

State of Rhode Island

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# Journal of the Senate

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**JANUARY SESSION of the General Assembly begun and held at the State House in the City of Providence on Tuesday, the Seventh day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.**

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Volume 152, No. 3

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Third Legislative Day

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## 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 4:21 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, Bissailon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

**ABSENT – 1:** Senator DiPalma.

## INVOCATION

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

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

**APPROVAL OF RECORD**

The Senate Journal of the First Legislative Day of the 2025 proceedings is read in part.

Upon suggestion of Senator Britto and by unanimous consent, further reading of the Journal is dispensed with and the Journal approved as recorded.

**COMMUNICATION**

The Honorable President of the Senate presents the following communication:

<p><b>SENATOR</b> <b>LOUIS P. DiPALMA</b> District 12</p> <hr/> <p>24 Sall Court Middletown, Rhode Island 02842</p> <p>Room 209 Rhode Island State House Providence, Rhode Island 02903</p> <p>RESIDENCE: 401-847-8540 OFFICE: 401-276-5599</p> <p>sen-dipalma@rilegislature.gov</p>	<p>State of Rhode Island</p>  <p>Senate Chamber</p>	<p>CHAIR Committee on Finance</p> <hr/> <p>Committee on Education</p>
<p>January 21, 2025</p>		
<p>The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio President of the Senate 318 State House Providence, RI 02903</p>		
<p>Dear Mister President,</p>		
<p>Please be advised that I will be absent from the chamber on Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. I would appreciate your recording my letter in the appropriate Senate Journal.</p>		
<p>Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p>		
<p>Sincerely,</p>		
		
<p>Louis P. DiPalma Senator – District 12</p>		
<p>LD/jp</p>		

Placed on file.

**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATIONS****Senate Resolution No. 9****BY** Morgan**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE BARBARA ANN CAPALBO  
{LC200/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Morgan requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

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

The resolution is read and passed upon a rising vote.

**GUESTS**

Upon suggestion of Senator Morgan and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber William Capalbo, Mary Smith, Elenor Smith, Lillian Smith, John Smith, and Christina Maria Lavigne.

**Senate Resolution No. 10****BY** Bissaillon**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF SAYSOMBOUN PHIVILAY  
{LC504/1}

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, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, 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.

The resolution is read and passed upon a rising vote.

**Senate Resolution No. 11****BY** DiMario**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING AND THANKING THE HONORABLE MARTHA BALL FOR HER 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE TOWN OF NEW SHOREHAM

{LC577/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator DiMario requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senators DiMario and Sosnowski discuss the senate resolution.

Senator DiMario moves passage, seconded by Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, Dimitri, 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.

The resolution is read and passed upon a voice vote.

**Appendix****CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025:**

1. *The Appointment of Mark Turco, MD as President and for a term expiring January 15, 2028.*

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

Senator Ciccone moves that the advice and consent of the Senate be given this appointment, seconded by Senators Sosnowski, Raptakis, Bell, Zurier, LaMountain, Quezada, Urso, Vargas, Valverde, Ujifusa, Lawson, Gallo, Felag, Tikoian, Britto, Mack, Dimitri, Acosta, Pearson, Lauria, Patalano, and Thompson.

The advice and consent of the Senate is given, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote, with 36 members voting in the affirmative, and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

**YEAS – 36:** The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, 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.

**NAYS – 0:**

**GUESTS**

Upon suggestion of Senator Ciccone and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Rhode Island Life Sciences Hub; Marc Turco, Justine Turco, Wife, Alexandra Turco, Daughter and Karen Varieur, Mother in-law.

**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.

**RECESS**

Upon the Motion of Senate Majority Whip Tikoian, seconded by Senate Majority Leader Lawson, the Senate stands in Recess at 4:53 o'clock P.M. *in memory of the Honorable Barbara Ann Capalbo and Saysomboun Phivilay.*

**NEW BUSINESS****Senate Bill No. 13**

**BY** Ujifusa, Lawson, Bell, Gu, Zurier, Mack, Acosta, DiMario, Burke, Lauria  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- THE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE USE BY HEALTH INSURERS TO MANAGE COVERAGE AND CLAIMS ACT (Would promote transparency and accountability in the use of artificial intelligence by health insurers to manage coverage and claims.)

{LC183/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Artificial Intelligence & Emerging Technologies.

