

State of Rhode Island

JOURNAL

-OF THE-

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY SESSION of the General Assembly begun and held at the State House in the City of Providence on Tuesday, the Seventh Day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.

Volume 152, No. 8

Thursday, January 30, 2025

Eighth-Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence on Thursday, January 30, 2025, and is called to order at 4:13 o'clock P.M. by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 70 members present and 5 members absent as follows:

PRESENT – 70: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Sanchez, Santucci, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, and Voas.

ABSENT – 5: Representatives Ackerman, Edwards, Lombardi, Roberts and Serpa.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi requests a moment of silence in memory of Spencer Lane, a talented teenage figure skater from Barrington, and his mother, Christine Lane, who tragically lost their lives in last night's devastating plane crash in Washington, D.C.

Our hearts are with the Lane family and all those affected by this unimaginable loss. We extend our deepest condolences and prayers to their loved ones during this difficult time.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi presents Representative Deborah A. Fellela, who delivers the Invocation and leads the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

(For Invocation, see Appendix, this Journal.)

APPROVAL OF RECORD

By unanimous consent, the House Journal of Tuesday, January 28, 2025, is approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Representative John G. Edwards is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 30, 2025.
Representative John J. Lombardi is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 30, 2025.

APPOINTMENTS

January 30, 2025

Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi announces the following appointments:

Representative. Brian Patrick Kennedy, Speaker Pro Tempore
Representative Raymond Hull, Deputy Speaker
Representative Deborah Fellela, Senior Deputy Majority Leader

Deputy Majority Leaders

Representative Justine Caldwell
Representative Lauren Carson
Representative Julie Casimiro
Representative Arthur Corvese
Representative Anthony DeSimone
Representative Arthur Handy
Representative Jason Knight
Representative Alex Marszalkowski
Representative Mary Messier
Representative Thomas Noret
Representative William O'Brien
Representative Robert Phillips
Representative Scott Slater
Representative Tina Spears

House Conduct Committee

Representative Justine Caldwell, Chair
Representative Thomas Noret, First Vice Chair
Representative Deborah Fellela, Second Vice Chair
Representative Marvin Abney
Representative Mia Ackerman
Representative Grace Diaz
Representative Brian Patrick Kennedy
Representative Joseph McNamara
Representative Patricia Serpa

Representative Brian Newberry
Representative Paul Santucci
House Corporations Committee

Representative Joseph Solomon, Chair
Representative William O'Brien, First Vice Chair
Representative Justine Caldwell, Second Vice Chair
Representative Stephen Casey
Representative Anthony DeSimone
Representative Alex Finkelman
Representative Brian Patrick Kennedy
Representative Robert Phillips
Representative Brandon Potter
Representative Enrique Sanchez
Representative Patricia Serpa
Representative Tina Spears
Representative Brandon Voas
Representative Brian Newberry
Representative Chris Paplauskas

House Education Committee

Representative Joseph McNamara, Chair
Representative Thomas Noret, First Vice Chair
Representative Rebecca Kislak, Second Vice Chair
Representative Nathan Biah
Representative Julie Casimiro
Representative Megan Cotter
Representative Susan Donovan
Representative Joshua Giraldo
Representative Ramon Perez
Representative Robert Phillips
Representative Earl Read
Representative Mary Ann Shallcross Smith
Representative Brandon Voas
Representative Richard Fascia
Representative Sherry Roberts

House Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Representative David Bennett, Chair
Representative Robert Phillips, First Vice Chair
Representative Lauren Carson, Second Vice Chair
Representative Jennifer Boylan
Representative Terri Cortvriend
Representative Kathleen Fogarty
Representative Arthur Handy
Representative Rebecca Kislak

Representative Jason Knight
Representative Carol McEntee
Representative Michelle McGaw
Representative June Speakman
Representative Tina Spears
Representative George Nardone
Representative Paul Santucci

House Finance Committee

Representative Marvin Abney, Chair
Representative Scott Slater, First Vice Chair
Representative Alex Marszalkowski, Second Vice Chair
Representative Karen Alzate
Representative Jackie Baginski
Representative Nathan Biah
Representative Terri Cortvriend
Representative Grace Diaz
Representative John Edwards
Representative Alex Finkelman
Representative Raymond Hull
Representative William O'Brien
Representative Teresa Tanzi
Representative George Nardone
Representative Sherry Roberts

