

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. 5

Tuesday, February 04, 2025

Fifth 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 4:28 o'clock P.M.

ROLL CALL

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 38 Senators present and 0 Senators absent as follows:

PRESENT –38: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissailon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, 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 – 0:

INVOCATION

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

APPROVAL OF RECORD

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

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

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

February 4, 2025

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 reappointment to the Quonset Development Corporation:

David M. Langlais
(Public Member)

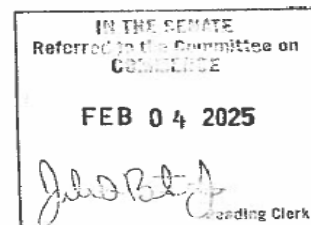
For a term expiring December 31, 2027

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

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President
Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, 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.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

February 4, 2025

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:

Shawn Karachsky

(Public Member)
Vice
Donald Gralnek

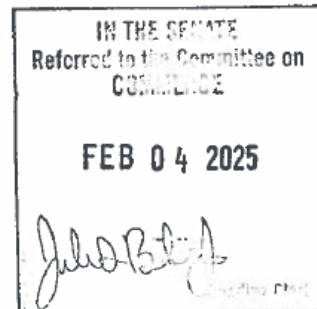
For a term expiring December 31, 2027

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

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President
Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, 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.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

February 4, 2025

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE,

I have the honor to inform you in accordance with the provisions of Public Law 2003 Chapter 344, I have made the following appointment to the East Providence Waterfront District:

Christopher J. Fragomeni

(Gubernatorial Appt)
Vice
Peter Willey

For a term expiring March 31, 2029

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

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President
Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

IN THE SENATE
Referred to the Committee on
COMMERCE

FEB 04 2025

Reading Clerk

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

February 4, 2025

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE,

I have the honor to inform you in accordance with the provisions of Section § 46-6-10.2 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following appointment to the Derelict and Abandoned Vessel and Obstructed Removal Commission:

Gregg Marsili
(Municipal Harbormaster)
Vice
Edward Cabral

For a term expiring May 31, 2027

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel J. McKee".

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggiero, Senate President
Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, 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 Environment and Agriculture.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

February 4, 2025

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE,

I have the honor to inform you in accordance with the provisions of Section § 46-6-10.2 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following appointment to the Derelict and Abandoned Vessel and Obstructed Removal Commission:

Chris Dodge
(Environmental Advocacy Org.)
Vice
David Prescott

For a term expiring May 31, 2027

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel J. McKee".

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President
Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, 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 Environment and Agriculture.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. McKEE

February 4, 2025

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE,

I have the honor to inform you in accordance with the provisions of Section § 46-6-10.2 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following appointment to the Derelict and Abandoned Vessel and Obstructed Removal Commission:

Andrew T. Tyska
(Marine Trades Industry)
Vice
Malcom Cooper

For a term expiring May 31, 2027

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel J. McKee".

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President
Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, 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 Environment and Agriculture.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATIONS**Senate Resolution No. 163****BY** Lauria**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF ANTHONY V. ARICO
{LC815/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Lauria requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Lauria moves passage, seconded by Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissailon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, 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 Lauria and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Joan G. Arico, Janice Rosa, and Anthony P. Arico.

Appendix**CONSENT CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025:**

- 1. 2025-S 157**
BY DiPalma
ENTITLED, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER OF F.H.J. MOVING & STORAGE, INC.

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

- 2. 2025-S 158**
BY Euer
ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF J. WILLIAM W. HARSCH, ESQ.

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

3. **2025-S 159**
BY Ujifusa
ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING "CARRIGAN NELSON DAY" ON FEBRUARY 8, 2025, IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
- Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
4. **2025-S 160**
BY DiMario
ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY OF 2025, TO BE "CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
- Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
5. **2025-S 161**
BY Sosnowski
ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION JOYOUSLY CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 916 AUXILIARY
- Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
6. **2025-S 162**
BY Lawson
ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF DAVID E. POTTS
- Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

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

YEAS – 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, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, 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 Felag announces that the Senate Committee on Finance will meet today at the rise of the senate in Room 210 and on Thursday, February 06th at 5:00pm in Room 211.

