

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. 26

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Twenty sixth-Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence on Thursday, April 10, 2025, and is called to order at 4:10 o'clock P.M. by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 67 members present and 8 members absent as follows:

PRESENT – 67: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kennedy, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, and Voas.

ABSENT – 8: Representatives Casimiro, Craven, Fogarty, Kazarian, Kislak, Quattrocchi, Shallcross Smith and Tanzi.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents Representative Jenni Azanero Furtado, 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, April 8, 2025, is approved.

RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY



House of Representatives

CO-SPONSORSHIP REMOVAL REQUEST

2025

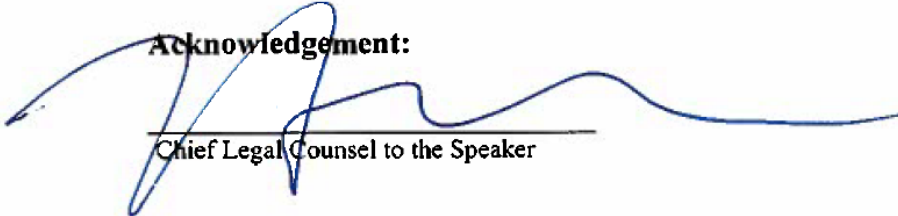
Pursuant to House Rule 15(g)(ii), Rep. Noret
hereby requests the removal of their co-sponsorship of Bill # H-6173
Entitled: Relating to Public Property and Works – RI Bid Rigging Act
which is currently in the House Committee on Judiciary.

Signature: 

House District: 25

Date: 4/4/2025

Acknowledgement:



Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker

NOTE: This request must be submitted to the Clerk of the House, who will retain the original and a copy to be placed in the committee's original bill file

RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY



House of Representatives

CO-SPONSORSHIP REMOVAL REQUEST

2025

Pursuant to House Rule 15(g)(ii), Rep. Solomon hereby requests the removal of their co-sponsorship of Bill # H-6173 Entitled: Relating to Public Property and Works – RI Bid Rigging Act which is currently in the House Committee on Judiciary.

Signature: _____

House District: 22

Date: 4/4/2025

Acknowledgement: _____
Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker

NOTE: This request must be submitted to the Clerk of the House, who will retain the original and a copy to be placed in the committee's original bill file

COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Kathleen A. Fogarty is unable to attend session today, Thursday, April 10, 2025.
Representative Julie A. Casimiro is unable to attend session today, Thursday, April 10, 2025.
Representative Rebecca M. Kislak is unable to attend session today, Thursday, April 10, 2025.
Representative Robert E. Craven, Sr., is unable to attend session today, Thursday, April 10, 2025.
Representative Mary Ann Shallcross Smith is unable to attend session today, Thursday, April 10, 2025.

CALENDAR

From the Calendar are taken:

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025:

- 1. 2025-H 5121 SUB A**
BY Casimiro
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS -- CURRENCY TRANSMISSIONS

Committee on Innovation, Internet, & Technology recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A.

Chairwoman Baginski moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Carson, Speakman, Biah, Donovan, Spears, Morales, Phillips, Cortvriend, Felix, Hopkins, Ajello and Paplauskas.

Chairwoman Baginski discusses the act.

The bill marked Substitute "A" is read and passed, and the original bill indefinitely postponed, on a roll call vote, 67 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 67: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kennedy, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

2. 2025-H 5218**BY** McEntee**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS
INSURANCE POLICIES

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Chairwoman Donovan moves passage of the act, seconded by Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Caldwell, Carson, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cruz, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Furtado, Hopkins, Hull, Lombardi, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Morales, Potter, Shanley, Slater, Speakman, Spears, Stewart.

Chairwoman Donovan discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 67 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 67: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kennedy, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

3. 2025-H 5619**BY** Ackerman**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- RHODE ISLAND
PROGRAM TO ADDRESS ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Chairwoman Donovan moves passage of the act, seconded by Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Carson, Casey, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, DeSimone, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Furtado, Handy, Hull, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McNamara, Morales, Noret, Paplauskas, Potter, Sanchez, Serpa, Shanley, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Voas.

Chairwoman Donovan discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 67 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 67: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kennedy, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

4. 2025-H 5558

BY Shallcross Smith

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS --
CONTRACTORS' REGISTRATION AND LICENSING BOARD

Committee on Corporations recommends passage.