House Finance Subcommittees

Education

Representative Scott Slater, Chair
Representative Nathan Biah
Representative Terri Cortvriend
Representative William O'Brien
Representative Sherry Roberts

Human Services

Representative Teresa Tanzi, Chair
Representative Karen Alzate
Representative Grace Diaz
Representative Alex Finkelman
Representative George Nardone

Environment/Transportation

Representative Terri Cortvriend, Chair
Representative John Edwards
Representative Scott Slater
Representative Alex Finkelman
Representative George Nardone

General Government

Representative Alex Marszalkowski, Chair
Representative Jacqueline Baginski
Representative John Edwards
Representative Raymond Hull
Representative George Nardone

Public Safety

Representative William O'Brien, Chair
Representative Jacqueline Baginski
Representative Grace Diaz
Representative Raymond Hull
Representative Sherry Roberts

House Health and Human Services Committee

Representative Susan Donovan, Chair
Representative Joshua Giraldo, First Vice Chair
Representative Brandon Potter, Second Vice Chair
Representative Mia Ackerman
Representative David Bennett
Representative Jennifer Boylan
Representative Megan Cotter
Representative Kathleen Fogarty
Representative Arthur Handy
Representative Rebecca Kislak
Representative Michelle McGaw
Representative June Speakman
Representative Jennifer Stewart
Representative Marie Hopkins
Representative David Place

House Innovation and Technology Committee

Representative Jacqueline Baginski, Chair
Representative Arthur Handy, First Vice Chair
Representative Lauren Carson, Second Vice Chair
Representative Samuel Azzinaro
Representative Nathan Biah
Representative Robert Craven
Representative Brian Patrick Kennedy
Representative Rebecca Kislak
Representative Mary Messier
Representative David Morales
Representative Evan Shanley
Representative Tina Spears
Representative Jennifer Stewart
Representative Chris Paplauskas
Representative Paul Santucci

House Judiciary Committee

Representative Robert Craven, Chair
Representative Carol McEntee, First Vice Chair
Representative Jason Knight, Second Vice Chair
Representative Edith Ajello
Representative Jose Batista
Representative David Bennett
Representative Justine Caldwell
Representative Julie Casimiro
Representative Cherie Cruz
Representative Arthur Corvese
Representative Matthew Dawson
Representative Leonela Felix
Representative Thomas Noret
Representative Marie Hopkins
Representative David Place

House Labor Committee

Representative Arthur Corvese, Chair
Representative Mary Messier, First Vice Chair
Representative Karen Alzate, Second Vice Chair
Representative Jon Brien
Representative Stephen Casey
Representative John Edwards
Representative Deborah Fellela
Representative Jenni Furtado
Representative Carol McEntee
Representative Joseph McNamara
Representative David Morales
Representative Ramon Perez
Representative Brandon Potter
Representative Richard Fascia
Representative Marie Hopkins

House Municipal Government and Housing Committee

Representative Stephen Casey, Chair
Representative Kathleen Fogarty, First Vice Chair
Representative June Speakman, Second Vice Chair
Representative Jose Batista
Representative Cherie Cruz
Representative Matthew Dawson
Representative Anthony DeSimone
Representative John Edwards
Representative Jenni Furtado
Representative Raymond Hull

Representative David Morales
Representative Evan Shanley
Representative Tina Spears
Representative Richard Fascia
Representative Robert Quattrocchi

House Oversight Committee

Representative Patricia Serpa, Chair
Representative Julie Casimiro, First Vice Chair
Representative Thomas Noret, Second Vice Chair
Representative Edith Ajello
Representative Jose Batista
Representative Jon Brien
Representative Jennifer Boylan
Representative Lauren Carson
Representative Deborah Fellela
Representative Arthur Handy
Representative Mary Messier
Representative Mary Ann Shallcross Smith
Representative Joseph Solomon
Representative June Speakman
Representative Chris Paplauskas
Representative David Place
Representative Robert Quattrocchi

House Oversight Subcommittees

Government Efficiency

Representative June Speakman, Chair
Representative Edith Ajello
Representative Jon Brien
Representative Deborah Fellela
Representative Chris Paplauskas