**Senate Bill No. 14**

**BY** Tikoian, Felag, Ciccone, Burke, Britto, McKenney, LaMountain, Gallo, Murray, Sosnowski  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- VEHICLE BARRIERS -- THE CHARLOTTE A. VACCA ACT (Requires commercial property owners to install vehicle barriers at their retail establishment locations when new construction are being done and permits insurers to consider the installation to provide a discount on the owner's insurance policy.)

{LC425/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Commerce.

**Senate Bill No. 15**

**BY** Gu, Britto, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Gallo, Kallman, Bell, DiMario, Mack  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE-CASUALTY INSURANCE GENERALLY-LIMITATIONS ON POLICY CANCELLATIONS AND RENEWALS (Requires homeowner's insurance providers to provide two months' notice before increasing any policy more than 20%. Also caps rate increases for policy holders that are 65 years of age or older and meet certain income limits.)

{LC431/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Commerce.

**Senate Bill No. 16****BY** Gu, Zurier, DiPalma, Burke, Urso, Bell, Gallo**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS -- CURRENCY TRANSMISSIONS (Establishes regulation by DBR over the practices and procedures of virtual currency kiosk operators to prevent fraud related to the use of virtual currency kiosks, by establishing daily transaction limits and the regulating of fees.)

{LC562/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Commerce.

**Senate Bill No. 17****BY** Ujifusa, Ruggerio, Lawson, Tikoian**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES (This act would provide that advertising goods that don't include a price referencing all mandatory fees and charges shall be a deceptive trade practice.)

{LC141/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Commerce.

**Senate Bill No. 18****BY** Gu, Sosnowski, Kallman, Mack, Zurier, Urso**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

{LC776/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Commerce.

**Senate Bill No. 19****BY** de la Cruz, Ciccone, Morgan, Rogers, Zurier**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- INNOVATION SCHOOLS (Allows for the establishment of innovation schools for the purpose of improving school performance and student achievement through increased autonomy and flexibility.)

{LC343/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Education.

**Senate Bill No. 20****BY** Acosta, Gallo, Mack, Valverde, Zurier, Murray**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION (Directs the commissioner of postsecondary education to prepare a strategic plan for public higher education which is aligned with the goals of the board of education's strategic plan.)

{LC212/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Education.

**Senate Bill No. 21****BY** Acosta, Gallo, Mack, Valverde, Zurier, Murray**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS (Extends teacher certifications without fee or penalty for three (3) or five (5) years for teachers who hold certifications as of July 1, 2025.)

{LC214/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Education.

**Senate Bill No. 22****BY** Ciccone, Tikoian, Burke, Kallman, Acosta**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION -- STUDENT SUCCESS ACT (Reduces the time, from three (3) years to six (6) months, required for a nonimmigrant foreign national student, who has resided in Rhode Island, to be eligible to pay the same in-state tuition as any other Rhode Island student.)

{LC462/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Education.

**Senate Resolution No. 23****BY** Zurier, DiMario, Vargas, Gu**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POTENTIAL CHANGES IN LEGISLATION/OVERSIGHT OF THE ACT ON CLIMATE (Creates a 5 member commission to provide recommendations for legislation changes and/or oversight for the Act on Climate, and would report back by May 1, 2026, and would expire on June 1, 2026.)

{LC554/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Environment and Agriculture.



**Senate Bill No. 24****BY** Ujifusa, Euer, Valverde, Pearson, Bell, Murray, Zurier, Kallman**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- HIGH HEAT WASTE FACILITY ACT (Provides for a prohibition on the licensing of any new high-heat waste facility.)

{LC443/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Environment and Agriculture.

**Senate Bill No. 25****BY** Gu, DiMario, Murray, Ujifusa, Valverde, Britto, Lauria**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- TRADE IN FARMED ANIMAL FUR PRODUCTS (Prohibits a person to sell, offer for sale, display for sale or otherwise distribute a farmed animal fur product within the state and provides graduated civil penalties for violations.)

{LC473/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Environment and Agriculture.

**Senate Bill No. 26****BY** Raptakis, Rogers**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (Requires 10% of all rental fees collected by the water resources board pursuant to a lease with the Coventry Pines Golf Club be paid to the town of Coventry and 10% to the Central Coventry Fire District.)

{LC484/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 27****BY** Ujifusa, DiPalma, Pearson, Euer, Valverde, Lawson, Tikoian, Ciccone, Felag, Acosta**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY TAX RELIEF (Increases the income range up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) and tax credit up to eight hundred fifty dollars (\$850), for elderly and disabled persons who own or rent their homes.)

