 1 bill | Letter |
| May 25 (add. I) | 4:15 p.m. | 1 bill | Letter |
| June 8 | 4:30 p.m. | 4 bills | Letter |
| June 13 | 4:30 p.m. | 5 bills | Letter |
| June 20 (orig., add. I) | 3:00 p.m. | 21 bills | Letter |
| June 21 (orig., add. I, II) | 4:15 p.m. | 17 bills | Letter |
| June 22 (orig., add. I) | 3:00 p.m. | 11 bills | Letter |
| June 23 | 2:45 p.m. | 3 bills | Letter |

Senate Labor: 14 Meetings Total. 2 Meetings In Violation.



LETTER OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE



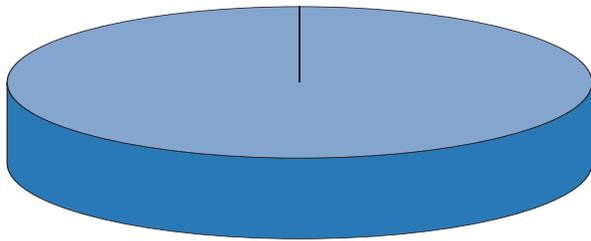
SPIRIT OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE

- 1 Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **86% B**
- 2 Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

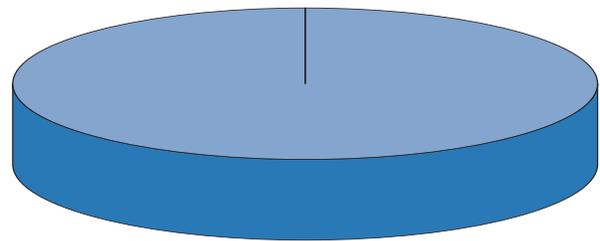
17 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 2. Spirit Violations: 0.

| Date of Meeting | Time | Number of bills | Type of Violation |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| January 26 | 3:00 p.m. | 3 bills | Letter |
| June 22 | 3:45 p.m. | 1 bill | Letter |

Senate Rules: 1 Meetings Total. 0 Meetings in Violation.



LETTER OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE



SPIRIT OF THE LAW COMPLIANCE

- 1 Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **100% A**
- 2 Compliance with Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

1 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 0. Spirit Violations: 0

AVERAGE COMPLIANCE BY SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES:

Total Meetings: 178. Total Meetings In Violation: 59.

Total Notices: 243.

Letter Violations: 59. Spirit Violations: 0.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **67% D**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

JOINT COMMITTEES:

Economic Development: 3 Meetings Total. No Meetings in Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **100% A**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

4 Notices Total. No Violations.

Establish Permanent Education Foundation Aid: 8 Meetings Total. 2 Meetings in Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **75% C**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

8 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 2. Spirit Violations: 0.

| Date of Meeting | Time | Number of bills | Type of Violation |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| January 10 | Rise | Discussion | Letter |
| May 2 | Rise | Discussion of RFPs | Letter |

Health Care Oversight: 6 Meetings Total. No Meetings In Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **100% A**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

8 Notices Total. No Violations.

Highway Safety: 3 Meetings Total. 1 Meeting In Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **67% D**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

3 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 1. Spirit Violations: 0.

| Date of Meeting | Time | Number of bills | Type of Violation |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| May 17 | 2:30 p.m. | 8 bills | Letter |

Legislative Services (JCLS): 1 Meeting Total. No Meetings In Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **100% A**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

1 Notice Total. No Violations.

State Lottery: 8 Meetings Total. 2 Meetings in Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **75% C**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

10 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 2. Spirit Violations: 0.

**AVERAGE COMPLIANCE FOR ALL COMMITTEES FOR THE 2005
LEGISLATIVE SESSION:**

Total Meetings: 466. Total Meetings In Violation: 166.

Total Notices: 655.

Letter Violations: 166. Spirit Violations: 4.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **63% D**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **99% A**

SECTIONS FROM THE GENERAL LAWS OF RHODE ISLAND, THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE RULES OF THE SENATE PERTAINING TO PUBLIC MEETING NOTICES

Rhode Island General Law 42-46-6. Notice.

