



2024 New England Legislative Session Highlights

*Higher Education Legislation Sponsored or Co-Sponsored by
NEBHE Legislative Advisory Committee Members*

Overview: This document provides a non-exhaustive list of higher education legislation that recently passed or is currently under consideration by the legislatures of the six New England states as of February 23, 2024. It was prepared by members of the Policy and Research team of the New England Board of Higher Education for members of the Legislative Advisory Committee (LAC) in advance of the Spring Meeting. For a detailed explanation of bill inclusion criteria and search methods, please see the report Appendix.

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Connecticut

Connecticut LAC Members:

- Senator Mae Flexer
- Representative Gregg Haddad
- Representative Dominique Johnson
- Representative Corey Paris
- Representative Kara Rochelle
- Representative Manny Sanchez
- Senator Derek Slap
- Representative Gary Turco

Key: The names of LAC members appear in **bold**.

Connecticut General Assembly	
H.B. 5113	<p>An Act Increasing the Highest Marginal Rate of the Personal Income Tax and Establishing a Capital Gains Surcharge to Provide Funding for Certain Child-related, Municipal and Higher Education Initiatives</p> <p>Sponsors: Turco, Elliott, Arnone, Brown, Candelaria, Chafee, Demicco, Denning, Doucette, Farrar, Felipe, Hughes, Johnson, Keitt, Lemar, Michel, Sanchez</p> <p>To increase certain personal income tax marginal rates and establish a capital gains surcharge to provide funding for a child tax credit, a mill rate cap and municipal reimbursements for such cap and support of certain higher education programs and institutions.</p>
H.B. 5126	<p>An Act Concerning Postsecondary Opportunities in the State</p> <p>Sponsor: Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee</p> <p>To study postsecondary education opportunities in the state.</p>
H.B. 5127	<p>An Act Requiring a Needs Assessment for the Delivery of Postsecondary Education in Prisons</p> <p>Sponsor: Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee</p>

	<p>To require the Department of Correction to conduct a needs assessment of the facilities, materials and staffing required for the delivery of postsecondary education programs in correctional institutions.</p>
<p>H.B. 5128</p>	<p>An Act Requiring Disclosure of Scholarship Displacement Policies at Institutions of Higher Education</p> <p>Sponsor: Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee</p> <p>To require each institution of higher education to disclose its scholarship displacement policies.</p>
<p>H.B. 5129</p>	<p>An Act Concerning Substance-Free Housing on College Campuses</p> <p>Sponsor: Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee</p> <p>To require institutions of higher education to provide options for substance-free housing on campus.</p>
<p>H.B. 5239</p>	<p>An Act on Expanding the Connecticut Collegiate Awareness and Preparation Program</p> <p>Sponsor: Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee</p> <p>To make nonprofit organizations that provide collegiate awareness and preparation programs eligible for grants, establish an earlier application deadline and a one-year award period, and increase funding for the Connecticut collegiate awareness and preparation program.</p> <p>Public hearing scheduled for 2/29/24</p>
<p>S.B. 2</p>	<p>An Act Concerning Artificial Intelligence</p> <p>Sponsors: Looney, Duff, Anwar, Cabrera, Flexer, Gaston, Hartley, Hochadel, Kushner, Lesser, Maher, McCrory, Miller, Moore, Needleman, Osten, Rahman, Slap, Winfield</p>

	<p>That the general statutes be amended to increase funding to (1) the Office of the Attorney General to increase efforts to protect consumers from the use of artificial intelligence, (2) the Technology Talent Advisory Committee for training initiatives, (3) the Board of Regents for Higher Education to expand its community college seminar programs for workers offered under section 10a-80 of the general statutes, and (4) Regional Education Service Centers for the purpose of providing training to school districts regarding the use of artificial intelligence in schools.</p> <p>Public hearing scheduled for 02/29/24</p>
<p>S.B. 113</p>	<p>An Act Concerning Funding for State Colleges and Universities</p> <p>Sponsors: Flexer, Haddad</p> <p>That the following sums be appropriated from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025: One hundred sixty million dollars to the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, and ninety million dollars to the University of Connecticut...to appropriate funds to the state colleges and universities to mitigate pending cuts and stop approved tuition increases.</p> <p>Referred to Joint Committee on Appropriations as of 2/15/2024</p>
<p>S.B. 203</p>	<p>An Act Concerning the Consideration of Familial Relationship During the Admissions Process by An Institution of Higher Education</p> <p>Sponsor: Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee</p> <p>To prohibit consideration by an institution of higher education of a prospective student's familial relationship to a graduate of such institution during the admissions process.</p> <p>Public hearing scheduled for 2/29/24</p>

