

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-Six.

Volume 153, No. 4

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Fourth Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence on Thursday, January 15, 2026, and is called to order at 4:06 o'clock P.M. by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 68 members present and 7 members absent as follows:

PRESENT – 68: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislik, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, and Voas.

ABSENT – 7: Representatives Abney, Batista, Dawson, Felix, Perez, Phillips, and Serpa.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi presents Representative Mary Ann Shallcross Smith, 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 13, 2026, is approved.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

January 15, 2026

Speaker Shekarchi has made the following nominations for the National Conference of State Legislatures' events in 2026:

Representative Megan Cotter and Representative William O'Brien – Overdose Prevention Seminar

Representative Scott Slater – NCSL-Hoover Institution American Leadership Conference

Representative Brandon Potter – Health Policy Seminar

Representative Lauren Carson – Multi-Sector Approaches for Aging Program

COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Robert D. Phillips is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 15, 2026.

Representative Jose F. Batista is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 15, 2026.

Representative Leonela Felix is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 15, 2026.

Representative Marvin L. Abney is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 15, 2026.

Representative Matthew S. Dawson is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 15, 2026.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

GUESTS

Representative Carson warmly welcomes Ainsley Pattiee, a Providence College senior who will be interning with her this session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Bennett announces that the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 35 of the State House.

Representative Giraldo wishes his oldest daughter, Valentina, a Happy 7th Birthday! Speaker Shekarchi wishes Valentina a Happy Birthday!

Representative Biah, Chairman of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission, invites all members to attend the annual celebration honoring Dr. King on Monday, January 19, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at Ebenezer Baptist Church.

GUESTS

Representative Morales welcomes the Rhode Island Black Storytellers, Executive Director Valerie Tutson, and Managing Director Shavon Choclt Smith to the House today to celebrate Funda Fest 28. Speaker Shekarchi congratulates them on their work and welcomes them to the House.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces that at the Rise today, a Capitol TV photographer will be available in the House Lounge for members to take updated photos for the website and other official uses.

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces that the House will meet next week on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, and Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. On Thursday at 3:00 p.m., Ethics Commission Executive Director Jason Gramitt will provide Ethics Training in the House Lounge and discuss various sections of the code of ethics, as well as newly amended regulations. Speaker Shekarchi and Majority Leader Blazejewski encourage all members to attend.

Majority Leader Blazejewski wishes Representative Terri Cortvriend a Happy Birthday!

Speaker Shekarchi announces that attorneys attending Tuesday's Ethics Training will receive 1 CLE credit.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

House Resolution No. 7101

BY Morales, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Sanchez, Stewart, Hull, Lombardi, Biah, Ajello
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING FUNDA FEST 28 AND THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE RI BLACK STORYTELLERS (RIBS) FROM JANUARY 13TH-
25TH, 2026 {LC3476/1}

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. 7102

BY Noret, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Ajello, Fellela, Tanzi, Fogarty, McNamara, Bennett
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 21ST THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2025, AS "NATIONAL SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS WEEK" IN THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC3120/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Noret and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 7103

BY Biah, Hull, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Brien, Sanchez, Stewart, Alzate, Felix
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF THE REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ON JANUARY 15, 2026
{LC3481/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Biah discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 7104

BY Cortvriend, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, McGaw, Ajello, Fellela, Tanzi, Fogarty, McNamara
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF CARRIGAN MCCORRIE-RAINE NELSON
{LC3908/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Cortvriend discusses the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi extends his deepest condolences to the Nelson family.

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

House Resolution No. 7105

BY Messier, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Stewart, Alzate, Cruz, Felix, Chippendale, Ajello, Fellela
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF
THE HONORABLE THOMAS E. HODGE {LC4046/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Messier and Chairman McNamara discuss the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi extends his deepest condolences to the Hodge family.

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

House Resolution No. 7106

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Shanley, Ajello, Chippendale, Fellela, Tanzi, Fogarty, McNamara, Bennett

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF
THE HONORABLE BARBARA BALCH COLT {LC3646/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairman Shanley and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi extends his deepest condolences to the Colt family.