Children and Families

Representative Julie Casimiro, Chair
Representative Deborah Fellela
Representative Mary Messier
Representative Thomas Noret
Representative David Place

Energy

Representative Arthur Handy, Chair
Representative Jose Batista
Representative Jennifer Boylan
Representative Susan Donovan
Representative Robert Quattrocchi

Tourism, Arts, and Recreation

Representative Lauren Carson, Chair
Representative Jennifer Boylan
Representative Mary Ann Shallcross Smith
Representative Joseph Solomon, Jr.
Representative David Place

House Small Business Committee

Representative Carol McEntee, Chair
Representative Terri Cortvriend, First Vice Chair
Representative Brandon Voas, Second Vice Chair
Representative Justine Caldwell
Representative Lauren Carson
Representative Megan Cotter
Representative Robert Craven
Representative Grace Diaz
Representative Leonela Felix
Representative Charlene Lima
Representative John Lombardi
Representative Robert Phillips
Representative Mary Ann Shallcross Smith
Representative George Nardone
Representative Paul Santucci

House Special Legislation Committee

Representative Karen Alzate, Chair
Representative Grace Diaz, First Vice Chair
Representative John Lombardi, Second Vice Chair
Representative Samuel Azzinaro
Representative Stephen Casey
Representative Matthew Dawson
Representative Anthony DeSimone
Representative Cherie Cruz
Representative Joshua Giraldo
Representative Katherine Kazarian
Representative Ramon Perez
Representative Enrique Sanchez
Representative Scott Slater
Representative Chris Paplauskas
Representative Robert Quattrocchi

House State Government and Elections Committee

Representative Evan Shanley, Chair
Representative Mary Messier, First Vice Chair
Representative Arthur Corvese, Second Vice Chair

Representative Edith Ajello
Representative Jacqueline Baginski
Representative Jon Brien
Representative Matthew Dawson
Representative Katherine Kazarian
Representative Brian Patrick Kennedy
Representative Jason Knight
Representative Michelle McGaw
Representative Jennifer Stewart
Representative Teresa Tanzi
Representative Brian Newberry
Representative Chris Paplauskas

House Veterans' Affairs Committee

Representative Samuel Azzinaro, Chair
Representative Deborah Fellela, First Vice Chair
Representative Mary Ann Shallcross Smith, Second Vice Chair
Representative Marvin Abney
Representative Mia Ackerman
Representative Julie Casimiro
Representative Susan Donovan
Representative Leonela Felix
Representative Joshua Giraldo
Representative Raymond Hull
Representative John Lombardi
Representative Earl Read
Representative Joseph Solomon
Representative Marie Hopkins
Representative Paul Santucci

Read and placed on file.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minority Leader Chippendale invites all members to the memorial service commemorating the 82nd anniversary of the Four Chaplains of World War II. The service will be held at 9:00 AM on February 2nd at the Cornerstone of Faith United Methodist Church in Coventry, Rhode Island. This solemn event honors the bravery and sacrifice of the Four Chaplains, who exemplified selflessness and unity in the face of adversity. All are encouraged to join in remembrance and reflection.

Representative Newberry and Speaker Shekarchi offer condolences to the family of Alfred Puccetti.

On behalf of the Woonsocket Delegation, Representative Casey and Speaker Shekarchi extend their heartfelt condolences to the family of George Beaubien, Jr. during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones.

Majority Leader Blazewski announces that the House will meet on Tuesday, February 4th, and Thursday, February 6th, at 4:00 p.m.

Majority Leader Blazewski announces that the first committee hearings of the session will begin next Tuesday, February 4th. Members are encouraged to review the Committee Calendars on the Rhode Island General Assembly website, as the schedule for next week's hearings will be posted by late tomorrow afternoon.

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On behalf of Speaker Shekarchi, Majority Leader Blazewski extends heartfelt congratulations to Kathy Brown on her retirement after 40 years of dedicated service to the General Assembly. Since 1990, Kathy has served as the office systems manager in the Legislative Data department, where her expertise and commitment were invaluable. She is deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of working with her, and we wish her all the best as she enjoys her well-deserved retirement!