Maine

Maine LAC Members:

- Senator Mattie Daughtry
- Representative Rebecca Millett
- Senator Marianne Moore
- Representative Kelly (Noonan) Murphy
- Senator Teresa Pierce
- Representative Holly Sargent

Key: The names of LAC members appear in **bold**.

Maine State Legislature	
HB 1386	<p>An Act to Establish a Grant Program to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder</p> <p>Sponsors: Millett, Brennan, Crafts, Dodge, Kuhn, Lee, Murphy, Osher</p> <p>This bill establishes a grant program in the Department of Education to increase postsecondary educational opportunities and support employability for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder.</p> <p>Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs as of 1/16/2024</p>
HB 1364	<p>An Act to Enact the Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact</p> <p>Sponsors: Crafts, Dhalac, Doudera, Kuhn, Murphy, Talbot Ross</p> <p>This bill proposes to enact the Social Work Licensure Compact to facilitate the interstate practice of regulated social workers by improving public access to competent social work services.</p> <p>Referred to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services as of 1/9/2024</p>
LD 820	<p>An Act to Bolster Maine's Workforce and Economy by Increasing Assistance for Parents</p>

	<p>Pursuing Education and Employment and by Indexing Unemployment Benefits to the Unemployment Rate</p> <p>Sponsors: Stewart, Baldacci, Moore, Babin, Javner</p> <p>This bill increases from up to \$2,000,000 to at least \$5,000,000 the amount of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant funds the Department of Health and Human Services is required to provide to community action agencies to assist parents with children as the parents pursue stable employment or education intended to lead to employment.</p> <p>Reported out as of 1/30/24</p>
<p>LD 2166</p>	<p>An Act to Establish a Grant Program to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder</p> <p>Sponsor: Millett</p> <p>The Inclusive Higher Education Grant Program is established in the department to support postsecondary educational opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder. Under the grant program, the department shall award competitive grants to institutions of higher education in the State to develop and implement pilot programs that offer inclusive higher education.</p> <p>Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs as of 1/16/24</p>

Massachusetts

Massachusetts LAC Members:

- Representative Sean Garballey
- Representative Patricia Haddad
- Senator Marc Pacheco
- Representative Dave Rogers
- Representative Jeffrey Roy

Key: The names of LAC members appear in **bold**.

Massachusetts State Legislature	
H.B. 1260	<p>An Act Committing to Higher Education the Resources to Insure a Strong and Healthy Public Higher Education System</p> <p>Sponsors: Garballey, Duffy</p> <p>This bill creates a path for debt-free college completion for all students.</p> <p>Reporting date 3/1/2024</p>
H.B. 1261	<p>An Act Improving Access to Affordable Higher Education</p> <p>Sponsors: Garballey, Vargas</p> <p>The Department of Higher Education shall review programs of financial aid for students attending public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth, including grants, tuition waivers and loan programs. Based on the review, the department shall make recommendations, including legislation, for a comprehensive redesign and reform of the financial aid system to increase student access to higher education, improve affordability of higher education for students and families, and reduce opportunity and achievement gaps among students, particularly for students of color and disadvantaged populations.</p>
H.B. 1262	<p>An Act Relative to Community College Affordability</p> <p>Sponsors: Garballey, Comerford, Elliot</p>