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

House Resolution No. 7107

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Carson, Ajello, Fellela, Tanzi, McNamara, Bennett, Shallcross Smith

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE
PASSING OF THE HONORABLE DAVID R. CARLIN, JR. {LC3489/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Carson and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 7108

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, McGaw, Chippendale, Abney, Fogarty, Ajello, Fellela, Tanzi, McNamara

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF AMBASSADOR J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF II {LC3116/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative McGaw and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative McGaw, seconded by Speaker Shekarchi, and many others, by unanimous consent, on a rising 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. 7109

BY Lombardi, Hull, Sanchez, Cruz, Stewart

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- PATIENT BROKERING ACT (Prohibits the practice of patient brokering and provides monetary penalties and enforcement by the office of the attorney general.) {LC3761/1} 01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7110

BY Alzate, Stewart, Felix, Giraldo, Cruz, Fogarty, Kazarian, Casimiro, Potter, Furtado

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THE PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCT SAFETY AND TOXIC METAL REMOVAL ACT OF 2026 (Sets a clear and

enforceable standard for reducing the presence of harmful metals in personal care products, prioritizing public health through testing, labeling, and the development of safer alternatives.) {LC3910/1}

01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7111

BY Solomon, Casey

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- PRODUCER LICENSING ACT (Clarifies what a contract modification is, namely any change in producer compensation.) {LC4171/1}

01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7112

BY Lombardi, Hull, Sanchez, Cruz, Stewart

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - REGULATORY POWERS OF ADMINISTRATION (Provides that any rate increase with respect to electric distribution companies would be no greater than the increase in the Consumer Price Index or 5.5%, whichever is greater, unless there is approval of a higher rate by the general assembly) {LC3762/1}

01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7113

BY McNamara

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- UNFAIR CLAIMS SETTLEMENT PRACTICES ACT (Prohibits dental insurers from refusing to honor directions to pay from insured, modifying benefits to be paid. Requires providers to accept payment by virtual credit card as unfair claims practices.) {LC3594/1}

01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7114

BY Ackerman, Shekarchi, McNamara, Boylan, Finkelman, Kazarian, Kennedy, Donovan, Brien, Newberry

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS (Permits special community service to be imposed because of bullying based on religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or ethnicity.) {LC3216/1}

01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7115

BY McNamara, Donovan, Ackerman, Casimiro, Bennett, Casey, Noret, Read, Paplauskas, Fascia **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS (Mandates the use of a soft-shell helmet cover device that adds a padded, soft-shell layer to the outside of a traditional football helmet, for students participating in Rhode Island interscholastic league football) {LC3590/1}

01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7116

BY Lombardi, Hull, Sanchez, Cruz, Stewart

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM (Requires the department of education to develop and make available for use in all schools a mental health curriculum. School districts would be required to provide four (4) hours of mental health instruction to seventh grade students.) {LC3759/1}

01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7117

BY Lombardi, Hull, Cruz

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM (Directs the council on elementary and secondary education to develop recommendations for a high school curriculum to prepare students for successful postsecondary education and careers in computer science.)

{LC3760/1}

01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7118

BY Lombardi, Hull, Sanchez, Cruz, Stewart

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS --

PHARMACEUTICAL COST TRANSPARENCY (Directs the state board of pharmacy to annually identify up to fifteen prescription drugs with increased costs and provides the list to the attorney general to obtain reasons for the cost increases.) {LC3757/1}

01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7119

BY Lombardi, Hull, Sanchez, Cruz, Stewart

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (Requires DOA provide inventory of all state agencies using artificial intelligence (AI); establishes a 13 member permanent commission to monitor the use of AI in state government and makes recommendations for state government policy and other decisions.) {LC3770/1}

01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Innovation, Internet, & Technology

House Bill No. 7120

BY Lombardi, Hull, Stewart

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT AND INVESTMENT ACT (Establishes a statewide broadband community outreach coordinator to assist state residents interested in learning more and/or applying for, the federal Affordable Connectivity Program.) {LC3753/1}

01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Innovation, Internet, & Technology

House Bill No. 7121

BY Lombardi, Hull, Cruz, Stewart

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- WORKPLACE PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY ACT (Prohibits psychological abuse in the workplace by employers or co-workers, ensuring a safe environment for employees, provides protection, civil remedies, and penalties for employers based on revenue.) {LC3838/1}

01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Labor

House Bill No. 7122

BY Sanchez

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Exempts from taxation the real and tangible personal property of Community MusicWorks located in the city of Providence.) {LC4105/1}

01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7123

BY Edwards

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (Requires the Rhode Island housing authority to verify and document the count of affordable housing stock in the town of Tiverton two (2) times per year.) {LC4121/1}

01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7124

BY Edwards

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (Allows the town of Tiverton, with an aggregate of 500 or more units proposed in a comprehensive permit project, to enact a short-term emergency moratorium until the permit laws are amended.) {LC4123/1}