Speaker Shekarchi encourages all members to review the weekly newsletter, which will be released tomorrow. The newsletter will include important information on committee schedules for next week and details on upcoming events. Members are urged to stay informed and refer to the newsletter for key updates.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

House Resolution No. 5237

BY Shekarchi, Blazewski, Chippendale, Kennedy, Ajello, Fellela, Noret, Cortvriend, McGaw, Corvese

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING KATHLEEN A. BROWN ON HER RETIREMENT AFTER FORTY YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED AND DEVOTED SERVICE TO THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE CITIZENS OF RHODE ISLAND {LC29/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, on behalf of Speaker Shekarchi, Majority Leader Blazewski requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Majority Leader Blazewski and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Majority Leader Blazewski, seconded by Speaker Shekarchi and many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 5238

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Diaz, Chippendale, Slater, Perez, Bennett, Edwards, Alzate, Casimiro

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF VIOLET ROSE LITTLE {LC953/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Chairwoman Diaz requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Chairwoman Diaz discusses the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi offers condolences to former Representative Anastasia Williams and her entire family.

Read and passed, on a motion of Chairwoman Diaz, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

House Resolution No. 5239

BY Abney, Hull, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Tanzi, Ajello, Kennedy, Fellela, Noret
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JANUARY 30, 2025, TO BE "RHODE ISLAND FOOD INSECURITY AWARENESS DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC208/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Chairman Abney requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Chairman Abney discuss the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Chairman Abney, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 5240

BY Chippendale, Newberry, Fascia, Place, Paplauskas, Hopkins, Quattrocchi, Blazejewski, Santucci, Kennedy

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 82ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE "FOUR CHAPLAINS", THE FOUR MEN OF GOD WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES DURING WORLD WAR II SO THAT OTHERS MIGHT LIVE {LC731/1}

With the agreement of the majority, Minority Leader Chippendale requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Minority Leader Chippendale discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Minority Leader Chippendale, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 5241

BY Cotter, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Tanzi, Kennedy, Ajello, Fellela, Noret, Cortvriend
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE
PASSING OF SERGEANT MICHAEL W. LAWING {LC36/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Representative Cotter requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Representative Cotter discusses the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi offers his condolences to the family of Sergeant Michael W. Lawing.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Cotter, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

House Resolution No. 5242

BY Ajello, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Handy, Tanzi, Boylan, Speakman, Cortvriend, Potter, Spears
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE
PASSING OF FRIEDRICH STFLORIAN {LC889/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Representative Ajello requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Representative Ajello discusses the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi offers condolences to the family of Friedrich St.Florian.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Ajello, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

House Resolution No. 5243

BY Blazejewski, Chippendale
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES {LC913/1}

Majority Leader Blazejewski requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Majority Leader Blazejewski, seconded by Minority Leader Chippendale, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

House Resolution No. 5244**BY** Blazejewski, Chippendale**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS {LC912/1}

Majority Leader Blazejewski requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Majority Leader Blazejewski, seconded by Minority Leader Chippendale, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

TRANSMITTAL

By unanimous consent, all matters on the clerk's desk are ordered to be transmitted to His Excellency, the Governor, to the Honorable Senate and the Honorable Secretary of State forthwith.

(For Transmittals to Governor, see Appendix of this Journal.)

DESK HELD OPEN

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi announces that the desk will be held open.

NEW BUSINESS**House Bill No. 5245****BY** Slater, Morales, Potter, Diaz, DeSimone, Stewart, Voas, Cruz**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (Creates an income-sensitive tiered subsidy program to ensure that home energy utility costs are affordable for eligible low-income households.) {LC875/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 5246**BY** Kislak, Shallcross Smith, Diaz, Potter, Speakman, Cotter, Carson, Fogarty, Giraldo, Caldwell**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW--GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- DIGITAL ELECTRONICS RIGHT TO REPAIR ACT (Establishes a digital electronics right to repair, which would allow for digital electronic equipment and parts that are sold in this state on or after January 1, 2026, to be repaired at an independent repair provider) {LC754/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 5247

BY Potter, Ajello, Diaz, Furtado, Handy, Fogarty, Kislak, Giraldo, Voas, Kazarian
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES (Provide that advertising goods that don't include a price referencing all mandatory fees and charges shall be a deceptive trade practice.) {LC1095/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 5248

