



Member Focused; Results Driven

RHODE ISLAND FOOD DEALERS ASSOCIATION
*** JULY 2012 - OCTOBER 2012 MEETINGS & ANNUAL EVENTS * 2012 RIFDA CONVENTION THANK YOU* RHODE ISLAND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ***

2012 RIFDA Convention Thank You
June 21 - June 24, 2012
Ocean Edge Resort & Golf Club Brewster, MA

Mark your Calendars 2012 July - October Meetings and Annual Events

- July 4, 2012 Office is closed
- July 11, 2012 Legislative Comm Meeting
- July 25, 2012 Exec Comm Meeting @ 7:30am
- August 9, 2012 RIFDA PAC Event
- August 13, 2012 Victory Day Holiday – Office Closed
- August 22, 2012 BOD 3rd Quarter Meeting
- August 23, 2012 WIC Meeting @ 9:30
- September 3, 2012 Columbus Day - Office Closed
- September 10, 2012 RIFDA Charity Golf Event
- September 12, 2012 Sen. Reed Trip to Washington
- September 19, 2012 Exec Comm Meeting
- October 4, 2012 RIFDA PAC Networking Evening
- October 8, 2012 Office Closed - Columbus Day
- October 10, 2012 Food Safety Comm Meeting
- October 17, 2012 Exec Comm Meeting
- October 18, 2012 WIC Meeting 9:30am - tentative
- October 31, 2012 Legislative Comm Meeting
- December 1, 2012 Annual Meeting & Holiday Gala



Thank you for attending the 2012 RIFDA Convention. The outstanding weather provided for a great opportunity for the member events, including a unique bonfire on the beach. The food was delicious, the camaraderie was relaxed and the atmosphere was fun and friendly. Once again this proved to be a very successful event. Thank You!

RI Legislative Update

As most of you are aware the RI General Assembly recessed on Wednesday, June 13, 2012 and no return date is planned at this time. The next session will begin on Tuesday, January 1, 2013.

Here is a quick review of the legislation we were tracking – starting with those bills that have passed the state legislature and were sent to the governor’s office. Some have already been signed by the governor.

The following bills have passed this session and will become law:

S 2127A as amended(DiPalma) and H 7595A as amended(Jackson) Food Allergies: This bill as amended impacts restaurants as they must now provide allergy warnings with signs and on their menus. The language was changed to better defined what the intent was.

S 2328 (Felag) and H 7294 (Malik) Weight Limits: This bill restricts truck over four tons from using Rt. 114 as a route for trucks. It does not exclude trucks of this size that are making deliveries in the area. The amended version of this bill limits the restriction of Rt. 114 North of Child St towards Barrington.

H 7314 (Hearn) and S 2375 (Lynch) Bi-Weekly Pay: Although this legislation does not impact the majority of our members it does allow companies the option to pay less frequently than weekly.

H 7396 (Bennett) and S 2374 (Lynch) Minimum Wage Increase: Effective Jan. 1st 2013 the minimum wage will increase by 35 cents per hour. Through significant efforts on the part of the association and its members this bill was amended to only address 2013 and no subsequent years and all of the language that used CPI for determining any future increase was stricken from the legislation.

S 3016 (Paiva Weed) EPR Study Commission for Paper and Packaging; this is a Senate ONLY Commission: This legislation was submitted late in the session and fast tracked along. It essentially replaces several other individual bills that were submitted on the topic of producer responsibility. This legislation establishes a commission to study and evaluate this area and come back with suggestions in the next session. This defines who will sit on the commission and its length of tenure. As of this writing it has yet to convene and the panel has not been totally determined.

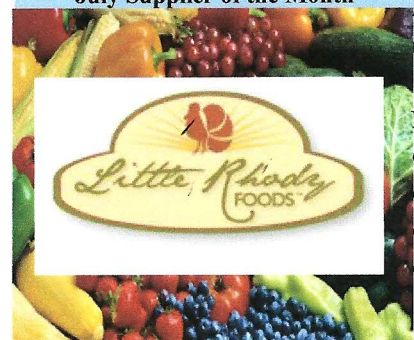
Although these will more than likely be reintroduced or replaced with new similar legislation in the next session (and as a result during a non-election year) the following bills we were tracking and testifying against did not move forward:

Numerous producer responsibility bills (replaced by S 3015)

- H 7213 Braille RX requirements
- H 7342 & S 2798 Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax
- H 7494 & H 7833: GMO restrictions
- H 7675 Credit Card Protection legislation

FULL UPDATE at rifda.com - RI LegislativeUpdates

Thank you
July Supplier of the Month





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Thank you

July Retailer of the Month



HELPFUL INDUSTRY LINKS

FMI National Legislative Updates

<http://www.fmi.org/gr/>

RI Legislative Info

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/genmenu/>

RI Pending Bills and Calendar

<http://dirac.rilin.state.ri.us/billstatus/webclass1.asp>

RI News and Press Releases
From the House and Senate

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/news/>

Don't miss out! Tickets are already selling!

