

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 Sixth day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty Six.**

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Volume 153, No. 3

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Third Legislative Day

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## CALL TO ORDER

The Senate meets pursuant to recess and is called to order by The Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, President of the Senate, at 4:05 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 Valarie J. Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Famiglietti, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas, and Zurier.

**ABSENT – 1:** Senator Raptakis.

## 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 Second Legislative Day of the 2026 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.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Honorable President of the Senate presents the following communications:

<p><b>SENATOR</b> <b>LEONIDAS P. RAPTAKIS</b> District 33</p> <hr/> <p>2080 Nouseneck 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><b>State of Rhode Island</b></p>  <p><b>Senate Chamber</b></p>	<p><b>VICE CHAIR</b> Committee on Special Legislation &amp; Veterans' Affairs</p> <hr/> <p>Committee on Judiciary</p>
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**January 13, 2026**

**The Honorable Valarie Lawson**  
President of the Senate  
State House, Room 318  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Madam President,

Please be advised that I am unable to attend Senate Session today, January 13, 2026.

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

Sincerely,



Leonidas P. Raptakis  
Senator – District 33

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

SENATOR  
LINDA L. UJIFUSA  
District 11

Room 112  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

OFFICE: 401-276-5589

sen-ujifusa@rilegislature.gov

## State of Rhode Island



Committee on  
Health & Human Services

Committee on Special Legislation  
& Veterans' Affairs

## Senate Chamber

January 13, 2026

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

Dear Mrs. Reid:

I respectfully request the withdrawal of Senate Bill 2026-S2014 entitled, an act relating to Public Utilities and Carriers – Broadband Deployment and Investment Act.

This bill has been assigned to the Senate Committee on Commerce and no hearing is scheduled at this time.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Ujifusa".

Linda L. Ujifusa  
Senator - District 11

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATIONS****Senate Resolution No. 2067****BY** Acosta, Kallman**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION CONDEMNING UNAUTHORIZED MILITARY ACTIONS, VIOLATIONS OF FOREIGN SOVEREIGNTY, AND RECURRING U.S. INTERVENTIONIST FAILURES IN LATIN AMERICA  
{LC4019/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator de la Cruz objects to the senate resolution for immediate consideration.

Senator de la Cruz objects to moving passage, seconded by Senators Morgan, Rogers and Paolino.

Upon a roll call vote with 33 Senators voting in the affirmative and 4 Senators voting in the negative the senate resolution is allowed to proceed as follows:

**YEAS – 33:** The Honorable President Valarie J. Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Famiglietti, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Murray, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas, and Zurier.**NAYS – 4:** Senators de la Cruz, Morgan, Paolino, and Raptakis.

Senator Acosta requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Senator Acosta moves passage, seconded by Senator Tikoian.

The senate resolution is read and passed, upon a roll call vote with 28 Senators voting in the affirmative and 9 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

**YEAS – 28:** The Honorable President Valarie J. Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Murray, Pearson, Quezada, Sosnowski, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas, and Zurier.**NAYS – 9:** Senators de la Cruz, Dimitri, Famiglietti, Morgan, Paolino, Patalano, Rogers, Thompson, and Tikoian.

**Senate Resolution No. 2068****BY** Morgan**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE SCOTT BILL HIRST  
{LC3552/1}

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 Senator Tikoian.

The resolution is read and passed upon a rising vote.

**Appendix****CONSENT CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026****1. 2026-S 2060****BY** Thompson**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF PATRICIA ALLEN

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

**2. 2026-S 2061****BY** Thompson**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF ALMA C. BOISSEAU

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

**3. 2026-S 2062****BY** Thompson**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF FLORIAN L. BOURGET

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

4. **2026-S 2063**  
**BY** Thompson  
**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THOMAS F. LEPORE
- Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
5. **2026-S 2064**  
**BY** Murray  
**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF GEORGE G. COURNOYER
- Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
6. **2026-S 2065**  
**BY** Murray  
**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF JOHN EARL GRAY
- Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
7. **2026-S 2066**  
**BY** Murray  
**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF MARYANN JOLICOEUR
- Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

Upon motion of Senator Ciccone, 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 Valarie J. Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Famiglietti, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, 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.

**RECESS**

Upon the Motion of Senate Majority Whip Tikoian, seconded by the entire Senate, and upon suggestion of Senator Morgan the Senate stands in Recess at 4:25 o'clock P.M. *in memory of the Honorable Scott Bill Hirst.*

**PROCEEDINGS IN JOINT SESSION**

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

The Honorable, President of the Senate, Valarie J. Lawson in the Chair.

**CALLED TO ORDER**

The Joint Session is called to order at 6:45 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 Peter Appollonio, Jacob Bissaillon, Pamela Lauria, Melissa Murray, Linda Ujifusa, Lori Urso, Representatives Mia Ackerman, Jon Brien, Alex Finelman, Alex Marszalkowski, Jennifer Stewart 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 members of the Presidents of the Rhode Island Public Institutions of Higher Education and the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island enter the Chamber.

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

Joint Session attends while The Cabinet Members and 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 Gregg M. Amore, Secretary of State, enters the Chamber.

Joint Session attends while the Honorable Sabina Matos, Lieutenant Governor, 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 76<sup>th</sup> 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 Ciccone, and by unanimous consent, the Joint Session adjourns and the two Houses separate at 7:50 o'clock P.M.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Senate Resolution No. 2069**

**BY** Pearson

**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF BARBARA DENNEN  
{LC4038/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Senate meets pursuant to recess and is called to order by the Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, President of the Senate, on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:13 o'clock P.M

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion of Senator Tikoian, seconded by Senator de la Cruz, the Senate adjourns at 4:14 o'clock P.M.

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

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

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**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026:**

1. **2026-S 2069**  
**BY** Pearson  
**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES  
ON THE PASSING OF BARBARA DENNEN

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.