BY Kislak, McGaw, Tanzi, Potter, Boylan, Cotter, Fogarty
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES (Restricts audits of pharmacists conducted by insurers and their intermediaries, limiting audits to one per year unless fraud or misrepresentation is reasonably suspected. The RI attorney general has the authority to impose sanctions for violations.) {LC622/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 5249

BY McNamara, Brien, Furtado, Donovan, Noret
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- THE RHODE ISLAND CANNABIS ACT (Mandates that a cannabis dispensary display the signage warning that the consumption of marijuana and THC products during pregnancy poses risks to infant development.) {LC909/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 5250

BY Biah, DeSimone, Hull, Abney, Sanchez, Cruz, Morales, Giraldo, Kislak
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- HOLIDAY BUSINESS (Adds Juneteenth National Freedom Day to the definition of "holidays" to the chapter governing retail business.) {LC886/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 5251

BY Read, Noret, Paplauskas, Baginski, Fascia, Hopkins, Brien, Chippendale, Casimiro, Casey
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- RIGHTS AND DUTIES TEACHERS GENERALLY -- SEPTEMBER 11 CLASSROOM MOMENT OF SILENCE (Allows teachers in all grades to provide the opportunity for students to observe a brief moment of silence on every September 11.) {LC1035/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 5252

BY McNamara, Shekarchi, Solomon, Bennett, Read
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- WARWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUDGET COMMISSION (Creates the Warwick public schools budget commission consisting of 5 members to oversee the operations of Warwick public schools and to present a preliminary analysis of the school district's financial situation.) {LC917/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 5253

BY Spears, McGaw, Cotter, Noret, Fogarty, Boylan, Speakman, Tanzi, Kislak, Casey
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS
{LC698/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 5254

BY Kislak, McGaw, Tanzi, Potter, Boylan, Cotter, Fogarty
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- PHARMACY FREEDOM OF CHOICE --
FAIR COMPETITION AND PRACTICES (Requires pharmacy benefit managers to reimburse
pharmacist no less than national drug acquisition costs plus fee.) {LC623/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 5255

BY Fogarty, Potter, Shallcross Smith, Donovan, Spears, Bennett, Hull, Tanzi, Felix, Handy
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE RHODE
ISLAND HEALTH CARE REFORM ACT OF 2004 -- HEALTH INSURANCE OVERSIGHT
(Includes the definition of "primary care services" and requires that all biennial reports shall include a
review and recommendation of rates for primary care services on and after September 1, 2025.)
{LC1115/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 5256

BY Casimiro, Noret, Read, McEntee, Spears, Shanley, Morales
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS
INSURANCE POLICIES--EQUAL PAY FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS (Provides for equal
pay for healthcare providers.) {LC780/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 5257

BY Slater, Diaz, Potter, O'Brien, DeSimone, Stewart, Voas, Cruz, Morales
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- NURSING HOME
WORKFORCE STANDARDS BOARD ACT (Creates the nursing home workforce standards board
act to establish and enforce industry-wide quality of care standards in nursing homes.) {LC928/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 5258

(by request)