{LC138/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 28****BY** Zurier**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Exempts from taxation the real and tangible personal property of the Providence Preservation Society as of September 1, 2025.)

{LC293/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 29****BY** Raptakis, Felag, Britto, Tikoian, Patalano, Burke, Dimitri, Morgan, Valverde, Ujifusa, LaMountain**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- NATIONAL GUARD (Raises the amount of life insurance the state provides at no charge to Rhode Island National Guard members called up for federal duty to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).)

{LC42/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 30****BY** Acosta, Gallo, Mack, Valverde, Zurier, Murray**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- POSTSECONDARY TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR SHORTAGE TEACHING FIELDS (Creates a postsecondary tuition assistance for shortage teaching fields.)

{LC215/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 31****BY** Gallo, Ciccone, Britto, Tikoian, Thompson**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (Exempts the trade-in value of pickup trucks weighing fourteen thousand pounds (14,000 lbs.) or less from sales and use tax.)

{LC713/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 32**

**BY** Acosta, Zurier, Mack, Bissailon, Quezada, Bell, Ciccone, Felag, DiMario, Vargas  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- STATE AID (Includes municipal detention facility corporations as exempt from taxation, and requires that an amount equal to 27% of all tax that would have been collected if the property was taxable be paid to the municipality annually.)

{LC211/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 33**

**BY** Felag, LaMountain, Ciccone, Tikoian, Britto, Morgan  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PERSONAL INCOME TAX (Allows a modification to federal adjusted gross income of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) of social security income for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.)

{LC233/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 34**

**BY** Felag, Ciccone, Tikoian, Britto, Urso  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (Eliminates the sales tax on taxi services and pet care services.)

{LC232/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 35**

**BY** Pearson, Valverde, DiMario, Euer, DiPalma  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SCHOOL FUNDS AND PROPERTY (Directs the department of education to develop and adopt regulations for energy capable school buildings.)

{LC592/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 36****BY** Felag, Ciccone, Tikoian, Britto, Morgan, Lauria**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT (Amends the Education Equity and Property Tax Relief Act to set the regionalization bonus at 2% of the state's share of foundation education aid for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2025, and for each year thereafter.)

{LC234/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 37****BY** Gu, DiMario, Murray, Mack, Kallman, Bissaillon, DiPalma**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- REAL ESTATE CONVEYANCE TAX (Allows a municipality to set its own conveyance tax rate for residential properties sold in excess of \$900,000.00 at \$10 per \$500. Provides collected taxes to be in a restricted account and distributed within 2 years for affordable housing.)

{LC438/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 38****BY** de la Cruz, Rogers, Ciccone, Paolino, Morgan**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- INSPECTOR GENERAL (Establishes the office of inspector general as an independent administrative agency charged with the responsibility to investigate, detect, and prevent fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement in the expenditure of public funds.)

{LC341/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 39****BY** Gu, DiMario, Sosnowski, Zurier, DiPalma, Ciccone**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (Exempts from the sales tax scalp hair prosthesis or wigs that are necessary due to hair loss from a medical condition.)

{LC198/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 40****BY** Felag, Murray, Mack, Britto, Sosnowski, Ciccone**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PERSONAL INCOME TAX (Increases the state earned-income credit as of January 1, 2026 to seventeen percent (17%) of the federal earned-income credit, not to exceed the amount of state income tax.)

{LC230/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 41****BY** Gallo, Ciccone, Tikoian, Rogers**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (Exempts from sales tax the trade-in values of motorcycles as well the proceeds received as a result of an unrecovered stolen or total loss of a motorcycle.)

{LC712/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 42****BY** Felag, LaMountain, McKenney, Murray, DiPalma**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- QUASI-PUBLIC CORPORATIONS ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT (Provides that funds or monies collected by designated quasi-public corporations or agencies not be subject to transfer or reallocation by order of the governor or general assembly.)

{LC239/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 43****BY** Rogers, Ciccone, LaMountain, DiPalma, Burke, Pearson, McKenney, de la Cruz, Morgan, Paolino**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- RETIREMENT OF MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (Increases the number of days a retired municipal employee could work in a calendar year without interruption of pension benefits to ninety (90) days.)

{LC353/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**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}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 45****BY** Gu, Sosnowski, Zurier, Vargas, Valverde, Euer, DiMario, Mack**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (Removes the exemption from the state hotel tax for residences rented in their entirety on a hosting platform on or after January 1, 2026, for a period of thirty (30) nights or less.)