Chairman Solomon moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Casey, McEntee, Phillips and O'Brien.

Chairman Solomon, Minority Leader Chippendale, and Representatives Sanchez, Edwards, Lima and Felix discuss the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 66 members voting in the affirmative and 1 member voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 66: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kennedy, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Read, Roberts, Santucci, Serpa, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Voas.

NAYS - 1: Representative Sanchez.

RECUSED - 0:

5. 2025-H 5811

BY Voas

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS -- AN ACT
ADOPTING THE FEDERAL SECURE AND FAIR ENFORCEMENT FOR MORTGAGE
LICENSING ACT OF 2009

Committee on Corporations recommends passage.

Chairman Solomon moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski and Representative Casey.

Chairman Solomon discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 65 members voting in the affirmative and 2 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 65: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Costantino, Cotter, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kennedy, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Read, Roberts, Santucci, Serpa, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Voas.

NAYS - 2: Representatives Corvese, Sanchez.

RECUSED - 0:

6. 2025-H 5695

BY Voas

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

Chairman Casey moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Deputy Majority Whip Ackerman and Representative Marszalkowski.

Chairman Casey, Representative Phillips, and Minority Leader Chippendale discuss the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 64 members voting in the affirmative and 2 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 64: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kennedy, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Place, Potter, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Voas.

NAYS - 2: Representatives Phillips, Shanley.

RECUSED - 0:

7. 2025-H 5633**BY McGaw****ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS --
PHARMACIES**

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Chairwoman Donovan moves passage of the act, seconded by Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Batista, Bennett, Blazejewski, Boylan, Carson, Casey, Cortvriend, Corvese, Cotter, Dawson, DeSimone, Donovan, Felix, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kennedy, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, O'Brien, Phillips, Potter, Read, Serpa, Shanley, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart.

Chairwoman Donovan discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote 67 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 67: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kennedy, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

8. 2025-H 5625**BY Dawson****ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS
INSURANCE POLICIES**

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Chairwoman Donovan moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Speakman, Boylan, McGaw, Spears and McEntee.

Chairwoman Donovan discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 66 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 66: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz,

Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kennedy, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

9. 2025-H 5051 SUB A

BY Azzinaro

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO RENAMING THE NEW SAKONNET RIVER BRIDGE, AQUIDNECK ISLAND

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

Chairwoman Alzate moves passage of the act, seconded by representatives Abney, Ajello, Azzinaro, Batista, Bennett, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Chippendale, Corvese, Costantino, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kennedy, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McNamara, Messier, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Phillips, Read, Serpa, Shanley, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Voas.

Chairwoman Alzate discusses the act.

The bill marked Substitute "A" is read and passed, and the original bill indefinitely postponed, on a roll call vote, 67 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 67: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kennedy, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

10. 2025-S 591 SUB A

BY Felag

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO RENAMING THE NEW SAKONNET RIVER BRIDGE, AQUIDNECK ISLAND

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

Chairwoman Alzate moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski.

Chairwoman Alzate discusses the act.

The bill marked Substitute "A" is read and passed, and the original bill indefinitely postponed, on a roll call vote, 67 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 67: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kennedy, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

11. 2025-S 44

BY Sosnowski

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage in concurrence.

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

Chairman Casey discusses the act.

Read and passed, in concurrence, on a roll call vote, 67 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 67: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kennedy, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

12. 2025-S 443**BY** Sosnowski**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO THE KINGSTON WATER DISTRICT -- BONDS

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage in concurrence.

Chairman Casey moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazewski, Representatives Spears and McEntee.

Chairman Casey discusses the act.

Read and passed, in concurrence, on a roll call vote, 67 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 67: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kennedy, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

GUESTS

In recognition of the extraordinary sacrifices made by our nation's heroes, we gather to honor the legacy of Staff Sergeant Christopher Potts, a brave and dedicated Rhode Island National Guardsman who served our country with honor and distinction.

On what would have been his 38th birthday, Staff Sergeant Potts made the ultimate sacrifice. He was tragically killed during an attack by insurgents while manning a traffic-control post in Taji, Iraq — approximately 13 miles north of Baghdad, in the region known as the Sunni Triangle. In the midst of a fierce firefight, he stood resolute in the face of danger, exemplifying the courage and commitment that define the spirit of the American soldier.