RECESS

Upon the Motion of Senate Majority Whip Tikoian, seconded by Senate Majority Leader Lawson, the Senate stands in Recess at 4:42 o'clock P.M. *in memory of Anthony V. Arico.*

COMMUNICATIONS

The Honorable President presents the following communications:

<p>SENATOR DAVID P. TIKOIAN District 22</p> <hr/> <p>SENATE MAJORITY WHIP</p>	<p>State of Rhode Island</p>  <p>Senate Chamber</p>	<p>Room 319 Rhode Island State House Providence, Rhode Island 02903</p> <p>Office: 401-276-5563 sen-tikoian@rilegislature.gov</p>
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February 7, 2025

Mrs. Helena S. Reid
Secretary of the Senate
State House Room 220
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Mrs. Secretary:


Pursuant to Rule 4.1 of the Senate Rules, I would like to respectfully request that the following bill be withdrawn:

2025 Senate Bill S-52; AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND DISCIPLINE -- PROMPT PROCESSING OF INSURANCE CLAIMS

This legislation has been assigned to the Senate Committee Health and Human Services.

I appreciate your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



David P. Tikoian
Senate Majority Whip
Senator - District 22

DPT/tm

Placed on file.

NEW BUSINESS**Senate Resolution No. 164****BY** Morgan**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING JANUARY OF 2025, AS "RHODE ISLAND SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
{LC364/1}

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

Senate Bill No. 165**BY** Urso, Murray, Lawson, Tikoian, DiPalma, LaMountain, Ruggerio, Ujifusa**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- PHARMACY FREEDOM OF CHOICE -- FAIR COMPETITION AND PRACTICES (Prohibits pharmacy benefit managers from conducting or participate in spread pricing within the state.)
{LC1208/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

Senate Bill No. 166**BY** Britto, Lawson, Murray, Tikoian, Urso, Dimitri, LaMountain, Ciccone, Ruggerio**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES (Amends the definition of the practice of pharmacy to include the administration of all forms of influenza immunizations to individuals of any age pursuant to a valid prescription or prescriber approved protocol.)
{LC1055/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

Senate Bill No. 167**BY** Lawson, Tikoian, Murray, LaMountain, Gallo, Britto, DiPalma, Felag, Ruggerio**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT INSURANCE POLICIES (Provides that individuals enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B guaranteed right to enroll in standardized plans.)
{LC481/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

Senate Bill No. 168**BY** Murray, Felag, Sosnowski, Vargas, Bissaillon, Ruggerio, Lawson, Tikoian**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- BENEFIT DETERMINATION AND UTILIZATION REVIEW ACT (Prohibits an insurer from imposing a requirement of prior authorization for any admission, item, service, treatment or procedure ordered by a primary care provider.)

{LC1207/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

Senate Bill No. 169**BY** Bissaillon, Ruggerio, Lawson, Murray, Tikoian, LaMountain**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES (Prohibits credit reporting, executions, attachments against a principal residence for judgments based on medical debt. Defines medical debt as an amount for the receipt of health care services, products, or devices.)

{LC1054/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Commerce.

Senate Bill No. 170**BY** Appollonio, Patalano, Lawson, Murray, Tikoian, Burke, Ruggerio**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (Grants the director of the department of health the authority to approve or deny any applications for professional licensure pending before a medical or dental board of licensure that has been unable to establish a quorum for 30 business days.)

{LC1056/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

Senate Bill No. 171**BY** Thompson, Lawson, Murray, Tikoian, Appollonio, Burke, LaMountain, Ruggerio**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION (Allows the executive office of health and human services to use appropriated funds to support graduate medical education programs and research.)

{LC1053/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 172

BY Burke, Tikoian, LaMountain, Felag, McKenney, Raptakis, Appollonio, Lawson, Murray, Ruggiero

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- INTEREST AND USURY (Provides an interest rate cap on medical debt.)

{LC878/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Commerce.

Senate Bill No. 173

BY Ujifusa, Ruggiero, Lawson, Tikoian

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (Requires the secretary of the executive office of health and human services to monitor and mandate changes to the price-setting practices of pharmacy benefit managers to prohibit the spread pricing payment model.)

{LC1279/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

Senate Resolution No. 174

(General Treasurer)

BY Urso, Britto, Burke, Tikoian, Rogers, LaMountain, Zurier, Gu, Felag, Vargas

ENTITLED, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 TO ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE MAIN STREET COORDINATING PROGRAM (Authorizes the appropriation of the sum of \$500,000 for the formal establishment of "Main Street Rhode Island".)