{LC750/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 46****BY** Zurier, Kallman, Acosta, Ujifusa, Gu**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MOTOR FUEL TAX (Extends allocation of motor fuel tax to the Intermodal Surface Transportation Fund through 2025. Changes the allocation to 30% total proceeds, including 30% from the one cent per gallon environmental protection fee through 2026 and thereafter.)

{LC764/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 47****BY** Zurier, DiPalma, DiMario, Sosnowski, Acosta**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MOTOR FUEL TAX (Adjusts the motor fuel tax for inflation every two (2) years based on the inflation that has occurred in the previous two (2) years.)

{LC315/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Resolution No. 48****BY** Felag, Murray, LaMountain, DiPalma, Ciccone, Britto, Bissaillon, Urso**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$15,200,000 TO BE USED TO PURCHASE PFAS-FREE FIREFIGHTING GEAR (Authorizes the appropriation of the sum of \$15,200,000 to cities and towns to purchase firefighter and rescue personnel protective gear which is PFAS free.)

{LC231/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Resolution No. 49****BY** Tikoian, LaMountain, DiPalma, Gallo, Felag, Ciccone, Urso, Murray, Britto, Vargas**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$250,000 TO THE SUBSTANCE USE AND MENTAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF RI (SUMHLC) (This resolution would authorize an appropriation of the sum of \$250,000 to the Substance Use and Mental Health Leadership Council of RI.)

{LC470/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 50****BY** Lauria, Lawson, Pearson, Valverde, DiMario, Kallman, Murray, Felag, Urso, Ujifusa**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS IN CHILDREN RELIEF FUND (Establishes Children's Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund to provide finance assistance to families for medical expenses not covered by state or federal programs or insurance contract.)

{LC276/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

**Senate Bill No. 51****BY** Ujifusa, Mack, Lauria, Urso, Acosta, Murray, Valverde, DiMario, Bell**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES -- PHYSICAL THERAPY COPAY (Limits copays, coinsurance or office deductibles for services of a physical therapist to the amount authorized for the services of a primary care physician or osteopath on or after January 1, 2026.)

{LC703/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

**Senate Bill No. 52****BY** Tikoian, Felag, Ciccone, Burke, Lawson, Britto, Gu**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND DISCIPLINE -- PROMPT PROCESSING OF INSURANCE CLAIMS (Prohibits certain claim practices of health insurers and medical providers. The act would further require fulfillment of medical record requests within fourteen (14) days.)

{LC428/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

**Senate Bill No. 53****BY** Ujifusa, Lauria, Lawson, Tikoian, Euer, Pearson, Valverde, Bell, DiMario**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- BENEFIT DETERMINATION AND UTILIZATION REVIEW ACT (Provides an insurer would not impose prior authorization requirements for any service ordered by an in-network primary care provider.)

{LC456/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

**Senate Bill No. 54****BY** Ujifusa, Murray, Euer, Pearson, Valverde, Lawson, Bell, Mack, DiMario, Vargas**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS (Prohibits health insurance providers from requiring preauthorization for in- network mental health or substance use disorder services.)

{LC191/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

**Senate Bill No. 55****BY** Pearson, Lauria, Valverde, DiMario, Ujifusa, Euer, Murray, Thompson, DiPalma, Gallo**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE RHODE ISLAND HEALTH CARE REFORM ACT OF 2004 -- HEALTH INSURANCE OVERSIGHT (Includes the definition of "primary care services" and requires that all biennial reports shall include a review and recommendation of rates for primary care services on and after September 1, 2025.)

{LC593/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.



**Senate Resolution No. 56**

**BY** Ujifusa, Lawson, Valverde, Euer, Pearson, Ciccone, Murray, DiMario, Lauria  
**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY URGING THE UNITED STATES  
CONGRESS TO PROTECT PATIENTS AND TRADITIONAL MEDICARE FROM  
MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

{LC329/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

**Senate Bill No. 57**

**BY** Rogers, Ciccone, LaMountain, DiPalma, Tikoian, Burke, Pearson, McKenney, de la Cruz,  
Paolino  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HIGHWAYS -- SIDEWALKS (Requires that all  
maintenance of sidewalks along state highways, with the exception of snow and ice removal, be  
the responsibility of the state.)