- (a) All public bodies shall give written notice of their regular scheduled meetings at the beginning of each calendar year. The notice shall include the dates, times, and places of the meetings and shall be provided to members of the public upon request.
- (b) Public bodies shall give supplemental written public notice of any meeting within a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours before the date. This notice shall include the date the notice was posted, the date, time and place of the meeting, and a statement specifying the nature of the business to be discussed. Copies of the notice shall be maintained by the public body for a minimum of one year. Nothing contained herein shall prevent a public body, other than a school committee, from adding additional items to the agenda by majority vote of the members. Such additional items shall be for informational purposes only and may not be voted on except where necessary to address an unexpected occurrence that requires immediate action to protect the public or to refer the matter to an appropriate committee or to another body or official.
- (c) Written public notice shall include, but need not be limited to posting a copy of the notice at the principal office of the public body holding the meeting, or if no principal office exists, at the building in which the meeting is to be held, and in at least one other prominent place within the governmental unit; provided, that in the case of school committees the required public notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district under the committee's jurisdiction; however, ad hoc committees, sub committees and advisory committees of school committees shall not be required to publish notice in a newspaper; however, nothing contained herein shall prevent a public body from holding an emergency meeting, upon an affirmative vote of the majority of the members of the body when the meeting is deemed necessary to address an unexpected occurrence that requires immediate action to protect the public. If an emergency meeting is called, a meeting notice and agenda shall be posted as soon as practicable and, upon meeting, the public body shall state for the record and minutes why the matter must be addressed in less than forty-eight (48) hours and only discuss the issue or issues which created the need for an emergency meeting. Nothing contained herein shall be used in the circumvention of the spirit and requirements of this chapter.
- (d) A school committee may add agenda items not appearing in the published notice required by this section under the following conditions:
- (1) The revised agenda is posted on the school district's website

- and the two (2) public locations required by this section at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting;
- (2) The new agenda items were unexpected and could not have been added in time for newspaper publication;
- (3) Upon meeting, the public body states for the record and minutes why the agenda items could not have been added in time for newspaper publication and need to be addressed at the meeting;
- (4) A formal process is available to provide timely notice of the revised agenda to any person who has requested that notice, and the school district has taken reasonable steps to make the public aware of this process; and
- (5) The published notice shall include a statement that any changes in the agenda will be posted on the school district's web site and the two (2) public locations required by this section at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.
- (G.L. 1956, § 42-46-6; P.L. 1976, ch. 330, § 2; P.L. 1981, ch. 182, § 1; P.L. 1984, ch. 372, § 1; P.L. 1988, ch. 659, § 1; P.L. 1998, ch. 379, § 1; P.L. 2001, ch. 360, § 1.)

Rule 32(c) of the Rules of the House of Representatives

(c) The Chair of every committee shall post, in print or and electronically, at least two (2) days prior to any committee meeting, a list by number and title of the bills and resolutions to be heard at that meeting. The Chair shall limit such listings to the number of bills or resolutions he or she reasonably expects can be taken up by the committee at that meeting. Any bill or resolution so posted which the committee is not able to take up at the stated meeting must be re-posted as stated above and shall be placed at the top of such subsequent posted list. Such postings shall be made electronically or and on the House bulletin board. Copies of all posted bills or resolutions shall be provided in print or and electronically to all committee members and principal sponsors. A committee shall not hear any said bill or resolution without such notice except by the consent of a majority of its members and with at least one (1) day's notification to the principal sponsor. The sponsor may, however, waive such one-day notification.

Senate Rule 6.2 Committee Agenda -- Posting.

At least two (2) days before any standing committee meeting, a committee agenda containing the number, title and a short explanation of the bill to be considered must be placed on the bulletin boards provided for such agenda, and a copy placed on the desk of each senator. The rule shall not apply to bills previously passed by the senate and amended by the house. There shall be at least two bulletin boards for such posting, at least one of which shall be for the public's use and shall be under the control and situated at the main entrance to the state library. There shall also be at least

one bulletin board for the exclusive use of the senators which shall be situated in a convenient location. For the purpose of this section 6.2 only, all Mondays and days of recess during the session of the general assembly (exclusive of Saturdays and Sundays) shall be considered legislative days.