{LC611/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 175

(by request)

BY Pearson

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES (Prohibits disclosure terms "down payment", "money down", or any similar language to describe lump sum payments in order to reduce monthly lease payments. Provides that lump sum payments are non-refundable in the event of a total loss of the vehicle.)

{LC1152/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Commerce.

Senate Bill No. 176

BY DiMario, DiPalma, Mack, Gallo, Lawson, Murray, Acosta, Valverde, McKenney, Zurier
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (Establishes the Higher Education Opportunities for Students with Disabilities Act.)
{LC1165/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Education.

Senate Resolution No. 177

BY Acosta, Gallo, Lawson, Valverde, Euer, Zurier, Appollonio, Murray, Bissaillon, Quezada
ENTITLED, JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE, PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION -- RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE EDUCATION (Amends the constitution to guarantee Rhode Island residents with equal opportunity to receive an education that is adequate, equitable and meaningful and provides judicial enforcement of this provision.)
{LC708/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Education.

Senate Bill No. 178

BY Mack, Gu, Appollonio, Valverde, Lawson, Kallman
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE SCHOOL LIBRARIES ACT (Requires every public school in Rhode Island to have a school library or library media center in a permanent and dedicated space available to students in grades K-12 with a librarian available.)
{LC807/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Education.

Senate Bill No. 179

BY Raptakis, Appollonio, Patalano, Tikoian, Burke, Rogers, de la Cruz, LaMountain, Felag, McKenney
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- RIGHTS AND DUTIES TEACHERS GENERALLY -- SEPTEMBER 11 CLASSROOM MOMENT OF SILENCE (Allows teachers in all grades to provide the opportunity for students to observe a brief moment of silence on every September 11.)
{LC1032/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Education.

Senate Bill No. 180

BY Murray, Britto, Tikoian, Sosnowski, DiMario, Bell, Valverde, McKenney, Euer, Lauria
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY --
CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (Prohibits the declawing of cats by any surgical procedure to
amputate or modify a portion of a cat's paw in order to remove the cat's claws. Does not apply to
any procedure performed for a therapeutic purpose.)
{LC997/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Environment and Agriculture.

Senate Bill No. 181

BY Sosnowski, Valverde, DiMario, Gu, Britto, Pearson, McKenney
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- COASTAL
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (This act would require that a super majority of
three-fifths (3/5) of the duly appointed council is required to override a recommendation by the
CRMC staff.)
{LC148/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Environment and Agriculture.

Senate Bill No. 182

BY Gallo, DiPalma, Tikoian, LaMountain, Murray, Lawson
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PERSONAL INCOME TAX (Allows a
resident taxpayer to elect to have state taxes withheld from distributions from a mutual fund
individual retirement account.)
{LC1105/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 183

BY McKenney, Tikoian, DiPalma, Bissaillon, Gallo
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PERSONAL INCOME TAX
(Gradually phases in modifications to federal adjusted gross income over a four (4) year period
for social security income, from twenty-five percent (25%) up to one hundred percent (100%),
beginning on or after January 1, 2026.)
{LC946/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 184**BY** Sosnowski, Valverde, DiMario, Gu, Britto, Pearson, Ciccone**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- RETIREMENT SYSTEM -- CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS (Expands the positions that a person in the state retirement system could have at a state college or university post-retirement.)
{LC153/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 185**BY** Sosnowski, Murray, Zurier, Valverde, Kallman, DiMario, Gu, Ciccone, Pearson, Britto
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- DUTIES OF UTILITIES AND CARRIERS (Creates an income-sensitive tiered subsidy program to ensure that home energy utility costs are affordable for eligible low-income households.)
{LC152/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 186**BY** McKenney, Appollonio**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PERSONAL INCOME TAX (Allows real property owner a one-time non-refundable tax credit for the actual costs of connecting a single family or multi-family dwelling to a municipal sewer system credited to the owner's personal or corporate income tax.)
{LC941/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 187**BY** Tikoian, Paolino, Raptakis, Dimitri, Britto, Burke, Rogers, de la Cruz, Sosnowski, Appollonio**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- ESTATE AND TRANSFER TAXES -- LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (Increases the net taxable estate exemption to four million dollars (\$4,000,000) for deaths that occur on or after January 1, 2026.)
{LC1223/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 188

BY Sosnowski, Murray, Felag, Valverde, Kallman, DiMario, Gu, Vargas, McKenney, Urso
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PUBLIC HEALTH AND
WORKPLACE SAFETY ACT (This act would repeal the exemption granted to pari mutual
facilities and casinos from the smoke free workplace requirement contained in the Public Health
and Workplace Safety Act.)

