



January Legislative Highlights

RI Legislative Updates At A Glance:

The General Assembly opened the new session on January 4th. As expected, COVID continues to have an impact on the RI General Assembly. For now, meetings will be held remotely or in a hybrid fashion, allowing the public to participate from home. The House plans on formally meeting two times per week in January and the Senate once a week. Visitors to the statehouse need to leave the building by 3 PM, prior to the General Assembly convening (on days where they are scheduled).

Key dates for 2022 include the following:

- Last day for House & Senate public bill introduction – February 10, 2022
- Winter Recess – February 21-25, 2022
- Spring Recess – April 18-22, 2022

[Click here to learn more about Rhode Island Legislation.](#)

National Legislative Updates At A Glance:

- **Supreme Court Blocks OSHA's Vaccine Mandate:** The United States Supreme Court's 6-3 opinion granting a stay in our legal challenge to OSHA's Emergency Temporary Standard.
- **Federal Public Health Emergency Extended for 90 Days:** HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra extended the federal public health emergency related to COVID-19 for 90 days.
- **IRS Announces Tax Season Will Start January 24:** The Department of the Treasury and Internal Revenue Service have announced that Americans can begin filing their 2021 tax returns on January 24.
- **Legislation Introduced to Allow for Hot and Prepared Foods on SNAP:** U.S. Representatives Bobby L. Rush (D-IL), Grace Meng (D-NY), and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) announced the introduction of the *SNAP PLUS Act of 2021* (H.R. 6338).
- **WIC Flexibilities and Vendor Audits:** State WIC agencies continue to visit retailers to conduct WIC inventory audits, despite very obvious supply chain constraints and labor shortages that are beyond retailer control.

[Click here to learn more about National Legislation.](#)

Our Association Member Communications Sponsors



Consider these legal questions for a better 2022

If small-business owners would ask themselves 10 simple questions at the start of the new year, they could not only position themselves to avoid legal issues but also to grow and strengthen their business throughout the year, according to lawyer and business coach Marcia Narine Weldon. Start by considering if your state records are up to date, if you've made any significant changes to your company and if you have reviewed your contracts.

Read The Full Article [Here](#)

Keeping food safe during power outages; be prepared to be safe

Winter storm Izzy has made its way across the eastern United States stranding many in heaps of snow, and leading to thousands of power outages. Among all the other concerns caused by the weather, food safety can become a critical issue.

Read The Full Article [Here](#).

Consumer Brands: Labor shortage hurts retail availability

The Consumer Brands Association expects higher out-of-stocks in grocery stores to continue for a few more weeks due to the surge in workers testing positive for the Omicron variant of the coronavirus, according to Katie Denis, vice president of research and industry narrative. "Omicron absenteeism is by far the biggest driving factor behind this," said Denis. "If you don't have the people to make the products, ship the products, deliver and stock the products, you're going to be in a difficult situation with what shows up on store shelves." Read The Full Article [Here](#).

Kroger Releases 10 Food Trend Predictions For 2022

The company's 2022 Food Trends Report is curated by food experts – from Kroger's Our Brands product developers to culinary specialists. The report contains 10 top trends that will influence consumer food purchases in 2022, while uncovering the "why" behind the trends. Read The Full Article [Here](#).

Forget the Great Resignation, this is the Great Re-Evaluation

The news is rife with reports on the Great Resignation. [According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), in November, the "quit rate" rose to 3%, with more than 4.5 million people voluntarily leaving their jobs. Employers are struggling with a challenging labor supply shortage as people seek out new opportunities. Read the Full Article [Here](#).

Four Questions Every Effective Business Plan Should Answer

Every successful business starts with a solid business plan. A [business plan](#) is a foundational document that lays out who you are as a company and where you are headed. It not only helps you set and track goals, but it also makes a case for why banks and prospective investors should offer you funding. Read The Full Article [Here](#).

Top 10 Consumer Trends for 2022

Consumers have experienced extreme change over the past two years, and successful businesses will meet shoppers on their terms. Read the Full Article [Here](#).



