

State of Rhode Island

Journal of the Senate

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. 2

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Second Legislative Day

CALL TO ORDER

The Senate meets pursuant to recess and is called to order by The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio, President of the Senate, at 5:22 o'clock P.M.

ROLL CALL

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 37 Senators present and 1 Senator absent as follows:

PRESENT –37: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

ABSENT – 1: Senator Paolino.

INVOCATION


The Honorable President, by unanimous consent, presents Senator Bissaillon to deliver the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

The Honorable President, by unanimous consent, presents Senator Bissaillon, to lead the Senate in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Honorable President of the Senate presents the following communications:

<p>SENATOR LEONIDAS P. RAPTAKIS District 33</p> <hr/> <p>2080 Nooseneck Hill Road Coventry, Rhode Island 02816</p> <p>Room 114 Rhode Island State House Providence, Rhode Island 02903</p> <p>OFFICE 401-276-5567 HOME 401-397-8345</p> <p>sen-raptakis@rilegislature.gov</p>	<p>State of Rhode Island</p>  <p>Senate Chamber</p>	<p>VICE CHAIR Committee on Special Legislation & Veterans' Affairs</p> <hr/> <p>SECRETARY Committee on Judiciary</p>
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January 14, 2025


The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio
President of the Senate
State House, Room 318
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Mr. President,

Please be advised that I am unable to attend Senate Session today, January 14, 2025.

I would appreciate your recording my letter in the appropriate Senate Journal.

Sincerely,



Leonidas P. Raptakis
Senator – District 33

LPR/djc

cc: Secretary of the Senate

Placed on file.

DOMINICK J. RUGGERIO
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

State of Rhode Island



Room 318
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

OFFICE: (401) 222-6655
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sen-ruggerio@rilegislature.gov

Senate Chamber

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

The Honorable Senate
Senate Chamber
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

To the Honorable, the Senate:

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Interim Senate Rules, I am making the following appointments to the Senate Standing Committees:

Senate Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies:

- Senator Victoria Gu – Chair
- Senator John P. Burke – Vice Chair
- Senator Louis P. DiPalma – Secretary
- Senator Samuel D. Zurier
- Senator Lammis Vargas
- Senator Gordon Rogers
- Senator Lori Urso

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dominick J. Ruggerio".

Dominick J. Ruggerio
President of the Senate

APPOINTMENTS BY THE GOVERNOR

The Honorable President presents the following communication from His Excellency, The Governor, transmitting the following appointments and requesting the advice and consent of the Senate thereto:



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

November 27, 2024

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE,

I have the honor to inform you in accordance with the provisions of Section § 42-64.10-7 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following appointment to the Quonset Development Corporation:

Michael F. Sweeney, Esq.

Vice
Susan Leach DeBlasio

For a term expiring December 31, 2026

To this Appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President
Honorable Ryan W. Pearson, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATIONS**Senate Resolution No. 4****BY** Lawson**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF MELVIN L. ZURIER

{LC17/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Lawson requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Lawson moves passage, seconded by Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Murray, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a rising vote.

Senate Resolution No. 5**BY** Sosnowski, Ruggerio**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE WALTER J. GRAY

{LC21/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Sosnowski requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Sosnowski moves passage, seconded by Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Murray, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Rogers, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a rising vote.

Senate Resolution No. 6**BY** Ruggerio, Bissaillon**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE SENATOR JAMES S. D'AMBRA
{LC28/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Bissaillon requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Bissaillon moves passage, seconded by Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Murray, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a rising vote.

Senate Resolution No. 7**BY** Mack**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING RUTH ANN MADSEN FOR HER SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF RHODE ISLAND ON THE OCCASION OF HER PASSING
{LC579/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Mack requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Mack moves passage, seconded by Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, McKenney, Murray, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a rising vote.

Senate Resolution No. 8**BY** McKenney**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION AMENDING THE RULES OF THE SENATE FOR THE YEARS 2023-2024 (This resolution would amend the rules of the Senate relative to committees and would create a new committee on artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.)

{LC436/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator McKenney requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator McKenney moves passage, seconded by Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissailon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Murray, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

The senate resolution is read and passed, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote with 34 Senators voting in the affirmative and 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS – 34: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissailon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Murray, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.**NAYS – 0:**

Appendix
CONSENT CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025:

- 1. 2025-S 1**
BY Lawson
ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF CAROL A. BRIDEN

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
- 2. 2025-S 2**
BY Lawson
ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF DANIEL A. SPAIGHT, JR.