{LC135/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 189

BY DiMario, DiPalma, Gallo, Lawson, Thompson, Murray, Acosta, Valverde, McKenney,
Zurier

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
(Provides that services provided by graduate student interns who work under a supervisory
protocol would be eligible to be paid from Medicaid reimbursement.)

{LC1166/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 190

BY Murray, Thompson, Acosta, Bell, Urso, Zurier

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND
PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT (Provides that in local educational agencies when over 45% of
the children have a family income that is at or below 185% of federal poverty guidelines then the
student success factor will be 50% by the core instruction per-pupil amount.)

{LC1000/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 191

BY Mack, Zurier, Bissaillon, Ciccone, Bell, Kallman, Quezada

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO
TAXATION (Exempts from taxation the real and tangible personal property of PROJECT
Weber/RENEW, a Rhode Island domestic nonprofit corporation.)

{LC862/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 192**BY** Murray, Thompson, Acosta, Bell, Urso, Euer, Zurier**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT (Requires a review by the department of elementary and secondary education of the formula components used to compute the aid needed to support high need students.)

{LC996/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 193**BY** Ujifusa, Lauria, Murray, Valverde, DiMario, Quezada, DiPalma, Bell, Mack**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS (Amends the provisions for insurance coverage of mental health, mental illness, and substance use disorders.)

{LC1182/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

Senate Bill No. 194**BY** LaMountain, Dimitri**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHYSICAL THERAPISTS (Amends the licensing statute to allow a graduate of a board-approved physical therapy school to be reinstated upon a failed examination upon the filing and registering for a second or third examination.)

{LC413/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

Senate Bill No. 195**BY** Mack, DiMario, Britto, Murray, Vargas, Kallman, Sosnowski, Gu, Ciccone**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- FUNERAL DIRECTOR/EMBALMER AND FUNERAL SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS (Provides for the operation and duties of natural organic reduction for the contained, accelerated conversion of human remains to soil. A disposition facility would be used for either cremation or natural organic reduction.)

{LC857/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

Senate Bill No. 196**BY** Murray, Bell, McKenney, Euer, Lauria, Thompson**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES (Caps amount payable for 30 day supply of equipment/supplies for insulin administration/glucose monitoring at \$25 or equipment designed to last more than 30 days with no deductible commencing January 1, 2026.)
{LC999/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

Senate Bill No. 197**BY** Zurier, Ujifusa, Lauria, Sosnowski, Gallo, Lawson, Tikoian**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES (Prohibits an insurance company from imposing any cost-sharing requirements for any diagnostic or supplemental breast examinations.)
{LC126/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

Senate Bill No. 198**BY** Gallo, DiPalma, Tikoian, LaMountain, Murray, Lawson**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHYSICAL THERAPISTS (Permits physical therapists to continue to order diagnostic imaging as an authorized practice of physical therapy beyond December 31, 2025.)
{LC1154/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

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}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

Senate Bill No. 200**BY** Mack, Bissaillon, Kallman, Gu**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- BED BUGS IN RESIDENTIAL PREMISES ACT (Spells out the responsibilities of both the landlord and tenant with respect to the inspection and treatment of bed bugs in residential premises.)
{LC801/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

Senate Bill No. 201**BY** Felag, DiPalma**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF TIVERTON (Validates and ratifies the amendments to the Tiverton Home Rule Charter which were approved by the electors of the town of Tiverton on November 5, 2024.)

{LC1045/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

Senate Bill No. 202**BY** Kallman, DiMario, Lauria, Mack, Quezada, Vargas, Gallo, Acosta**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE ACT (Grants a right of first offer to qualified nonprofits for the purchase of certain multi-family residential properties at market prices, within a reasonable period of time to promote the creation and preservation of affordable rental housing.)

