

## November 2013 RI Legislative Update

The legislative committee of the RI Food Dealers is currently preparing for the RI Legislative session. As mentioned many times in the past being prepared for the next session includes anticipating not only what the political climate is but what the major agendas are among House and Senate leadership, what legislative proposals – pro and con - we can anticipate as a result and based on these two elements what we as an association should support, oppose, and what we can do proactively.

With this in mind I wanted to outline a few areas that we can anticipate in the upcoming session. As the weeks progress we will add additional detail to these areas as we approach the start of the new session. But in the interim, please review these and give them some thought. Any input or position you may have – most notably how these may impact your company whether positively or negatively would be appreciated. You can contact me or any member of the legislative committee to discuss. Note, these are not listed in any order of significance or priority at this point.

- Legislation previously submitted that is detrimental to the Food Dealers
  - Product Stewardship
  - Plastic Bag Ban Legislation
  - Minimum Wage Increases
  - Beverage Taxes
  - Additional Special Licensing Fees/Requirements
  - GMO Labeling
  - Menu Labeling
  - Increase in Bridge Tolls in Newport County
  
- Legislation previously submitted to help the RI food industry:
  - Corporate Tax Relief – Tax Incentives
  - Streamlining License/Permit Procurement
  - Incentive Program tied to Incremental Hiring and/or Business Expansion
  - Food Stamp Protection
  - Training Opportunities
  - Credit Card Protection
  
- Impact of Election Year
  - Impact on General Assembly: timing and Content Legislation Proposed
  - Impact on State Executive Office Changes as Many Are Not Running for Reelection to the Same Positions