01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7125

BY Edwards

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (Authorized the town of Tiverton to require that fifty percent (50%) of new construction be affordable housing units if there is less than ten percent (10%) of affordable housing in the town.) {LC4124/1}

01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7126

(Governor)

BY Abney

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MAKING REVISED APPROPRIATIONS IN SUPPORT OF FY 2026 {LC4135/1}

01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7127

(Governor)

BY Abney

ENTITLED, AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE STATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027 {LC4134/1}

01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7128

BY O'Brien, McEntee, Dawson, Noret, Roberts, Biah, Read, Corvese, Diaz, Hull

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- MAINTENANCE OF ORDER ON CAMPUS (Mandates arming campus police at public higher educational institutions and includes

campus police in the definition of "law enforcement officer" for the purposes of the "Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights.") {LC3651/1}
01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7129

BY Speakman, Ajello, Morales, Felix, Azzinaro, Stewart, Cruz, Furtado, Giraldo
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT (Amends the residential landlord and tenant act to prohibit the use of algorithmic renting-setting software that relies on nonpublic competitor data to determine rental prices or occupancy levels for residential dwelling units in Rhode Island.) {LC3776/1}
01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7130

BY Lombardi, Hull, Sanchez, Cruz, Stewart
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT (Allows a tenant to pay an increased security deposit in monthly increments over the course of a twelve (12) month period.) {LC3775/1}
01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Resolution No. 7131

BY Sanchez, Stewart, Potter, Ajello, Cruz, Tanzi, Giraldo, Fogarty, Morales, Kislak
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON DEATH OF RENEE NICOLE GOOD IN MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA {LC3913/1}
01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7132

BY Casimiro, Shallcross Smith, Kislak, Speakman, Alzate, Stewart, Craven, McEntee
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- HOMICIDE (Prohibits the imposition of a sentence of life without parole upon any person twenty-one (21) years of age or younger.) {LC3664/1}
01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7133

BY Lombardi, Hull, Sanchez, Cruz, Stewart
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- DOMESTIC ABUSE PREVENTION (Permits the family court to award custody of household pets to the plaintiff in a domestic abuse complaint, including the enforcement remedy of a restraining order or other injunctive relief.) {LC3773/1}
01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7134

BY Lombardi, Hull, Sanchez, Cruz, Stewart
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- THE RHODE ISLAND FIRST STEP ACT (Establishes Rhode Island First Step program requiring DOC to assist offenders with reintegration into society, counseling, medical care, education, early sentence termination or pre-release confinement for elderly and terminally ill offenders.) {LC3772/1}
01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7135

BY Read, Noret, Cotter, Casey, Shanley, Casimiro, Hull, Corvese, Serpa, Paplauskas
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL (Creates a program through which fire departments and fire districts are notified of locations of registrants of electric and hybrid motor vehicles can register their vehicles with their local fire department or fire district.) {LC3426/1}

01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7136

BY Edwards, Bennett, Cortvriend
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OPEN MEETINGS (Allows school committees to add item(s) not appearing in the published notice to their agendas for the purposes of discussion only and not for the purpose of voting upon the item(s).) {LC4109/1}

01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7137

BY Lombardi, Hull, Cruz, Stewart
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE RHODE ISLAND LOBBYING REFORM ACT (Prohibits lobbyists from making any political contributions to any member of the general assembly from January 1 through July 1 in any year, unless the general assembly adjourns for the year prior to July 1.) {LC3766/1}

01/15/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7138

BY Lombardi, Hull, Cruz, Stewart
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY (Enables the Rhode Island public transit authority (RIPTA) to work with the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) to allow commuter rail passes to be used as dual passes for both RIPTA and MBTA.) {LC3778/1}

01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7139

BY Place, Hopkins, Paplauskas, Roberts, Newberry, Nardone, Quattrocchi, Chippendale, Fascia
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- THE RENEWABLE ENERGY GROWTH PROGRAM (Requires that any costs, tariffs or other mandates related to the state's renewable energy growth program be reviewed and approved by the general assembly.) {LC3623/1}

01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7140

BY Place, Hopkins, Roberts, Paplauskas, Nardone, Quattrocchi, Chippendale, Fascia
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM (Allows any school district to petition the board of education to use a lower-cost curriculum program, if the program is substantially similar to other programs approved by the board of education.) {LC3625/1}

