



NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE REPORT FORM

Department: Rhode Island

Month: February 2024

Committee Member Name: Matthew Baldwin McCoy

Report:

1. The Rhode Island House Permanent Advisory Committee on Veteran Affairs endorsed the introduction of the VFW's proposed anti-claim shark legislation. Their endorsement led to the introduction on February 15, 2024, of House Bill 7609 sponsored by State Representative Samuel A. Azzinaro, the Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. Co-Sponsors included State Representatives Fellela, Hull, Place, Shallcross Smith, Casimiro, J. Lombardi, Solomon, Abney, and Donovan.
2. House Bill No. 7609 (Azzinaro) was referred to the House Corporations Committee which held a hearing on the bill on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. The bill is being held for further study but is expected to be approved by the Corporations Committee in early March and sent to the House floor for passage by the State Representatives.
3. Discussions were held with State Senator Walter Felag, the Chairman of the Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs Committee about introducing an identical companion bill in the Senate to House Bill No. 7609 (Azzinaro). This is expected to occur in early March 2024. The Senate bill would be referred to Chairman Felag's committee.
4. Completed preparations for attending the VFW Washington Conference 2024. Appointments with members of Rhode Island's Congressional delegation and legislative staff confirmed.

Very respectfully,

Matthew Baldwin McCoy

DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

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