Today, as this House commemorates the passage of legislation to rename the Sakonnet River Bridge in his memory, Chairman Azzinaro is privileged to welcome the family of Staff Sergeant Potts. Joining us are his devoted wife, Terri Potts, and his son, Jackson Potts, who carry forward his legacy of bravery and service.

We are also honored by the presence of those who served alongside Staff Sergeant Potts: Sergeant Major Raymond Veins, who stood with him in service, and Platoon Leader Mark Bourgerly, who led

him and his fellow soldiers through the challenges of combat. Speaker Shekarchi expresses his deep gratitude for their service and welcomes them to the House. Their presence today is a powerful reminder of the deep bonds forged in service and the enduring impact of those who give their lives to defend our nation.

In celebration of the Cambodian New Year, Representative Slater is honored to welcome distinguished guests Venerable Sum Panha and Venerable Ou Keoratna, esteemed leaders of the Cambodian Buddhist community whose spiritual guidance enriches the lives of many. He is also pleased to welcome Ms. Khim Heng and Ms. Duongchan Ton On, dedicated community advocates who work tirelessly to preserve and promote Cambodian culture and heritage. Their presence today highlights our state's rich diversity and the Cambodian-American community's vibrant contributions. As we mark the beginning of the new year, we celebrate renewal, hope, and the enduring traditions that unite our communities.

Representative Morales commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the Cambodian Genocide, a solemn remembrance of the lives lost and the enduring strength of the Cambodian people. He extends a warm welcome to Lavong Prak, Samnang Becker, Sorooup Voel, Saru Vy, Say Vy, Vibol Mao, Yannee Doeur, Sokvoeurng Leom, Bunsang Chek, Samkhoun Phet, Sann Ngach Eak, Phath Saray, Sireyvitouh Keo, Rasmey Thorn, Joshua Alcantara Santiago, Nevaeh Senecal, Vanessa Flores-Maldonado, Charlie Chhum, and Kunal Vasudev. Their presence today serves as a powerful reminder of the resilience of survivors and their families and our shared responsibility to honor the memory of those lost while fostering education, awareness, and unity in the pursuit of peace and justice.

Representative Cruz warmly welcomes Dawn Simas and Meko Lincoln, Board members of the Formerly Incarcerated Persons Union of Rhode Island. She also acknowledges Alexandra Gonzalez, Director of Gather Together United As1, and Alexis Morales, Pawtucket Program Director of Project Weber Renew. They are present today to honor Second Chance Month, a nationally recognized celebration of second chances, fresh starts, and breaking barriers for individuals impacted by the legal system.

Representative Sanchez proudly welcomes professional boxer Lamont Powell, founder of Gloves Up, Guns Down; coaches Andrea Watson and Phillip Cooper; and students from Gloves Up, Guns Down, Julian Sanders, Luis Laboy, Max Card, Lyric Cruz, Sebastian Martinez-Aponte, Mason Trinidad, and Asiel Laporte to the House.

NOW PRESIDING

At 5:06 o'clock P.M., the Honorable Speaker Shekarchi yields the rostrum to the Honorable Deputy Speaker Hull.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairwoman Diaz extends an invitation to all members to attend a vigil in memory of the victims who tragically lost their lives and in support of those who were injured in the recent roof collapse at the Jet Set nightclub in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The vigil will take place on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at Roger Williams Park.

This gathering will serve as a moment of reflection, solidarity, and support for the affected families and communities, as we come together to honor those impacted by this heartbreaking event.

GUESTS

Representative Edwards warmly welcomes his intern, Brosnan Lopez, a junior at Brown University, who is participating in the Rhode Island State Government Internship Program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Azzinaro congratulates Betty Jo Cugini of Westerly, the former news director at Channel 10. Betty Jo is the associate producer of Christopher Wash's documentary film, "Westerly's Gold: Sweet, Spicy, and Full of Tradition." Four showings of "Westerly's Gold" will be tomorrow at the United Theatre in Westerly; all are invited to attend.

Vice-Chairwoman Speakman announces that the Committee on Municipal Government & Housing will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 101 of the State House.

Chairwoman Donovan announces that the Committee on Health & Human Services will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 135 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.

GUESTS

Chairman Solomon warmly welcomes former Rhode Island Senator Jeanine Calkin to the House.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Cruz wishes her granddaughter, Jazzlynn, a Happy Birthday!

Chairwoman Diaz reminds all members that April 23, 2025, is National Administrative Professionals' Day.

