

# State of Rhode Island

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# JOURNAL

-OF THE-

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**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.

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Volume 152, No. 15

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Fifteenth-Day

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The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence on Tuesday, March 4, 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, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Stewart, Tanzi, and Voas.

**ABSENT** – 5: Representatives Craven, Fascia, Furtado, Marszalkowski and Spears.

## INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi presents Minority Leader Chippendale 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 Thursday, February 27, 2025, is approved.

**APPOINTMENTS**

March 4, 2025

**Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi announces:**

Representative Michelle McGaw has been nominated to represent the Rhode Island House of Representatives at the National Conference of State Legislatures' Health Policy Seminar.

**Speaker Shekarchi has made the following appointments to NCSL Standing Committees:****NCSL Banking, Financial Services & Insurance Committee:**

Representative Alex Finkelman  
Representative Joseph Solomon Jr.

**NCSL Children, Families & Human Services Committee:**

Representative Mary Ann Shallcross Smith  
Representative Tina Spears  
Representative Teresa Tanzi

**NCSL Education Committee:**

Representative Earl Reed  
Representative Jennifer Stewart

**NCSL Elections & Redistricting Committee:**

Representative Evan Shanley

**NCSL Health Committee:**

Representative Susan Donovan  
Representative Teresa Tanzi

**NCSL Labor & Economic Development Committee:**

Representative Arthur Corvese

**Read and placed on file.**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Representative Jenni A. Furtado is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 4, 2025.

**CALENDAR**

From the Calendar are taken:

**IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025:****1. 2025-H 5045**

**BY** Casimiro

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING DATE OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF UTILIZING FEDERAL TITLE IV DOLLARS TO SUPPORT AND ENHANCE ENROLLMENT IN SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION AT RIC

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Chairwoman Donovan moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representative Shallcross Smith and Majority Whip Kazarian.

Chairwoman Donovan discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 69 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 69: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Stewart, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**2. 2025-H 5100 SUB A****BY Shekarchi****ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- STATE BUILDING CODE -- ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A.

Chairman Casey moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Carson, Speakman, Biah, McGaw, Morales, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Cortvriend, Corvese, McNamara, Tanzi, Felix, Kislak, Cruz, Potter, Voas, Stewart, McEntee, Deputy Majority Whip Ackerman and Majority Whip Kazarin.

Chairman Casey discusses the act.

The bill marked Substitute "A" is read and passed, and the original bill indefinitely postponed, on a roll call vote, 68 members voting in the affirmative and 1 member voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 68: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Stewart, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 1: Representative Quattrocchi.

RECUSED - 0:

**3. 2025-H 5189****BY Knight****ENTITLED, AN ACT VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF BARRINGTON**

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

Chairman Casey moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Boylan and Fogarty.

Chairman Casey discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote 69 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 69: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, Papluskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Stewart, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Solomon announces that the Committee on Corporations will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 135 of the State House.

Chairman Casey announces that the Committee on Municipal Government & Housing will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 101 of the State House.

Chairman Abney announces that the Committee on Finance will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 35 of the State House.

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces that the next House session will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. There will be no session tomorrow; however, the House Finance Committee and House Labor Committee are scheduled to meet at 4:00 p.m.

### IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

#### **House Resolution No. 6021**

**BY** Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Solomon, Chippendale, Casimiro, Casey, Kennedy, Ajello, Fellela, Cruz  
**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF  
DAVID DEPETRILLO, THE DISTINGUISHED LONGTIME RHODE ISLAND STATE  
TOURISM DIRECTOR AND CHAIRMAN OF THE RHODE ISLAND HOSPITALITY  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION {LC2319/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, on behalf of Speaker Shekarchi, Chairman Solomon requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Chairman Solomon and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi extends his condolences to David DePetrillo's family and friends.