Please Join Senator Jack Reed and Members of the Rhode Island Business Community for

Rhode Island Business Day 2012 in Washington, DC - hosted by RIFDA

Wed. September 12, 2012



Changes to RI Tax Laws *National Legislative Update *2012 RIFDA Charity Golf Tournament Save the Date* Helpful Links *Join Senator Jack Reed & Members of the RI Business Community, Washington, DC September 12, 2012, hosted by RIFDA

July National Legislative Update on Key Issues and Opportunities

Supreme Court Issues Health Care Decision, Upholds Individual Mandate:

The Supreme Court issued its long awaited ruling on the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* (P.L. 111-148), largely upholding the law in its entirety and preserving the law's main provision: the individual mandate. The vote was 5-4. Chief Justice John Roberts sided with Justices Ginsberg, Breyer, Sotomayor and Kagan to consider the requirement for individuals to purchase health insurance (aka the individual mandate) as a tax, which is within Congress' Constitutional power. In their dissenting minority opinion, Justices Kennedy, Scalia, Thomas and Alito wrote that the health care law should have been struck down in its entirety. Writing for the Court's majority opinion, Chief Justice Roberts argued that Congress does not have the authority to impose the individual mandate under the Commerce Clause, making a distinction between *regulating* commerce and *compelling* it. However, Congress does have the authority to "lay and collect taxes," and Roberts argues that the mandate's penalty must be construed as a tax on those without insurance.

The Court struck down one part of the law that would have expelled states from Medicaid if the states opted out of the expanded eligibility for the federal-state health program. We have attached a copy of a summary of the decision and its impact written and provided by Washington Council Ernst & Young.

The Food Marketing Institute (FMI) issued a press release and FMI policy positions on several provisions of the health care law yesterday in response to the Court's decision, expressing concern over the uncertainty over the still unreleased regulations and guidance documents with respect to employer coverage that the law requires to be in place by January 1, 2014. Specifically, FMI is seeking guidance with regard to the definition of a full-time vs. part-time employee as it applies to coverage requirements and that employer-offered plans pass both the affordability and minimal value requirements of the law. FMI is also focused on two of the law's provisions that specifically impact supermarkets: menu labeling and the limitations of the use of FSA debit cards to purchase over-the-counter medicines. For additional detail on this legislation and its components (with a calendar of scheduled events) please see "Affordable Care Act After Supreme Court Decision" available in the national legislative section of the RIFDA website.

[SEE FULL UPDATE at rifda.com - National Legislative Updates](#)

Changes to RI Tax Laws - Effective this Month

The Rhode Island Division of Taxation today issued a reminder about some key state tax changes that will take effect in July. Following is a summary:

- **1. Cigarettes:** starting Sunday, July 1st, the tax on cigarettes will increase by 4 cents, to \$3.50 per pack of 20. For more details: see notice 2012-02 and notice 2012-03 at the RI Division of taxation website.
- **2. Little Cigars:** More cigars will be treated as "little cigars" for tax purposes, due to a change in the definition of "little cigars" brought about by a new law. And because little cigars are treated the same as cigarettes, they will be taxed at \$3.50 per pack of 20, up 4 cents starting Sunday, July 1st. For more details, see notice 2012-01 at the RI Division of taxation website.
- **3. Beverage Containers:** starting Sunday, July 1st, the Rhode Island beverage containers tax is expanded to include sports drinks, iced teas, iced coffees and the like. The tax is levied on each case sold by a beverage wholesaler, and is collected and remitted to the Tax Division by the wholesaler. For more details, see notice 2012-04 at the RI Division of taxation website.

The agency has already distributed notices and posted on it's website a summary of key changes. Anyone with questions may call the Excise Tax section at 401-574-8955 from 8:30am to 4:00pm business days. Peter McVay, associate director of revenue services, pointed out that certain other state tax changes will not take effect until October 1, including the extension of the sales tax to clothing and footwear priced at more than \$250.

Save the Date!

2012 RIFDA CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

when: Monday September 10, 2012

where: Kirkbrae Country Club - Lincoln, RI

Benefiting the 2013 RIFDA Scholarship Fund

