



# Valarie Lawson

**Senate** District SD-014  
**Democrat**

Contact: (401) 276-5561  
82 Smith St, Providence, RI 02903-1105



View Online

This legislator voted constitutionally on **0%** of the votes shown below.

★ Pro-liberty      ✗ Anti-liberty      ? Did not Vote      **Vote**

**S821 Forced Workplace Culture (Passed 28 to 3 on 6/8/2023).** **Yes**  
Would allow employees to sue if they face psychological damage in the workplace. The employer would be required to provide a workplace that doesn't have any such cases. ✗

**S685 Reducing Penalties for Illegal Aliens (Passed 37 to 0 on 3/28/2023).** **Yes**  
Lowers the maximum penalty for misdemeanors from 365 days to 364 days, so that illegal immigrants do not have to be reported to Immigrations and Customs Enforcement. ✗

**S464 Tax Credits for Theater (Passed 35 to 0 on 6/15/2023).** **Yes**  
Creates tax credit opportunities for musicals, stage plays, and other productions in Rhode Island until 2027. ✗

**S129 IDs for Illegal Immigrants (Passed 59 to 14 on 6/15/2023).** **Yes**  
Makes applicants without "proof of lawful presence" eligible for a Rhode Island driver's license and requires that these IDs "shall not be used as a basis for a criminal investigation, arrest, or detention." ✗

**H5006 Mandatory Abortion Coverage (Passed 24 to 12 on 5/18/2023).** **Yes**  
Would require insurance companies to provide abortion coverage to residents of Rhode Island. ✗

**S988 Mandatory EV Chargers (Passed 28 to 5 on 6/16/2023).** **Yes**  
Would require companies to create new parking spaces outfitted with electric vehicle chargers. ✗

**RHODE ISLAND LEGISLATIVE**  
**SCORECARD**  
**BASED ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION**

## Sen. Valarie Lawson

**Lifetime Score: 0%**

## RI Scorecard 2023

**2023 Regular Session Score 0%**

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide educational program of The John Birch Society. Its purpose is to create an informed electorate on how state legislators are voting. The Scorecard is nonpartisan; it does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are selected for their constitutional implications and cost to the taxpayers.

**Please share this Scorecard in your district to inform people about your legislator's record on key votes.**

U.S. Constitution, Amendment I --- 11 C.F.R. §114(4)(c)(4) --- 616 F.2d 45 (2d Cir. 1980)

The following scorecard lists several key votes in the Rhode Island Legislature in 2023 and ranks their State Senators and House Representatives based on their fidelity to (U.S.) constitutional and limited-government principles.



### Get Alerts

Scan to view and subscribe to legislative action alerts.

### The Constitution

Learn more about the U.S. Constitution and our founding principles.



# Bill Descriptions for the Votes that Affect You

---

## 1. Forced Workplace Culture

S821 would allow employees to sue if they face psychological damage in the workplace. The employer would be required to provide a workplace that doesn't have any such cases.

The Rhode Island Senate passed S821 on June 8, 2023, by a vote of 28 to 3. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill is overly broad and can be used to force transgender policy into the workplace. Government should not intervene in businesses by forcing them to prevent loosely defined "psychological abuse."

## 2. Reducing Penalties for Illegal Aliens

S685 lowers the maximum penalty for misdemeanors from 365 days to 364 days, so that illegal immigrants do not have to be reported to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The Rhode Island Senate passed S685 on March 28, 2023, by a vote of 37 to 0. We have assigned pluses to the nays as this bill would ensure that illegal immigrants would not be deported if they were to commit most crimes in the state of Rhode Island. Any crime committed by an illegal immigrant carrying a maximum penalty of 365 days would result in a report being sent to ICE, and so this bill makes that impossible.

## 3. Tax Credits for Theater

S464 adds more opportunities for musicals and productions touring the state of Rhode Island to receive tax credits. It additionally extends the sunset date to July 1, 2027.

The Rhode Island Senate passed S464 on June 15, 2023, by a vote of 35 to 0. We have assigned pluses to the nays because government should not intervene in the marketplace by selectively granting tax incentives to specific industries. Furthermore, providing tax credits to the theater industry is not appropriate because it largely supports woke Marxist ideology. Taxpayers should not be financially responsible for supporting productions that are associated with leftists. Furthermore, government should not intervene in the marketplace by selectively granting tax incentives to specific industries.

## 4. IDs for Illegal Immigrants

S129 makes applicants without "proof of lawful presence" eligible for a Rhode Island driver's license and requires that these IDs "shall not be used as a basis for a criminal investigation, arrest, or detention."

The Rhode Island Senate passed S129 on June 15, 2023, by a vote of 59 to 14. We have assigned pluses to the nays because persons unlawfully present in the United States ought not to be permitted sanctuary or residency in Rhode Island, let alone be considered eligible for a state-issued form of identification or licensure. According to Article 1, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution, Congress has the authority to establish a uniform rule of naturalization. Rather than pursue unconstitutional "sanctuary policy," states should use their powers reserved under the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment to address the crisis of illegal immigration and provide for their own public safety.

## 5. Mandatory Abortion Coverage

H5006 would require insurance companies to provide abortion coverage to residents of Rhode Island.

The Rhode Island Senate passed H5006 on May 18, 2023, by a vote of 24 to 12. We have assigned minuses to the ayes because no insurer should ever be compelled to cover the practice of abortion. On the contrary, violating a child's right to life and limb through the grotesque practice of abortion—should be considered illegal in Rhode Island and be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

## 6. Mandatory EV Chargers

S988 sets standards that force businesses to put electric vehicle chargers into parking lots if they expand old lots or create new ones.

The Rhode Island Senate passed S988 on June 16, 2023, by a vote of 28 to 5. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this expands government by pushing for interventions infringing on individual freedoms and economic liberties. Tax dollars should not go toward complying with any aspect of the UN's Agenda 2030, as it is not constitutional. Additionally, this legislation creates more government interference in the free-market economy and advances the Marxist climate change agenda. Businesses should have the freedom to conduct business without the government meddling in their affairs by setting unrealistic and costly regulations.