	Proposes tuition and fee waivers for students attending community colleges for non-state-supported courses including summer session, evening classes, and online courses.
H.B. 1285 / S.B. 812	<p>An Act Establishing a Fund to Further Educational Opportunities for Caregivers to Adults with Disabilities</p> <p>Sponsors: Barrett, Garballey, Rogers</p> <p>A petition for legislation to establish a fund to further educational opportunities for caregivers to adults with disabilities.</p>
H.B. 1257	<p>An Act Relative to Tuition Waivers for Children Raised by a Grandparent or Other Relative</p> <p>Sponsors: Donato, Garballey</p> <p>The program provides tuition and fee waivers for any resident of the Commonwealth who is living with a grandparent or other relative, including any person related by consanguinity, marriage or affinity except for a parent.</p>
S.B. 846	<p>An Act Relative to UMass Tuition Credit</p> <p>Sponsors: Pacheco, Doherty</p> <p>Amends sections of Chapter 75 pertaining to the value of tuition credit and specific details on tuition waivers.</p> <p>Discharged to the committee on Senate Rules as of 2/15/24</p>
H.B. 1286	<p>An Act Relative to College in High School</p> <p>Sponsors: Roy, Lipper-Garabedian</p> <p>Petitions that institutions of higher education develop written policies and procedures for accepting course credit from Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate coursework to satisfy degree requirements.</p> <p>Reporting date 3/1/2024</p>
S.B. 334	An Act Expanding High School Student Access to Earn Industry-Recognized Credentials

	<p>Sponsors: Oliveria, Roy, Barrett</p> <p>Provides funding to students who earn an industry-recognized certification for an occupation that has high employment value or an industry recognized certification that is recognized by any public institution of higher learning.</p>
<p>H.B. 564</p>	<p>An Act Incentivizing the Awarding of Industry-Recognized Credentials</p> <p>Sponsors: Roy et al.</p> <p>Delivers a monetary payment to students who earn an industry-recognized certification that has high employment value.</p> <p>Accompanied a new draft (H4399) as of 2/20/24</p>
<p>H.B. 4399</p>	<p>An Act to Expand Access to Career Technical Education and Other Alternative Pathways that Improve Student Opportunities and Outcomes</p> <p>Sponsor: Joint Committee on Education</p> <p>The office shall collaborate with recognized industry credential providers to develop state-customized credentials to measure career readiness through skill assessments appropriate to each tier of career technical education (primarily related to K-12 education).</p> <p>Referred to the Committee on House Ways and Means as of 2/20/24</p>

New Hampshire

New Hampshire LAC Members:

- Representative Glenn Cordelli
- Senator Donovan Fenton
- Representative Oliver Ford
- Representative Cam Kenney
- Representative Rick Ladd
- Senator Timothy Lang
- Representative Mel Myler
- Senator Ruth Ward
- Senator David Watters

Key: The names of LAC members appear in **bold**.

New Hampshire General Court	
H.B. 1066	<p>An Act Relative to the Graduation Requirement of Filing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)</p> <p>Sponsors: Noble, Raymond, Mannion, Drye, Quaratiello, Ladd, Foxx, Cordelli, Lang</p> <p>This bill changes the requirement for school districts, public academies, and chartered public schools to provide information to students on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and repeals the reporting requirement on the number of students provided in-person school assistance on completing the FAFSA.</p> <p>Passed in the House; Due out of Senate Education Committee 3/21/24</p>
H.B. 1305	<p>An Act Relative to Freedom of Speech and Association at Public Institutions of Higher Education</p> <p>Sponsors: Popovici-Muller, McDonnell, Lynn, Read, Wheeler, Alexander, Turcotte, Cordelli, Lang, Murphy, Birdsell</p> <p>This bill creates a set of policies for expressive activity on public college campuses involving students, administrators, faculty, and staff at the institution of higher education, and their invited guests, and contains new language with</p>

