

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. 19

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Nineteenth-Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, and is called to order at 4:16 o'clock P.M. by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 72 members present and 3 members absent as follows:

PRESENT – 72: 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, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, 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, Spears, Tanzi, and Voas.

ABSENT – 3: Representatives Costantino, Hopkins and Stewart.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi presents Representative John J. Lombardi, 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, March 13, 2025, is approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Jennifer A. Stewart is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

CALENDAR

From the Calendar are taken:

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025:

- 1. 2025-H 5185 SUB A**
BY Donovan
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- PROHIBITION OF UNFAIR SERVICE AGREEMENTS

Committee on Judiciary recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A.

Chairman Craven moves passage of the act, seconded by Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cortvriend, Corvese, Cotter, Craven, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Felix, Fellela, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Lima, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Morales, O'Brien, Potter, Read, Serpa, Slater, Speakman, Spears, Tanzi, Voas.

Chairman Craven discusses the act.

The bill marked Substitute "A" is read and passed, and the original bill indefinitely postponed, on a roll call vote, 72 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 72: 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, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, 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, Spears, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

2. 2025-H 5017**BY** Diaz**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- CONSUMER ENFORCEMENT OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICE WARRANTIES

Committee on Corporations recommends passage.

Chairman Solomon moves passage of the act, seconded by Representatives Abney, Ajello, Azzinaro, Baginski, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cortvriend, Cotter, Craven, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Lombardi, McGaw, Morales, Perez, Phillips, Slater, Spears, Tanzi, Voas.

Chairman Solomon discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 72 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 72: 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, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, 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, Spears, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

3. 2025-H 5703**BY** Fogarty**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO THE KINGSTON WATER DISTRICT -- BONDS

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

Chairman Casey moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Tanzi, Fogarty, McEntee, Craven and Deputy Speaker Hull.

Chairman Casey discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 72 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 72: 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, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz,

Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, 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, Spears, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

4. 2025-H 5344

BY Cortvriend

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES AND AMENDING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT AND SOLUTIONS

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources recommends passage.

Chairman Bennett moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Donovan, Boylan, Biah, Speakman, McGaw, Carson, Spears, Cortvriend, Tanzi, Fogarty, Phillips, Edwards, Casey and Lima.

Chairman Bennett discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote 71 members voting in the affirmative and 1 member voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 71: 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, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 1: Representative Quattrocchi.

RECUSED - 0:

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

GUESTS

Speaker Shekarchi welcomes guests from the Rhode Island Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians and expresses his gratitude for their dedication, hard work, and being on the front lines of healthcare.

ADDRESS

In honor of St. Joseph's Day, Representative DeSimone addresses House members to highlight Italy's rich traditions and vibrant culture. His remarks provided an opportunity for reflection on the significant contributions of the Italian community, both in Rhode Island and across the Nation. He emphasizes family values, faith, and hard work deeply rooted in Italian heritage and encourages all to celebrate and honor these enduring traditions.

GUESTS

In celebration of Arts in Schools Month, Representative Carson recognizes the vital role that arts education plays in fostering creativity, promoting cross-cultural understanding, and supporting the growth of students. This occasion also allows her to honor the outstanding achievements of young artists and the dedicated educators who inspire them. She welcomes her distinguished guests from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, Executive Director Todd Trebour and Arts Education Program Coordinator Seamus Hames.

Representative Carson warmly welcomes Sharon Connors, Chair of the Newport Canvassing Authority, to the House.

In recognizing National Transit Employee Appreciation Day, an annual event that recognizes the importance of public transit employees across the U.S. and Canada, Representative Morales warmly welcomes Rhode Island Public Transit Authority workers Joseph Cole, Walter Melillo, Carlos Gigliore, Sara Furboush, Peter Michaud, and Jim Vincent to the House. Speaker Shekarchi expresses his gratitude for all their hard work and dedication.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairwoman Diaz expresses heartfelt gratitude to House members who supported the passage of House Bill 5017. This legislation addresses Commercial Law, specifically general regulations related to consumer enforcement of Assistive Technology Device Warranties. Chairwoman Diaz extends special thanks to Representatives Kislak and Shallcross Smith for their dedicated advocacy on behalf of residents with disabilities, including individuals who rely on wheelchairs. Their commitment played a crucial role in advancing this legislation. She also recognizes Zach Gauthier, a strong advocate for this bill who uses a wheelchair and has been instrumental in raising awareness about the importance of these consumer protections.

Chairman Corvese announces that the Committee on Labor will meet tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. in Room 101 of the State House.

Vice-Chairman Giraldo announces that the Committee on Health & Human Services will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 135 of the State House.

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces that the next session will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

On behalf of Speaker Shekarchi and the entire House of Representatives, Majority Leader Blazejewski offers his deepest sympathies to Justice Richard Raspallo and his family on the passing of his beloved mother, Ann Marie Raspallo. He recognizes her life, legacy, and profound impact on those around her.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

House Resolution No. 6100

BY Blazejewski, Chippendale

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES {LC2459/1} 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. 6101

BY Blazejewski, Chippendale

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS {LC2458/1}

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.