BY Casimiro

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- SOLEMNIZATION OF
MARRIAGES--COMMON LAW MARRIAGE (Abolishes common law marriages entered into in
this state on or after January 1, 2026, while recognizing the validity of any common law marriage
entered into or adjudicated to exist before January 1, 2026.) {LC960/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 5259**BY** Potter, Batista, Cruz, Casimiro, Dawson, Felix, Alzate, Craven**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' AND CHAUFFEURS' LICENSES (Prohibits the suspension of any person's operators' or chauffeurs' license or their vehicle registration unless upon conviction of driving offenses.) {LC457/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 5260**BY** Casimiro, Noret, Read, McEntee, Spears, Shanley, Morales**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO DELINQUENT AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN -- PROCEEDINGS IN FAMILY COURT (Extends the voluntary extension of care (VEC) program pursuant to § 14-1-6 to children in the juvenile justice system and children who attain reunification prior to their eighteenth (18th) birthday, however, the reunification is not successful.) {LC164/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 5261**BY** Perez, Potter, Corvese, O'Brien, Shallcross Smith, DeSimone, Brien, Hopkins, Paplauskas, Batista**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- DIVORCE AND SEPARATION (Permits, effective 7/1/25, the family court to make appropriate orders of support and education of any child who has attained 18 years of age, but not 21, who is domiciled in the home of a parent, and is principally dependent upon said parent for support.) {LC654/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 5262**BY** Noret, Cortvriend, Speakman, Donovan, Messier, Phillips, McNamara, Craven, Shallcross Smith, Casimiro**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- THREATS AND EXTORTION (Adds school superintendents, central office officials, school principals, and all other school employees, to the definition of a "public official" for purposes of the criminal prohibition against making threats to public officials.) {LC926/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 5263**BY** Fellela, Caldwell, Shallcross Smith, Messier, Kazarian**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS (Amends the heading of § 11-47-60.1 to include the words "Dillon's Law.") {LC1077/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 5264**BY** Potter, Cruz, Giraldo, Ajello, Batista, Stewart, Morales, Diaz, Handy**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT (Limits rent increases to no more than 4% annually unless the landlord is granted an exemption by the secretary of housing and provides tenants with a civil action to recover damages, including an award of attorneys' fees/punitive damages, for violations.) {LC903/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 5265**BY** Dawson**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- ESTATES IN REAL PROPERTY (Defines the apportionment of financial responsibilities for expenses and improvements to the real property of the life estate between the life tenant and remainder man.) {LC290/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 5266**BY** Corvese, Kislak, Azzinaro, Kennedy, Noret, O'Brien, Dawson, Craven**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- CERTIFIED SCHOOL TEACHERS' ARBITRATION (Requires the employers of unionized public school teachers, municipal employees and state employees, to provide the union, at least once every 120 days, a list of all their employees in their union, as well as their personal and demographic information.) {LC1066/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Labor

House Bill No. 5267**BY** Cruz, Diaz, Kislak, Ajello, Morales, Sanchez, Potter, Brien, Giraldo, Voas**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- HOUSING MAINTENANCE AND OCCUPANCY CODE -- NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS (Requires a housing code enforcement officer to give a copy of any housing code violation notice to all tenants of the building affected by a housing code violation along with any hearing dates scheduled for the violation.) {LC524/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 5268**BY** Spears, Cotter, Noret, Fogarty, Stewart, Boylan, Speakman, McNamara, Tanzi, Kislak**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- HOME-FIT DWELLING UNITS (Creates the home-fit dwelling units act to apply to all new construction of covered dwelling units to incorporate design features that provide safe and convenient use of to the greatest extent feasible, regardless of age or physical ability.) {LC1092/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 5269**BY** Noret, Casimiro, Finkelman, Corvese, Shallcross Smith, Nardone, Place, Speakman, Costantino, Read**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (Allows the waiver of interest on overdue taxes for commercial properties.) {LC929/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 5270**BY** McGaw**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Exempts from taxation the real and tangible personal property of the Friends of Little Compton Wellness Center, Inc.) {LC1023/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 5271

BY Casey, Noret, Craven, O'Brien, Dawson, Read, Corvese, Solomon, Casimiro, Lima
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- RETIREMENT OF MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (Authorizes retired police officers and firefighters to earn income in addition to their earnable compensation; provided that, the amount would not exceed 5 times the rate of earnable compensation currently in force.) {LC812/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 5272

BY Slater, DeSimone, O'Brien

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- NONTRANSPARENT WINDSHIELDS AND WINDOWS (Allows the owner of a rented or leased motor vehicle to establish non-liability for traffic violations.) {LC888/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 5273

BY O'Brien, McEntee, Lima, Fellela, Corvese, McNamara, Casey, Read, Donovan, Hopkins

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- THE GOOD SAMARITAN OVERDOSE PREVENTION ACT OF 2016 (Requires all lifeguards, and park rangers, to be trained in administering opioid antagonists, and would require all public beaches to keep available a minimum of four doses of opioid antagonist.) {LC771/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 5274

BY Cruz, Slater, Ajello, Stewart, Sanchez, Diaz, Kislak, Morales, Potter, Speakman

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- RESIDENCE OF INDIVIDUALS IN GOVERNMENT CUSTODY ACT (Requires state use actual residences of persons in government custody for redistricting purposes. Information would be collected by the department of corrections and forwarded to the secretary of state to be utilized for redistricting.) {LC521/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 5275