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
- 3. 2025-S 3**
BY Lawson
ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF CONSTANCE M. SILVEIRA

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

Upon motion of Senator Lawson, seconded by Senator Rogers, the following measures on Today's Consent Calendar, by unanimous consent, are read and passed, upon a roll call vote:

YEAS – 35: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Murray, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

TRANSMITTAL

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Zurier announces that the Joint Committee on Housing and Municipal Government and Rules, Government Ethics & Oversight will meet Tuesday, January 21st at 2:00pm in Room 313.

RECESS

Upon the Motion of Senator Lawson, seconded by Senator Rogers, the Senate stands in Recess at 5:55 o'clock P.M. *in memory of Melvin L. Zurier, the Honorable Walter J. Gray, the Honorable Senator James S. D'Ambra, and Ruth Ann Madsen.*

Appendix**PROCEEDINGS IN JOINT SESSION**

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

The Honorable, President of the Senate, Dominick J. Ruggerio in the Chair.

CALLED TO ORDER

The Joint Session is called to order at 6:50 o'clock P.M.

Upon suggestion of The Honorable, President of the Senate, and by unanimous consent, the reading of the roll of the Senate and the roll of the House of Representatives is dispensed with, there being a quorum of the Senate and a quorum of the House of Representatives present, therefore a quorum of the Joint Session.

The Honorable, President of the Senate, by unanimous consent, appoints Senators Melissa Murray, Victoria Gu, Lammis Vargas, Andrew Dimitri, Todd Patalano, and Brian Thompson, Representatives Mia Ackerman, Richard Fascia, Jenni Furtado, Marie Hopkins, Alex Marszalkowski, and Brandon Voas to escort His Excellency, the Governor, Dan McKee and guests to the Chamber.

Joint Session attends while The Honorable Paul A. Suttell and the Members of the Judiciary enter the Chamber.

Joint Session attends while the Chair of the Board of Elections, Jennifer L. Johnson enters the Chamber.

Joint Session attends while members of the Presidents of the Rhode Island Public Institutions of Higher Education enter the Chamber.

Joint Session attends while the Chair of the Rhode Island Board of Education, Michael Grey enters the Chamber.

Joint Session attends while the Mayors, Town Administrators and Municipal Leaders enter the Chamber.

Joint Session attends while members of the Directors of the Executive Departments and Quasi Public Agencies enter the Chamber.

Joint Session attends while The First Lady of the State of Rhode Island, Mrs. Susan McKee and Daughter Kara McKee, enter the Chamber.

Joint Session attends while the Honorable James A. Diossa, General Treasurer, enters the Chamber.

Joint Session attends while the Honorable Peter Neronha, Attorney General, enters the Chamber.

Joint Session attends while the Honorable Gregg M. Amore, Secretary of State, enters the Chamber.

Joint Session attends while His Excellency, the Governor, Dan McKee, enters the Chamber.

The Honorable, President of the Senate, presents His Excellency, the 76th Governor of the State of Rhode Island, Dan McKee, to the Joint Session.

The Governor, Dan McKee delivers his State of the State Address.

JOINT SESSION ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Speaker Shekarchi, seconded by Senator Majority Leader Lawson, and by unanimous consent, the Joint Session adjourns and the two Houses separate at 8:13 o'clock P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The Senate meets pursuant to recess and is called to order by the Honorable Dominick J. Ruggiero, President of the Senate, on Tuesday, January 21st at 4:18 o'clock P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Senator Lawson, seconded by Senator de la Cruz, and the Senate adjourns at 4:20 o'clock P.M.

HELENA S. REID
Secretary of the Senate

Appendix**INVOCATION****SENATOR JACOB BISSAILLON**

Almighty Father, let your spirit of wisdom transcend upon the leaders of our State. Tonight, as Governor McKee delivers his State of the State Address, we are reminded of the challenges we face ahead. Help us all strive to work together to reach common ground and find positive solutions for the benefit of all our constituents as we move Rhode Island towards a brighter tomorrow. Amen.

Appendix

CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025:

1. *The Appointment of Mark Turco, MD as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Rhode Island Life Sciences Hub for a term expiring January 15, 2028.*

Committee on Finance recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

Helena S. Reid
Secretary of the Senate