New England

Thank you to our January Supplier of the Month - AG New England



Thank you to our January Retailer of the Month - Demoulas Market Basket



Industry Events

Register for FSNE's Winter Series

Fridays in February from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm (including a lunch break). Register and join

us for part or all of each session.

Please join us for another online FSNE Winter Series focusing on the four key impact areas that our network believes will help us move toward our [regional food vision and values](#). Each event will feature inspirational guests as well as either a capacity-building workshop or panel of practitioners. All sessions will be interactive with opportunities for discussion and connection. All are welcome!

[More information & registration links](#)



We're extremely competitive
**about keeping
you competitive.**

At Bozzuto's, we deliver more. More products, more services, more technology and more support — everything you need to win. For over 75 years, we've provided goods and an ever-expanding suite of services to independent retailers in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. From store planning to accounting and payroll, comprehensive logistics to retail technology solutions, Bozzuto's delivers more than fresh food and groceries. We deliver success.

For more information,
contact Steve Capanna at 203-250-5378.



Coming Soon - Meetings & Annual Events

January 2022:

- Wed, Jan. 26th 1st Q 2022 Board of Directors Meeting

February 2022:

- Thurs. – Fri.: Feb. 10th & 11th: Distribution of Best Bagger Contest Kits to Retailers
- Thurs. Feb. 17th: Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:30 AM
- Thurs. Feb. 17 Distribution of Trade Day Invitations
- Mon. Feb. 21st: Presidents Day – Office Closed
- Wed. Feb. 23rd Legislative Committee Meeting (*Bill Filling*)

March 2022:

- Wed. Mar. 16th Legislative Committee Meeting
- Thurs. Mar. 24th Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:30 AM

April 2022:

- Wed. - April 6th: Legislative Committee Meeting @ 8 AM
- Thurs. April 14th @ 9:30 AM: Potential WIC/SNAP Meeting??
- Thurs. April 21st: RIFDA Trade Day (Best Bagger, Food Demos, Networking)

- Thurs. April 28th Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:30



SAVE THE DATE:

**2022 Annual
Trade Day is
coming!**

Stay tuned for details

We Need Your Help

Please consider supporting RIFDA's legislative efforts by supporting our PAC fund.

Last year due to COVID the association did not have a PAC event and we did not solicit contributions as we had sufficient funds on hand and our strategy was to be very conservative with donations as it became clear that due to COVID there would be traditional fundraisers where you had the ability to attend and lobby those present. We had decided to do the same this year until we received a letter from the RI Board of Elections, that noted a requirement (RI Gen. law 17-25) that we need to have 15 donations from individuals in an election cycle.

The association did, in the past 4 months, make three contributions for fundraisers for Senate Leadership, House Leadership and Rep. Bob Craven, Chair of House Judiciary, who has been an advocate and resource for our association for the past few years.

As a result of these donation from our PAC made this year and the need to be able to support those that have supported us next year in an election year, we are asking our members to please contribute to our fund so that we are in compliance with this regulation. We need to have at least 15 members make a donation of \$50 in order to accomplish this.

By way of review these checks must be personal checks and not corporate checks. In the past we asked for \$125 donations. If you could get two donations of \$50 from two different people, we would be able to achieve this goal. It should also be noted the if a personal check is from a joint account each person on the account can submit a separate check from the same account as long as they have two different signatures.

Checks can be mailed to:
RIFDA PAC
40 Higginson Ave
Central Falls RI 02863

**Thanks for your consideration and support of
the RI Food Dealers.**



Satisfied Member?

Spread the Word, Tell Your Industry Friends & Vendors.

As a member, the benefit advantages such as our food safety renewal classes, WIC/EBT updates, legislative representation and updates, national industry affiliations and updates, networking events, energy programs and food industry camaraderie, as well as a number of other initiatives make RIFDA a great opportunity for new members.

Throughout each year there are exciting events as well as sponsorship and advertising opportunities. It is members like yourselves that make this all happen.

With new memberships RIFDA moves into the future as a stronger and more vibrant representative of the Rhode Island food community.

[Learn More](#)