BY Kislak, Shanley, Boylan, Cortvriend, Speakman, Cotter, Knight, Craven, Caldwell, Batista

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- PRIMARY ELECTIONS--GENERAL ASSEMBLY OFFICES--RANKED CHOICE VOTING (Establishes an instant runoff form of ranked choice voting limited, to general assembly primary elections, with three (3) or more candidates.) {LC614/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 5276

BY Shanley, Kislak, Craven, McEntee, Casimiro, Cruz, Messier, Cotter, Spears, Carson

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- PRIMARIES FOR ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND FOR PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE (Establishes the Ranked Choice Voting for Rhode Island Presidential Primaries and provides for new sections on ranked choice voting tabulation and results reporting.) {LC299/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 5277

BY Corvese, Azzinaro, O'Brien, Slater, Noret, Read, Kennedy, Hull, Phillips, Baginski
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- PRIMARY ELECTIONS (Changes the process of nominating candidates for the general election, by replacing the political party primary with a primary general election.) {LC304/1}
01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 5278

BY Azzinaro, Fellela, Kennedy, Shallcross Smith, Abney, Donovan, Felix, Hull, Solomon, Hopkins
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- MILITARY CHILD ACT (Defines "military-connected student", "advance enrollment" and "open enrollment" to give them flexibility in choosing a school district.) {LC1112/1}
01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Veterans Affairs

House Bill No. 5279

BY Donovan, Messier, Casimiro, McNamara, Fogarty, Biah, Speakman, Furtado, Stewart, Giraldo
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS RETIREMENT (Gives teachers who takes an unpaid parental or medical leave during the year credit for a year of service for that school year if they served a minimum of 135 days.) {LC1050/1}
01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 5280

BY Cortvriend, Dawson, Spears, Knight, Speakman, Bennett, Caldwell, McNamara, Donovan, Noret
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (Establishes the Higher Education Opportunities for Students with Disabilities Act.) {LC421/1}
01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 5281

BY Diaz, Shallcross Smith, Donovan, Caldwell, Slater, Edwards, Casimiro, Tanzi, Potter, Kislak
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- RHODE ISLAND CHILDCARE IS ESSENTIAL ACT (Creates the Rhode Island Childcare Assistance Program that governs both family eligibility for the state's childcare subsidy program and expands eligibility for the program to meet the federal eligibility benchmark.) {LC894/1}
01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 5282

BY Donovan, Speakman, Cotter, Carson, Cortvriend, Messier, Edwards, Morales
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT (Amend the calculation of state funding provided to local education agencies for special education services.) {LC961/1}
01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 5283

BY Casey, Noret, Craven, O'Brien, Dawson, Read, Hull, Corvese, Solomon, Casimiro
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES -- RELIEF OF INJURED AND DECEASED FIRE FIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS (Adds department of corrections' correctional officers to the list of public safety employees that are entitled to their full salary if they are injured and become disabled as a result of performance of their job duties.) {LC810/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 5284

BY Casimiro, Noret, Read, McEntee, Spears, Shanley, Morales
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' AND CHAUFFEURS' LICENSES (Exempts any individual who is aging out of foster care from the payment of any fee associated with the issuance of a operator's license as well as driver's education class fees. The fee waiver is in effect until the individual reaches 27 years of age.) {LC189/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 5285

BY Morales, Biah, Batista, DeSimone, Diaz, Sanchez, Slater, Lombardi, Chippendale, Place
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Authorizes a host city or town to impose a two percent (2%) tax on the endowment of a private institution of higher education that is in excess of one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000), to be used only for the host public school district.) {LC786/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 5286

BY Baginski, McNamara, Brien, Finkelman
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (Exempts from the sales and use tax, the sale of beer and malt beverages at retail.) {LC1049/1}

01/31/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:48 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Diaz, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Violet Rose Little; on motion of Representative Cotter, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Sgt. Michael Lawing; on motion of Representative Ajello, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Friedrich StFlorian; on motion of Representative Newberry, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Alfred "Al" Puccetti; on motion of Representative Casey, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of George Beaubien, Jr.; seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Chippendale the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX

INVOCATION

REPRESENTATIVE DEBORAH A. FELLELA

Bless us, Lord, as we gather today for this session. Guide us as we work to resolve issues important to our constituents. Remind us that we best serve you by serving others. Amen