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces that there will be no session or committee meetings next week so that everyone can enjoy the annual Spring Recess. The next House session will be on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, and Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Majority Leader Blazejewski wishes Representatives Megan Cotter and Jenni Furtado a Happy Birthday! He would also like to extend birthday wishes to Representative Jose Batista, whose birthday falls during Break week.

Majority Leader Blazejewski wishes everyone a healthy and safe Passover, Easter, and Spring Recess Week.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**House Resolution No. 6219**

BY Slater, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Diaz, Chippendale, Morales, Kennedy, Ajello, Cortvriend, Bennett

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CELEBRATION OF THE CAMBODIAN NEW YEAR AND "THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE" ON APRIL 14-16, 2025 {LC2451/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Slater discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 6220

BY Morales, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Felix, Slater, Chippendale, Batista, Kennedy, Ajello, Paplauskas

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAMBODIAN GENOCIDE ON APRIL 17TH OF 2025 {LC2756/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representatives Morales and Slater discuss 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. 6221

BY Cruz, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Lombardi, Hull, Biah, Morales, Potter, Stewart, Felix

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION DESIGNATING APRIL OF 2025, TO BE "SECOND CHANCE MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2725/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Cruz discuss the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 6222

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Potter, Chippendale, Giraldo, Edwards, Fellela, Ackerman, Serpa, Kennedy

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING APRIL OF 2025, AS "ORGAN DONATION MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2389/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairwoman Serpa discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 6223

BY McGaw, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Spears, Boylan, Kislak, DeSimone, Read, Marszalkowski

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL OF 2025, AS "AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2384/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative McGaw discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 6224

BY McEntee, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Read, Noret, Caldwell, McNamara, Kazarian, Morales

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING "NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK" ON APRIL 6TH THROUGH APRIL 12TH, 2025, IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC1796/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairwoman McEntee discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 6225

BY Diaz, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Felix, Chippendale, Batista, Perez, Abney, Slater, Paplauskas
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO THOSE FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS WHO LOST LOVED ONES IN THE JET SET CLUB TRAGEDY {LC2764/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, on behalf of Representatives Batista, Perez, and Felix, Chairwoman Diaz requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Chairwoman Diaz discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 6226

BY Finkelman, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Cortvriend, Abney, Azzinaro, Noret, Chippendale, Phillips, Kennedy
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL OF 2025, TO BE THE "MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2388/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Finkelman discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 6227

BY Blazejewski, Chippendale, Stewart
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONGRATULATES {LC2709/1}

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. 6228

BY Blazejewski, Chippendale, Stewart

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES {LC2708/1}

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.

RULE 7D

The following bills were received pursuant to Rule 7D:

Representative Cortvriend-An Act relating to Waters and Navigation- Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank

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

Representative Donovan-An Act relating to Health and Safety-Abuse in Healthcare Facilities

Representative Hull-An Act relating to Weapons—Crime Weapons

Representative Place -An Act relating to Elections

An Act relating to State Affairs and Government-Universal Regulatory Sandbox

An Act relating to Criminal Procedure-Bail and Recognizance

Representative Read-Act relating to Public Officers and Employees- Retirement System-Membership and Services Credits

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 Deputy Speaker Hull announces that the desk will be held open.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Honorable Senate transmits with announcement of passage, of the following measures:

Senate Bill No. 126 SUB A

BY LaMountain, Dimitri, Thompson, Vargas, Patalano, Urso, Appollonio, Bissaillon, Murray, Ciccone

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- LABOR RELATIONS ACT -- EMPLOYEE FREE SPEECH RIGHTS (Protects the rights of employees in the workplace relating to free speech, assembly and religion, as well as attendance at employer-sponsored meetings regarding political or religious matters.) {LC415/A/1}

04/11/2025 Referred to House Labor

Senate Bill No. 241

BY Felag, Sosnowski, DiMario, Lauria, Valverde, Kallman

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- CONSUMER PFAS BAN ACT OF 2024 (Prohibits a manufacturer from manufacturing, knowingly selling, offering for sale, distributing for sale or distributing for use in the state any firefighting personal protective equipment containing intentionally-added PFAS as of January 1, 2027.) {LC976/1}

04/11/2025 Referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

Senate Bill No. 844

BY DiPalma

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.) {LC2476/1}

04/11/2025 Referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

NEW BUSINESS**House Bill No. 6229**

(Attorney General)