{LC182/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

Senate Bill No. 203**BY** McKenney, Sosnowski, LaMountain, Bissaillon**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- HAZING (Adds definitions to prohibition of hazing, make coaches and others responsible for knowingly failing to take reasonable measures to prevent hazing and would punish serious bodily injury by up to ten (10) years in imprisonment.)

{LC938/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 204**BY** LaMountain**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT (Permits the court to determine the number of hours a person would have to complete of a batters intervention program and gives the court discretion as to whether that person would be personally financially responsible for the costs thereof.)

{LC414/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 205**BY** Acosta, Valverde, Euer, DiMario, Murray, Quezada**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO DELINQUENT AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN -- PROCEEDINGS IN FAMILY COURT (Prohibit the family court from detaining any juvenile or committing any juvenile, under the age of 12 years, to the training school, for any offense other than murder, first degree sexual assault, or an attempt to commit such offenses.)

{LC219/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 206**BY** Zurier, Euer, LaMountain, Raptakis, McKenney**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- COURTS -- JUDICIAL SELECTION (Requires individuals seeking a judicial nomination to reapply to JNC every 3 years and make those individuals selected as finalists, eligible only for the court in which they applied and were chosen during the five years following their selection.)

{LC125/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 207**BY** Burke, Appollonio, Britto, Bissaillon, LaMountain, Tikoian**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- CHILDREN (Amends the statute punishing child pornography by replacing the term "child pornography" with the term "child sexual abuse material.")

{LC876/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 208**BY** McKenney, Tikoian, Bissaillon, Gallo**ENTITLED**, AN ACT APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION -- OF QUALIFICATION FOR OFFICE (Proposes a state constitutional amendment to provide no person could hold office as general officer unless that person was a resident and a registered voter in the State of Rhode Island for at least 2 years, continuously, prior to taking office.)

{LC939/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 209

BY Kallman, DiMario, Lauria, Mack, Valverde, Quezada, Vargas, Appollonio, Gallo
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- FAIR CHANCE IN HOUSING ACT
(Limits the use of certain criminal records and credit history reports in denying housing to prospective applicants, and provides for fines for failure to comply. This act further requires notices of denials to be sent to the prospective tenants.)
{LC178/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 210

BY Sosnowski, Murray
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES --
CERTIFICATES OF TITLE AND SECURITY INTERESTS (Allows on and after September 1,
2025, an owner of motor vehicle(s) to transfer ownership and registration of said vehicle on their
death, by a certificate of title designation and requires DMV to amend title forms, to include
transfer-on-death language.)
{LC1010/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 211

BY McKenney, LaMountain, Appollonio
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE
ISLAND COMMERCE CORPORATION (Requires that one of the seven (7) directors of the
Rhode Island airport corporation be appointed by the governor after the governor gives due
consideration to a list of individuals submitted by the mayor of the city of Warwick.)
{LC943/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 212

BY Mack, Kallman, Gu, DiMario, Bissaillon
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- RESIDENTIAL LANDLORDS AND
TENANT ACT -- JUST CAUSE EVICTIONS (Provides for just cause evictions for residential
landlord tenancies.)
{LC834/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 213**BY** Ciccone, DiPalma, LaMountain, Raptakis, Gu**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- SELF-SERVICE STORAGE

FACILITIES (Amends notice requirements for self-storage facility before perfecting lien, to wit; 7 consecutive days of publication on a publicly accessible website or subsequent written notice to lessee, or publication once time in newspaper of general circulation.)

{LC1102/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 214**BY** Raptakis, Appollonio, Patalano, Burke, LaMountain, McKenney, Sosnowski, Ciccone, Britto, Gu**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSES (Requires that the license plates of a vehicle be confiscated by a police officer if the owner was arrested for driving while their license was suspended, revoked or cancelled for refusing to submit to a chemical test or for operating under the influence.)

{LC489/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 215**BY** Mack, Ciccone, Murray, Kallman, Lauria, Valverde, Thompson, Quezada, Acosta**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MINIMUM

WAGES (Commencing January 1, 2026, this act would increase the minimum wage for employees receiving gratuities from the current \$3.89 to \$6.75 per hour.)

{LC817/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Labor and Gaming.