Read and passed, on a motion of Chairman Solomon, seconded by Speaker Shekarchi, Majority Leader Blazejewski, and many others, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

**House Resolution No. 6022**

**BY** Ackerman, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Cotter, Chippendale, Paplauskas, McNamara, Kennedy, Handy, Diaz

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MARCH AS "COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC1811/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Deputy Majority Whip Ackerman requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Deputy Majority Whip Ackerman and Representative Cotter discuss the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Deputy Majority Whip Ackerman, seconded by Representative Cotter, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

**House Resolution No. 6023**

**BY** Cotter, Carson, Spears, Donovan, Speakman, Boylan, Shallcross Smith, Chippendale, Shekarchi, Blazejewski

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MARCH OF 2025, TO BE "WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC1816/1}

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.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Cotter, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representative Spears and many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

**House Resolution No. 6024**

**BY** Casimiro, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Kennedy, Ajello, Fellela, Cruz, Shallcross Smith, Paplauskas

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION JOYOUSLY CELEBRATING THE 83RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEABEES ON MARCH 5, 2025 {LC1812/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Casimiro discusses the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 6025**

**BY** Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kennedy, Chippendale, Edwards, Ajello, Fellela, Cruz, Shallcross Smith, Read

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL (SGAC) {LC2329/1 }

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

**RULE 7D**

**The following bills were received pursuant to Rule 7D:**

Representative Ajello-An Act relating to Businesses and Professions-Pharmacies

Representative Alzate-An Act relating to Accident and Sickness Insurance Policies

Representative Batista-An Act relating to Criminal Procedure-Sentence and Execution

Representative Bennett-An Act relating to Physical Therapy

Representative Casimiro-An Act relating to Proceedings in Family Court

Representative Dawson-An Act relating to Video Lottery Games, Table Games and Sports Wagering

An Act relating to Civil Procedures

An Act relating to Civil Procedures

Representative Donovan-An Act relating to Food and Drugs-Healthy Kids Act

Representative Edwards-An Act relating to Rhode Island Clinician and Wellness Act

Representative Finkelman-An Act relating to Taxation-Levy and Assessment Local Taxes

Representative Giraldo-An Act relating to Rhode Island Organ-Donation Leave Act

An Act relating to Rhode Island Rhode Island Baby Bond Trust

Representative Hull-An Act relating to Public Utilities and Carriers  
An Act relating to Criminal Offenses

Representative McEntee-An Act relating to Businesses and Professions – Pharmacies

Representative Messier-An Act relating to The Onward We Learn Scholarship Act

Representative Serpa-An Act relating to Human Services-Medical Assistance

Representative Shallcross Smith-An Act relating to Education

Representative Voas-An Act relating to Insurance Liability

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. 6026

**BY** Felix, Cruz, Batista, Potter, Morales, Stewart, Giraldo, Tanzi

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT (Amends the uniform controlled substances act and reclassifies simple possession of 28 grams or less of certain controlled substances as a misdemeanor.) {LC1068/1} 03/05/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

#### House Resolution No. 6027

**BY** Giraldo, Stewart, Voas

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES, AND REQUIRING REAPPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE ENTIRE AREA OF LAND USE, PRESERVATION, DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT, AND REGULATION (Extends the reporting and expiration dates, and requires letter of continued interest, to the commission studying land use, preservation, development, housing, environment, and regulation, from June 8, 2025, to June 8, 2026, and expires on June 30, 2026.) {LC2343/1} 03/05/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing



**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:40 o'clock P.M. on behalf of Speaker Shekarchi, on motion of Representative Solomon, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of David DePetrillo; on motion of Representative Shallcross Smith, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Nancy Furruche Elderkin; seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Chippendale the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

**Diane M. DePina**  
**Recording Clerk**

**APPENDIX**

**INVOCATION**

**MINORITY LEADER CHIPPENDALE**

Gracious God: Guide us with your wisdom as we prepare for the coming months. Equip us with fortitude for the work we do. Give us the patience and courage to do what is right, no matter the situation we encounter. Amen

APPENDIX

CALENDAR

**IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025:**

1. **2025-H 5019**  
**BY** Speakman  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- CONSUMER PFAS  
BAN ACT OF 2024

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources recommends passage.

2. **2025-H 5083 SUB A**  
**BY** Fellela  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- AUTOMATED  
EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS REQUIRED AT PUBLIC PLACES AND  
HEALTHCARE FACILITIES -- DAVID CASEY ACT

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A.

**Francis McCabe**  
Clerk of the House

**Friday, February 28, 2025**