	<p>respect to membership in student organizations. It also creates a new set of remedies for individuals or organizations who assert themselves to have been aggrieved by violations of the policies.</p> <p>Due out of House Education Committee 3/21/24</p>
<p>H.B. 1288</p>	<p>An Act Relative to Establishing Certain Due Process Rights for Students, Student Organizations, and Faculty Members Facing Disciplinary Actions by State Institutions of Higher Learning</p> <p>Sponsors: Lynn, Cordelli, Ammon</p> <p>The purpose of this chapter is to establish for students, student organizations, and faculty members of publicly funded New Hampshire colleges and universities the right to certain due process protections when disciplinary proceedings are brought against them by such institutions.</p>
<p>H.B. 1167</p>	<p>An Act Relative to the Math Learning Communities Program</p> <p>Sponsor: Ladd</p> <p>This bill revises the student assessment criteria for the math learning communities program in public secondary schools and provides that the program may include algebra II, course II quantitative reasoning, or another determined college-level math course.</p> <p>The bill is a request of the community college system of New Hampshire.</p> <p>Passed in the House; due out of Senate Education Committee 3/21/24</p>
<p>H.B. 1450</p>	<p>An Act Relative to Establishing a Commission on Higher Education Consolidation</p> <p>Sponsor: Ladd, Gray</p> <p>This bill establishes a commission on higher education consolidation to develop a plan for the strategic alignment of the community</p>

	<p>college system and the university system of New Hampshire.</p> <p>Due out of House Education Committee 3/21/24</p>
S.B. 334	<p>An Act Relative to Providing for the Issuance of Bonds and Other Obligations by the Business Finance Authority of the State of New Hampshire to Finance Student Loans</p> <p>Sponsors: Innis, Lang, Potucek, Rock</p> <p>This bill includes the business finance authority of the state of New Hampshire as an entity authorized to issue bonds and other obligations to finance student loans.</p> <p>Passed in Commerce Committee</p>
S.B. 456	<p>An Act Relative to Establishing a Nurse Retention School Loan Debt Relief Program</p> <p>Sponsors: Gannon, Perkins Kwoka, Watters, Lang, Bradley, Pearl, Avard, Carson, Ward, Fenton, Pearson, Rock, Walsh</p> <p>This bill establishes a nurse retention school loan debt relief program in the Department of Health and Human Services. The bill also establishes a dedicated fund and makes an appropriation to the fund for this purpose.</p> <p>Ought to Pass; Senate Floor Date 3/7/24</p>
S.B. 376	<p>An Act Relative to Establishing a Corrections Education and Vocational Planning Group</p> <p>Sponsors: Watters, Perkins Kwoka, Soucy, D'Allesandro, Fenton, Ward, Whitley, Carson, Pearl, Rosenwald, Chandley</p> <p>This bill establishes a corrections education and vocational planning group.</p> <p>Passed in the Senate with Amendment as of 1/16/24</p>
S.B. 441	<p>An Act Relative to Establishing an Advisory Group to Examine Potential Funding Sources for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Construction and Renovation</p>

	<p>Sponsors: Watters, Fenton, D'Allesandro, Gendreau</p> <p>This bill creates an advisory group to study current and possible funding sources for career and technical education (CTE) construction and renovation.</p> <p>Passed in the Senate as of 1/16/24</p>
S.B. 517	<p>An Act Relative to The Employment Status Of University Students Working In Educational Programs</p> <p>Sponsors: Gannon, Watters, D'Allesandro, Innis, Ricciardi, Gendreau, Piemonte, Rock, Hobson, Ford, Weyler</p> <p>This bill adds university students working in educational programs to the definition of employee.</p>
S.B. 106	<p>An Act Establishing an Emerging Professional Certificate For Childcare Programs</p> <p>Sponsors: Fenton, Ward</p> <p>This bill creates emerging professional certificates and the requirements and rulemaking authority for the Department of Health and Human Services to issue such certificates.</p> <p>Signed by Governor, effective 2/21/24</p>
S.B. 339	<p>An Act Relative to Repealing the Graduation Requirement Regarding Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Applications</p> <p>Sponsors: Murphy, Ward, Carson, Innis, Pearl, Cordelli, Osborne, Rock, McGuire</p> <p>This bill removes the requirement that students file a free application for federal student aid form (FAFSA) or a waiver for such form prior to graduation.</p> <p>Passed in Committee with Amendment</p>
S.B. 217	<p>An Act Establishing a Rural And Underserved Area Educator Incentive Program for Higher</p>