01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7141

BY Boylan, Cortvriend, Speakman, Fogarty, McGaw, Kislak, Carson, Bennett, Spears, Handy
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT --
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (Requires the producer of artificial turf and turf infill sold or distributed in RI to report its chain of custody, from installation to use, repurposing, recycling and disposal to the department of environmental management.) {LC3978/1}
01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

House Bill No. 7142

BY Casimiro, Brien, Fascia, Chippendale, Paplauskas, Place, Hopkins, Alzate, Solomon
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS -- CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINICS ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT ACT (Creates the certified community behavioral health clinic accountability and oversight act to ensure transparency, fiscal responsibility, and service quality by certified community behavioral health clinics.) {LC3885/1}
01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7143

BY Place, Hopkins, Paplauskas, Newberry, Nardone, Roberts, Quattrocchi, Chippendale, Fascia
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- DETERMINATION OF NEED FOR NEW HEALTHCARE EQUIPMENT AND NEW INSTITUTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES (Repeals the certificate of need process statutes which are used by the department of health to determine the need for new health care equipment and new institutional health services.) {LC3619/1}
01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7144

BY Place, Hopkins, Roberts, Fascia
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- JURY LISTS (Makes those persons seventy (70) years of age or older exempt from jury service.) {LC3579/1}
01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7145

BY Fellela, Messier, Caldwell, Craven, Kazarian
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS (Amends the heading of § 11-47-60.1 to include the words "Dillon's Law.") {LC3365/1}
01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7146

BY Fellela, Corvese, Azzinaro, Brien, Edwards
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION (Creates a new class of retirement status license for retirees that had possessed a professional license issued by the department of labor and training.) {LC4058/1}
01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Labor

House Bill No. 7147

BY Edwards, Bennett, Potter

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- LABOR AND PAYMENT OF DEBTS BY CONTRACTORS (Amends the definition of public works so that it would include any public works projects performed for any city or town or quasi-municipal entity and the state and any quasi-state entity.) {LC4108/1}

01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Labor

House Bill No. 7148

BY Place, Newberry, Nardone, Roberts, Quattrocchi, Hopkins, Chippendale, Fascia

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- REHABILITATION BUILDING AND FIRE CODE FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES (Expands the Rhode Island rehabilitation and fire code to include existing one, two, and three-bedroom homes, removing their current exclusion and promoting the continued use and reuse of existing residential buildings.) {LC3624/1}

01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7149

BY Read, Noret, Hull, Fascia, O'Brien, Casey, Casimiro

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- RELIEF OF INJURED AND DECEASED FIRE FIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS (Requires that before any fire fighter or police officer is eligible to receive benefits for illness or injury sustained off duty, they prove they had reasonable grounds to believe that an emergency existed that required immediate need of their assistance.) {LC3878/1}

01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7150

BY Paplauskas, Hopkins, Fascia, Place, Quattrocchi, Santucci, Roberts, Newberry, Noret, Brien

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- GENERAL POWERS (Prohibits municipalities from restricting certain landscaping equipment based on its power source.) {LC3581/1}

01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7151

BY Finkelman

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Authorizes the town of Jamestown to authorize, by ordinance, the expansion of the local tax exemption ordinance for seniors.) {LC3859/1}

01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7152

BY Voas, Casey, Azzinaro, Shanley, Giraldo, O'Brien, Read, Solomon, Hull, Place

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Increases the minimum veterans' exemption from one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to six thousand dollars (\$6,000) with respect to municipal taxes.) {LC4087/1}

01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7153

BY Place, Newberry

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

(Changes the per-unit fee structure of affordable housing to 150 % of the cost of developing a single-family home or a condominium unit.) {LC3919/1}

01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7154

BY Edwards, Bennett, Kislak, Corvese, Shanley, Potter

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC RECORDS -- ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS

(Amends the definition of public record to exempt from public disclosure the city or town of

residence of the justices, judges, and magistrates of the unified judicial system.) {LC4114/1}

01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7155

BY Place, Hopkins

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT --

DEPARTMENTS OF STATE GOVERNMENT (Provides that testimony submitted on behalf of

state departments, agencies, boards or commissions would not be considered official unless

authorized by the governor.) {LC3584/1}

01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7156

BY Solomon

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- COURTS --

SUPERIOR COURT (Permits retired superior court magistrates to be assigned to perform service

pursuant to §§ 8-2-11.1, 8-2-39, 8-2-39.1 or 8-2-39.2 and be reemployed by the superior court

without any forfeiture or reduction of any retirement benefits.) {LC3351/1}

01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7157

BY Solomon, Casey, Casimiro, Baginski, Bennett

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- RELIEF OF INJURED AND

DECEASED FIRE FIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS (Removes the definition of "totally and

permanently disabled" from the general law affording college tuition paid by the state to the spouse

and children of active members of the police force who are killed or disabled during duty.)