House Resolution No. 6102

BY Costantino, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Azzinaro, Corvese, Lima, DeSimone, Santucci, Fascia, Nardone

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE CELEBRATION OF ST. JOSEPH'S DAY {LC1830/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative DeSimone and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 6103

BY Carson, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Kennedy, Edwards, Bennett, Ackerman, Shallcross Smith, Ajello

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING MARCH OF 2025 AS “ARTS IN THE SCHOOLS MONTH” IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC1814/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Carson discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 6104

BY Morales, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Cruz, Furtado, Potter, McNamara, Diaz, Batista

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MARCH 18, 2025, TO BE "TRANSIT EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC1828/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Morales discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 6105

BY Santucci, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Kennedy, Edwards, Bennett, Ackerman, Shallcross Smith, Knight

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE BRYANT UNIVERSITY BULLDOGS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE AMERICA EAST REGULAR SEASON AND CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIPS AND EARNING A BERTH IN THE NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT {LC2526/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Santucci and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution.

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

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

Representative Ackerman-An Act relating to State Affairs and Government

Representative Batista-An Act relating to Courts and Civil Procedure–Family
An Act relating to Criminal Procedure-Arrest

Representative Finkelman-An Act relating to Water and Navigation–Coastal Resource Management
Council

Representative Fogarty-An Act relating to The Rhode Island Health Care Reform Act–Health
Insurance Oversight

Representative McEntee-An Act relating to Criminal Procedure–Indictments, Informations and
Complaints

Representative McGaw-An Act relating to Public Finance–State Investment Commission
Representative Paplauskas-An Act relating to Motor and Other Vehicles–Registration of Vehicles

Representative Shallcross Smith-An Act relating to Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental
Disabilities and Hospitals-Core State Behavioral Health Crisis Services Systems-988

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

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. 6106****BY** Fellela, Fascia, Perez, Morales, Cruz**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- INSURANCE ON MULTI-UNIT DWELLINGS -- TENANT RELOCATION INSURANCE {LC2440/1}

03/19/2025 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 6107**BY** Biah, DeSimone, McGaw, Hull, Lombardi, Corvese, Diaz, Slater, McNamara, Potter**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- PILOT PROGRAM FOR VIRTUAL REALITY LEARNING PLATFORM (Establishes a pilot program for a virtual reality learning platform to improve math skills for grades 6 through 12 STEM education.) {LC2271/1}

03/19/2025 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 6108**BY** Solomon**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY -- RIGHT TO FARM (Allows backyard chickens throughout the state subject to the provisions of this section and any deed restrictions or neighborhood association by-laws.) {LC2470/1}

03/19/2025 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

House Bill No. 6109**BY** Solomon, Casey**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- CONTINUING CARE PROVIDER REGISTRATION AND DISCLOSURE (Allows continuing care providers to provide care in an individual's home, subject to the same disclosures and requirements as continuing care provided in a facility.) {LC2251/1}

03/19/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 6110**BY** Tanzi**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT (Removes the 5 year waiting period to seal court records where a civil action was dismissed, or there was a lack of prosecution, or the matter resolved and the terms of the resolution satisfied, removes the limit of 1 request to seal records every 5 years.) {LC2091/1}

03/19/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 6111**BY** Edwards, McGaw**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF TIVERTON (Validates and ratifies the amendments to the Tiverton Home Rule Charter which were approved by the electors of the town of Tiverton on November 5, 2024.) {LC1052/1}

03/19/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 6112

BY Sanchez, Morales, Cruz, Speakman

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- EMINENT DOMAIN (Requires all entities delegated eminent domain powers under this section to adopt a plan and approval prior to exercising such power for a public purpose.) {LC2391/1}

03/19/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 6113

BY Cortvriend

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES (Allows Nunzio Pontillo to join Andrew Peter Carson and Christos Nelson Anastasopoulos in marriage on or about May 10, 2025, within the City of Newport, Rhode Island.) {LC2514/1}

03/19/2025 Introduced, referred to House Special Legislation

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:44 o'clock P.M. on behalf of Speaker Shekarchi, on motion of Leader Blazejewski, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Ann Marie Raspallo; seconded by Majority Whip Kazarian and Minority Leader Chippendale the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX

INVOCATION

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN J. LOMBARDI

Dear Lord: Today, we start our session by honoring Saint Joseph- the patron Saint of working men and women everywhere. Coming from humble beginnings, he dedicated his life to serving others. Let his humility be our guide as we work to serve the needs of all who call Rhode Island home. Amen

APPENDIX

CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025:

- 1. 2025-H 5442**
BY Fogarty
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- PUBLIC UTILITIES

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

- 2. 2025-H 5293**
BY Hull
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources recommends passage.

- 3. 2025-H 5270**
BY McGaw
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

- 4. 2025-H 5369**
BY Ajello
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

Francis McCabe
Clerk of the House

Friday, March 14, 2025