Senate Resolution No. 216**BY** Raptakis, Ciccone, Felag, Burke, McKenney, Pearson, Paolino, Appollonio, Tikoian, Sosnowski**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND REVIEW

RHODE ISLAND'S MINIMUM WAGE (This resolution would extend the reporting and expiration dates of the special legislative commission to study Rhode Island's minimum wage from May 4, 2025, to May 4, 2026, and said commission would expire on January 4, 2027.)

{LC1129/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Labor and Gaming.

Senate Bill No. 217**BY** Ciccone, Bissaillon, Tikoian, Lawson, Burke**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES

(Allows holders of a Class P license to purchase alcoholic beverages from either a retail or wholesale establishment in the State of Rhode Island.)

{LC1245/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs.

Senate Resolution No. 218**BY** Murray, Thompson**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF GEORGE MARTELL EGAN

{LC1163/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

Senate Resolution No. 219**BY** Murray, Thompson**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO THE OZANIAN FAMILY ON THE PASSING OF JAMES W. OZANIAN

{LC1162/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

Senate Bill No. 220**BY** DiMario, DiPalma, Sosnowski, Gallo, Lawson, Bissaillon, Mack, Thompson, Murray, Acosta**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE HEALTHCARE SERVICES FUNDING PLAN ACT (Amends Rhode Island's existing healthcare services funding plan act by adding an account relating to a new psychiatry resource network to fund Rhode Island's present PediPRN and MomsPRN.)

{LC977/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

Senate Bill No. 221

BY Ujifusa, Burke, Lawson, Bell, Quezada, Murray, Mack, Acosta, DiMario, Lauria
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- THIRD-PARTY HEALTH
INSURANCE ADMINISTRATORS -- PRESCRIPTION DRUG COST CONTROL AND
TRANSPARENCY (Provides certain controls over prescription drug costs by imposing
transparency, oversight and accountability requirements on commercial insurers and their
pharmacy benefit managers.)
{LC68/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services,

Senate Bill No. 222

BY Ujifusa, DiPalma, Bell, Felag, Quezada, Murray, Lauria, Valverde, Acosta, Mack
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- PHARMACY FREEDOM OF
CHOICE -- FAIR COMPETITION AND PRACTICES (Requires pharmacy benefit managers to
reimburse pharmacist no less than national drug acquisition costs plus fee.)
{LC193/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

Senate Resolution No. 223

BY Mack
ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING RANDALL ASHE FOR HIS
EXCELLENCE AS A JAZZ MUSICIAN, THEATER PERFORMER, AND FOR HIS LONG
CAREER OF PUBLIC SERVICE
{LC1505/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Honorable President presents the following communications.

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
FAX: (401) 222-2967
sen-ruggerio@rilegislature.gov

Senate Chamber

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 appointment to the Senate Standing Committees:

Senate Committee on Commerce:

Senator Victoria Gu

Sincerely,

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

Dominick J. Ruggerio
President of the Senate

Placed on file.

State of Rhode Island

DOMINICK J. RUGGERIO
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



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FAX: (401) 222-2967
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Senate Chamber

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 Health and Human Services:

Senator Gordon E. Rogers

Vice

Senator Thomas J. Paolino

Senate Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies:

Senator Thomas Paolino

Vice

Senator Gordon E. Rogers

Sincerely,

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

Dominick J. Ruggerio
President of the Senate

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, February 11th at 4:10 o'clock P.M

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Senator Lawson, seconded by Senator de la Cruz, and the Senate adjourns at 4:12 o'clock P.M.

HELENA S. REID
Secretary of the Senate

Appendix

INVOCATION

SENATOR FRANK A. CICCONE

Almighty God, bless those who serve in this Senate. Inspire us with your truth, surround us with your love, and fill us with your grace. Amen.

Appendix**CONSENT CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025:**

1. **2025-S 164**
BY E Morgan
ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING JANUARY OF 2025, AS "RHODE ISLAND SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

2. **2025-S 218**
BY Murray
ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF GEORGE MARTELL EGAN

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

3. **2025-S 219**
BY Murray
ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO THE OZANIAN FAMILY ON THE PASSING OF JAMES W. OZANIAN

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

4. **2025-S 223**
BY Mack
ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING RANDALL ASHE FOR HIS EXCELLENCE AS A JAZZ MUSICIAN, THEATER PERFORMER, AND FOR HIS LONG CAREER OF PUBLIC SERVICE

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.