{LC3358/1}

01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7158

BY Hull, Lombardi, Speakman, Tanzi, Fogarty, Handy, Shallcross Smith, Alzate, Ackerman, McNamara

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

BENEFITS (Provides that adjunct faculty members at any state college or university who teach at

least 50% of the hours regularly worked by full-time faculty in a semester would be eligible for the

same medical benefits as other state employees.) {LC4182/1}

01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7159

BY Edwards, Donovan, Ackerman, McEntee, Kislak, Casimiro, Diaz, Solomon, Slater, Casey
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- ORGAN-DONATION LEAVE ACT (Provides for paid leave for a state employee who donates an organ and duration of the leave is dependent on the type of donation and notice should be provided to the employer at least thirty (30) days prior to the leave.) {LC4106/1}

01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7160

BY O'Brien, McEntee, Dawson, Biah, Noret, Furtado, Messier, Read, Corvese, Slater
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT (Allows teachers, state and municipal employees to retire when they have at least twenty-eight (28) years of active service and their retirement age, when combined with the number of their years of service reaches, the number eighty-five (85).) {LC3663/1}

01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7161

BY McEntee, O'Brien, Caldwell, Read, Phillips, Serpa, Casimiro, Spears, Felix, Biah
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT (Increases monthly minimum benefit for a spouse, domestic partner, former spouse. Grant a 2.89% COLA for eligible retirees. Provided a modification reducing federal AGI for public pension benefits from the RI employees retirement system.) {LC3371/1}

01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7162

BY Casimiro, Craven, Shanley, Serpa, Fellela, McEntee, Solomon, Read, Kazarian
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PERSONAL INCOME TAX (Allows a modification to federal adjusted gross income for all public pension benefits administered by the Employees Retirement System of Rhode.) {LC4047/1}

01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7163

BY Donovan, O'Brien, Casimiro, Boylan, Speakman, Messier, Furtado, Cortvriend, Kislak, Potter
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- FOUNDATION LEVEL SCHOOL SUPPORT (Prohibits participation in federal school voucher tax credit for contributions to scholarship-granting organizations unless both the general assembly and the governor approve such participation.) {LC4210/1}

01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Resolution No. 7164

BY Finkelman, Cortvriend

ENTITLED, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$991,000 FOR THE TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN (Authorizes the appropriation of the sum of \$991,000 for the town of Middletown to upgrade the gymnasium at the new Middletown middle high school to serve a regional emergency shelter.) {LC4077/1}

01/16/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Chairman Bennett, for the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of passage:

House Resolution No. 7028

BY Read, Noret, Cotter, Paplauskas

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES, AND AMENDING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SPECIAL HOUSE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE FINDINGS AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS THE FLOODING OF THE PAWTUXET RIVER (Amends and increase the membership of the commission to address flooding of the Pawtuxet River from eleven (11) to thirteen (13), and would extend the reporting date from March 2, 2026, to March 5, 2027, and expire on June 2, 2027.)

{LC3877/1}

01/16/2026 Placed on House Calendar (01/22/2026)

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:36 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Messier, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Hon. Thomas E. Hodge; on motion of Representative Shanley, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Hon. Barbara Balch Colt; on motion of Representative Carson and as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Hon. David R. Carlin Jr.; on motion of Representative McGaw and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Hon. J. William Middendorf II; on motion of Representative Cortvriend, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Carrigan McCorrie-Raine Nelson; on motion of Representative Diaz, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Basilio Francisco Peguero Arias; on motion of seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Chippendale the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX

INVOCATION

REPRESENTATIVE MARY ANN SHALLCROSS SMITH

Dear God, open our hearts and minds as we seek your guidance in the tasks before us. Let the members of this House govern with compassion and understanding, and with the determination to do what is best for our state and our country. Amen.

APPENDIX

CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026:

1. 2026-H 7028

BY Read

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES, AND AMENDING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SPECIAL HOUSE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE FINDINGS AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS THE FLOODING OF THE PAWTUXET RIVER

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources recommends passage.

Francis McCabe
Clerk of the House

Friday, January 16, 2026