BY Dawson, Craven, Knight

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- STATE CRIME LABORATORY COMMISSION (Establishes the Rhode Island state crime laboratory within the department of attorney general.) {LC2635/1}

04/11/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 6230

BY Lombardi

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES (Allows for the issuance of a Class BV liquor license for the property located at 865 Westminster Street in the city of Providence.) {LC2746/1}

04/11/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 6231**BY** Corvese, O'Brien, Hull**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES

(Allows for the issuance of a Class B liquor license for the property located at 1441 Mineral Spring Avenue in the town of North Providence.) {LC2743/1}

04/11/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 6232**BY** Messier, Serpa, Furtado, Cruz, Fellela**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (Amends Pawtucket property tax classification system.) {LC2719/1}

04/11/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 6233**BY** Biah, DeSimone**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

(Exempts from taxation the real and tangible personal property of the Center for Southeast Asians.) {LC2583/1}

04/11/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 6234**BY** Kazarian**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- RHODE ISLAND CAMPAIGN

CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES REPORTING (Amends various sections of law relating to campaign contributions and expenditures including prohibitions on self-dealing with committee funds and prohibits donations made in fictitious names.) {LC2726/1}

04/11/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 6235**BY** Serpa**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- COMMITTEES AND STAFF

(Requires nonprofit, as a condition for requesting state funds from the general assembly, to submit & post on their website, a list of 10 of their highest paid director, officer & employee salaries & any forms of compensation provided to those individuals.) {LC2744/1}

04/11/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 6236**BY** Cortvriend, Donovan, Knight, Speakman, Finkelman, Kennedy, Azzinaro, McGaw, Edwards, Carson**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TRANSPORTATION OF SCHOOL

PUPILS BEYOND CITY AND TOWN LIMITS (Amends the composition of school bus districts within the state to provide transportation to students in grades kindergarten through 12.) {LC2711/1}

04/11/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 6237

BY Stewart, McNamara, Caldwell, Potter

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- STUDENT CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM (Directs the department of elementary and secondary education to provide a two-year pilot program that coordinates a national cultural exchange program for students of this state.)

{LC2717/1}

04/11/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 6238

BY Serpa, Fellela, McEntee, Shallcross Smith, Donovan, Messier, Phillips, Craven, Read, Dawson

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES --

RETIREMENT SYSTEM--CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS (Effective January 1, 2025, an annual cost-of-living increase, based upon the yearly Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U), to the retirement allowance for all state employees and all beneficiaries to be reinstated.)

{LC2680/1}

04/11/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 6239

BY Casey, Solomon, Chippendale, Slater, Voas, Finkelman, Dawson, Phillips, Corvese, Brien

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- RHODE ISLAND TAX AMNESTY ACT

OF 2017 (Authorizes the tax administrator to waive interest and penalties on delinquent taxes paid in full during a one week amnesty period. Also reinstates a suspended driver's license upon payment in full.) {LC2718/1}

04/11/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:27 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Edwards, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of James Goncalo; on motion of Representative Diaz, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Rubby Perez, Octavio Dotel, Tony Blanco, Nercy Cruz, Fray Luis Rosario and Gruyon Family; on motion of Representative Potter, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Walter E. Proffit Sr.; seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Chippendale the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX

INVOCATION

REPRESENTATIVE JENNI AZANERO FURTADO

Holy God: Shine your light upon this House as we strive to best serve you by serving others. Please help us to always remember that it is an honor and privilege to be a member of this House of Representatives. Amen

APPENDIX

TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR

Senate Bill No. 44

BY Sosnowski, Gu, Valverde

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (Grants the town council of the town of South Kingstown the authority to enact a homestead exemption ordinance.) {LC162/1}

04/10/2025 Transmitted to Governor

Senate Bill No. 199

BY Lauria

ENTITLED, AN ACT VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF BARRINGTON (Validates and ratifies the amendments to the Barrington Home Rule Charter which were approved by the electors of the town of Barrington on November 5, 2024.) {LC1103/1}

04/10/2025 Transmitted to Governor

Senate Bill No. 443

BY Sosnowski, Bissaillon

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO THE KINGSTON WATER DISTRICT -- BONDS (Increases the maximum amount of the Kingston water district bonding authority from four million dollars (\$4,000,000) to fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000).) {LC2021/1}

04/10/2025 Transmitted to Governor