{LC393/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

**Senate Bill No. 58**

**BY** Gu, DiMario, Murray, Mack, Kallman, Burke, Bissaillon  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD AND  
TENANT ACT (Permits a tenant, at the tenant's expense, to implement energy conservation  
measures to any dwelling or dwelling unit such as removable weather-stripping around doors and  
windows.)

{LC199/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

**Senate Bill No. 59**

**BY** Tikoian, Lawson, Britto, Gallo, LaMountain, Gu, Bissaillon, Felag, Dimitri, Burke  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS (Defines  
"crime gun" and requires law enforcement to submit crime gun or 2 fired cartridge cases or shell  
casings seized to state crime laboratory or the BATF for testing and tracing, also would require 2  
test-fired cartridge cases to be entered into NIBIN)

{LC697/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 60**

**BY** Britto, DiMario, Ciccone, Murray, LaMountain, Gallo, Lawson, Gu, McKenney, Kallman **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW--GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- DIGITAL ELECTRONICS RIGHT TO REPAIR ACT (Establishes a digital electronics right to repair, which allows for digital electronic equipment and parts that are sold in this state on or after January 1, 2026, to be repaired at an independent repair provider.)

{LC700/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 61**

**BY** de la Cruz, Burke, Raptakis, Rogers **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- ELECTRONIC INFORMATION AND DATA PRIVACY ACT (Requires law enforcement agencies to obtain search warrants for electronic information, data, location information and other identifying information of subscribers and customers, except in specified circumstances.)

{LC335/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 62**

**BY** DiMario, Zurier, Acosta, Valverde, Murray, DiPalma, Lauria, Kallman, Burke, Thompson **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- THE RHODE ISLAND WORKS PROGRAM (Removes the requirement that families consent to, and cooperate with the department of human services in establishing paternity and enforcing child and medical support orders as a condition of eligibility for child care assistance.)

{LC601/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 63**

**BY** Acosta, Mack, Quezada, Kallman, LaMountain, Vargas, Bissaillon, Euer, McKenney **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- GENERAL PROVISIONS (Further delineate the definitions of felony, misdemeanor and petty misdemeanor.)

{LC216/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 64****BY** de la Cruz, Ciccone, Rogers, Morgan**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- RHODE ISLAND PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT (Creates the Rhode Island Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, prohibiting the performance or induction of an abortion of an unborn child capable of feeling pain, unless necessary to prevent serious health risk to the unborn child's mother.)

{LC340/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 65****BY** de la Cruz, LaMountain, Ciccone, Burke, Rogers, Paolino, Morgan**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS (Provides the review and appeal process for individuals applying for a permit or license to carry a handgun with the licensing authority or attorney general.)

{LC337/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 66****BY** Lauria, Euer, Zurier, McKenney, LaMountain, Bissaillon, Pearson, Vargas, Tikoian**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- EVIDENCE (Provides that statements by a health care provider regarding the unanticipated outcome of a patient's medical care and treatment shall be inadmissible as evidence of an admission of liability or as evidence of an admission.)

{LC273/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 67****BY** Acosta, Ciccone, Quezada, Kallman, Vargas, Mack**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CORPORATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS, AND PARTNERSHIPS -- WORKERS' COOPERATIVES (Clarifies the role of a corporation electing to be governed as a workers' cooperative to allow it to operate as a hiring hall under certain circumstances.)

{LC209/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Labor and Gaming.

**Senate Bill No. 68****BY** Ciccone, Tikoian, Burke, Kallman, de la Cruz, Dimitri**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- STATE LOTTERY (Reduces the number of times the director of the lottery has to confer with the permanent joint committee on state lottery from nine (9) times per year to four (4) times per year or at the call of the chair or vice chair of the committee.)

{LC471/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Labor and Gaming.

**Senate Bill No. 69****BY** Kallman, Ciccone, Thompson, Patalano, Murray, Britto, Lauria, Tikoian, Lawson**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- PAYMENT OF WAGES (Provides employees with civil administrative remedies against contractors, subcontractors involved in the contract with joint/severable liability imposed on contractors or subcontractors. Effective 9/1/2025.)

{LC639/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Labor and Gaming.

**Senate Bill No. 70****BY** Acosta, Ciccone, Quezada, Kallman, Vargas, Pearson, Thompson, Mack**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- PAYMENT OF WAGES (Requires employer to furnish items and conditions of employment and a pay stub explaining how wages were calculated/reasons for deductions/allows the employee to file a court action against employer for violation.)