	<p>Education and Making an Appropriation Therefor</p> <p>Sponsors: Fenton, Whitley, Innis, Rosenwald, Soucy, Perkins Kwoka, Watters, Chandley, Cordelli, Myler, Carr, Hills, Wheeler</p> <p>Rural and underserved area educators who are employed at schools identified...shall be eligible for repayment of all or part of any such educator's outstanding educational loans existing at the time of application in accordance with the eligibility and award criteria established.</p> <p>Passed Senate with Amendment</p>
<p>S.B. 500</p>	<p>An Act Establishing a Primary Care Provider Loan Repayment Program and Making an Appropriation Therefor.</p> <p>Sponsors: Perkins Kwoka, Fenton</p> <p>The Department of Health and Human Services shall establish and administer a primary care provider loan assistance program. The program shall provide student loan repayment assistance to eligible primary care providers in New Hampshire.</p> <p>In Senate Health and Human Services Committee; Floor Date 3/7/24</p>
<p>S.B. 528</p>	<p>An Act Relative to Trustees of the University System</p> <p>Sponsors: Gray, Ladd</p> <p>This bill revises the procedure for selecting the student members of the university system board of trustees and removes the member elected by the alumni of Granite State College.</p> <p>Passed Senate with Amendment as of 1/18/24</p>

Rhode Island

Rhode Island LAC Members:

- Senator Lou DiPalma
- Senator Hanna Gallo
- Representative Joshua Giraldo
- Representative Carol Hagan McEntee
- Representative William O'Brien
- Representative June Speakman

Key: The names of LAC members appear in **bold**.

Rhode Island General Assembly	
H.B. 7308	<p>An Act Relating to Education—Maintenance of Order on Campus</p> <p>Sponsors: O'Brien, Dawson, Serpa, Craven, Noret, Azzarino, Hull, Phillips, Kennedy, Bennett</p> <p>Mandates arming campus police at public higher educational institutions and includes campus police in the definition of "law enforcement officer" for the purposes of the "Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights."</p> <p>In House Judiciary Committee; hearing on 2/27/24</p>
H.B. 7544	<p>An Act Relating to Education—Rhode Island Promise Scholarship—Rhode Island Hope Scholarship Pilot Program</p> <p>Sponsors: Azzinaro, Kennedy, Corvese, Solomon, Casey, Lima, O'Brien, Ackerman, McNamara</p> <p>Extends the time for which a student may enroll in order to qualify for the Promise Scholarship or the Hope Scholarship up to one year after high school graduation.</p> <p>In House Finance Committee as of 2/7/24</p>
H.B. 7251	<p>An Act Relating to Education—Rhode Island Early Childhood Educator Compensation Stabilization Act</p>

	<p>Sponsors: Donovan, Fogarty, Speakman, Spears, Caldwell, Handy, Diaz, McNamara, Potter, Cotter</p> <p>Directs the Departments of Human Services and Education to work together to sustain and strengthen existing workforce development and compensation programs for educators working in licensed childcare and early learning programs statewide.</p> <p>In House Finance Committee as of 1/19/24</p>
<p>H.B. 7253/S.B. 2290</p>	<p>An Act Relating to Education—Higher Education Opportunities for Students with Disabilities</p> <p>Sponsors: Cortvriend, Carson, Bennett, Spears, Knight, Kislak, Speakman, Caldwell, Handy, McNamara; DiMario, Bissailon, Lauria, Zurier, DiPalma, Euer, Lawson, Cano, Valverde, Kallman</p> <p>Establishes the Higher Education Opportunities for Students with Disabilities Act.</p> <p>In House Finance Committee as of 1/19/24 / referred to Senate Education Committee on 2/12/24</p>
<p>H.B. 7355/S.B. 2289</p>	<p>An Act Relating to Education—Council on Postsecondary Education</p> <p>Sponsors: Speakman, Carson, Henries, Knight, Alzate, Donovan, Morales, Caldwell, Ajello, Tanzi; Cano, Acosta, Mack, Valverde, DiPalma</p> <p>Prohibits colleges and universities from withholding a student's transcript due to the student failing to pay any expenses owed to the college or university but permits the withholding of a student's academic credits and grades or diploma or degree.</p> <p>In House Education Committee as of 1/31/24 / referred to Senate Education Committee as of 2/12/24</p>

H.B. 7670	<p>An Act Relative to Education—The College Crusade Scholarship</p> <p>Sponsors: Messier, Giraldo, Diaz, Fellela, Baginski, Biah, Slater, McNamara</p> <p>Changes the name of The College Crusade Scholarship to the Onward We Learn Scholarship and provides that those scholarships would not be considered federal or financial aid with regard to the Promise Scholarship or Hope Scholarship Pilot Program.</p> <p>Referred to House Finance Committee on 2/15/24</p>
S.B. 2334	<p>An Act Relating to Education—Postsecondary Tuition Assistance for Shortage Teaching Fields</p> <p>Sponsors: Acosta, Pearson, Mack, Gallo, DiPalma, DiMario, Felag, Murray, Ciccone, Valverde</p> <p>Creates a postsecondary tuition assistance for shortage teaching fields.</p> <p>Referred to Senate Finance Committee on 2/12/24</p>

Vermont

Vermont LAC Members:

- Representative Scott Beck
- Senator Thomas Chittenden
- Representative Peter Conlon
- Representative Kathleen James
- Representative Stephanie Jerome
- Representative Carol Ode

Key: The names of LAC members appear in **bold**.

Vermont General Assembly	
H.716	<p>An Act Relating to Career and Technical Education</p> <p>Sponsors: Marcotte, Jerome</p> <p>This bill proposes to make changes to Vermont's career and technical education (CTE) system, including requiring the Vermont State Colleges Corporation to maintain program and course articulation agreements with all secondary CTE centers in certain programs. To promote a seamless pathway from CTE to postsecondary opportunities, the Vermont State Colleges Corporation shall maintain program and course articulation agreements with all secondary CTE centers in the following programs: (1) manufacturing; (2) engineering; (3) health sciences; and (4) education.</p> <p>Referred to the Committee on Education as of 1/10/2024</p>
H. 739	<p>An Act Related to Raising Awareness of Military-Related Postsecondary Opportunities</p> <p>Co-Sponsors: Beck, Ode</p> <p>The [Vermont Student Assistance] Corporation shall include information regarding all military-related options available for postsecondary planning and financial aid opportunities in all planning resources it produces.</p>

	Referred to Committee on Education as of 1/11/24
S. 116	<p>An Act Relating to the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College</p> <p>Co-Sponsor: Chittenden</p> <p>Adds two faculty members to the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College.</p> <p>Senate Floor Action on 3/2/24</p>
S. 134	<p>An Act Relating to Requiring Legislative Approval Prior to Closing or Reducing the Size or Scope of any Vermont State College Library</p> <p>Co-Sponsor: Chittenden</p> <p>This bill proposes to prohibit the Vermont State Colleges from closing or reducing in size or scope the operation of the physical libraries on any of their campuses without legislative approval. It would also prohibit the Vermont State Colleges from reducing the number of positions, employees, or employee hours assigned to the operation or support of their libraries below the numbers in effect on January 1, 2023 without legislative approval.</p> <p>Senate Floor Action on 3/17/24</p>

Appendix: Methodology

Criteria for bill inclusion:

- The bill was being deliberated upon during the current legislative session (2024).
- The bill was sponsored or co-sponsored by a NEBHE Legislative Advisory Committee member.
- The bill was specifically related to higher education.
- The bill status was pending, passed, enacted, etc. (excluded failed legislation).

Search terms used:

- education
- higher education
- postsecondary
- credential
- scholarship
- internship
- apprenticeship
- career technical education/CTE
- vocation/vocational
- college
- university

State Legislature Websites Referenced:

- Connecticut - <https://www.cga.ct.gov/>
- Maine - <https://legislature.maine.gov/>
- Massachusetts - <https://malegislature.gov/>
- New Hampshire - <https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/>
- Rhode Island - <https://www.rilegislature.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>
- Vermont - <https://legislature.vermont.gov/>