{LC210/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Labor and Gaming.

**Senate Bill No. 71****BY** Felag, Ciccone, Tikoian, Britto, Lauria**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES (Provides protection and prevents the unethical, improper conduct and the collection of fees, by anyone advising or assisting a veteran filing a claim for disability benefits with the Department of Veterans Affairs, except as authorized by federal law.)

{LC238/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs.

**Senate Bill No. 72****BY** Felag, Raptakis, Ciccone, Tikoian, Britto**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -  
REGISTRATION FEES (Disabled veteran license plate may be transferred to veterans' spouse  
or issued to veteran or veterans spouse.)

{LC236/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs.

**Senate Bill No. 73****BY** Felag, LaMountain, Ciccone, Tikoian, Britto, Morgan, Lauria**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- MANUFACTURING  
AND WHOLESALE LICENSES (Allows for the holder of a manufacturer's license to be able to  
sell one one-sixth (1/6) barrel key of malt beverage, produced on the premises, per day.)

{LC237/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs.

**Senate Bill No. 74****BY** Acosta, Urso, Britto, Kallman, Pearson, Murray, Thompson**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES --  
REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES (Creates a special license plate for the Blackstone Valley  
Tourism Council, Inc. that would support the Blackstone River Valley Environmental Clean-up  
and Education Fund.)

{LC533/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs.

**Senate Bill No. 75****BY** Felag, Raptakis, Ciccone, Tikoian, Britto, Lauria**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES --  
CERTIFICATES OF TITLE AND SECURITY INTERESTS -- VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION  
CHECKS (Waives the fees for vehicle identification number inspections for veterans, including  
active duty military personnel and members of the National Guard and military reserves.)

{LC510/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs.

**Senate Bill No. 76****BY** Gu, Felag**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES --  
REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES (Removes the requirement that applicants for a Bronze Star Medal license plate, pay a registration fee or transfer charge.)

{LC196/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs.

**Senate Resolution No. 77****BY** Ruggerio, Tikoian, Patalano**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING JOSEPH B. GOHO,  
SUPERINTENDENT OF THE NORTH PROVIDENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS DEPARTMENT,  
FOR BEING NAMED THE "2025 RHODE ISLAND SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR"  
BY THE RHODE ISLAND SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

{LC743/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

**Senate Resolution No. 78****BY** Ciccone**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JANUARY 19-25, 2025, TO BE  
"CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETISTS WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE  
ISLAND

{LC895/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

**Senate Resolution No. 79****BY** Gu**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE 11TH ANNUAL "PHYSICIAN  
ANESTHESIOLOGISTS WEEK" FROM JANUARY 26TH THROUGH FEBRUARY 1ST,  
2025, IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

{LC907/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

**Senate Resolution No. 80**

**BY** Gu, Ujifusa

**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CELEBRATION OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR "THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE" ON JANUARY 29TH OF 2025  
{LC993/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Senate meets pursuant to recess and is called to order by the Honorable Hanna M. Gallo, Senate President Pro Tempore, on Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:46 o'clock P.M

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion of Senator Lawson, seconded by Senator de la Cruz, and the Senate adjourns at 4:47 o'clock P.M.

**HELENA S. REID**  
*Secretary of the Senate*

**Appendix****INVOCATION****SENATOR ROBERT BRITTO**

As we reconvene in the Senate Chamber, let us once again contemplate our reasons for being here. Let us also ask of our Creator that he bestow special blessings today on us all and properly guide us in serving the people of our State. Amen.



**Appendix****CONSENT CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025:**

- 1. 2025-S 77**  
**BY** Ruggerio  
**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING JOSEPH B. GOHO, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE NORTH PROVIDENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS DEPARTMENT, FOR BEING NAMED THE "2025 RHODE ISLAND SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR" BY THE RHODE ISLAND SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
- 2. 2025-S 78**  
**BY** Ciccone  
**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JANUARY 19-25, 2025, TO BE "CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETISTS WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
- 3. 2025-S 79**  
**BY** Gu  
**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE 11TH ANNUAL "PHYSICIAN ANESTHESIOLOGISTS WEEK" FROM JANUARY 26TH THROUGH FEBRUARY 1ST, 2025, IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
- 4. 2025-S 80**  
**BY** Gu  
**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CELEBRATION OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR "THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE" ON JANUARY 29TH OF 2025

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.