

## State of Rhode Island

# 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. 9

Tuesday, February 03, 2026

Ninth 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 4:08 o'clock P.M.

### **ROLL CALL**

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 35 Senators present and 3 Senators absent as follows:

**PRESENT –35:** The Honorable President Valarie J. Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissailon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Famiglietti, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Thompson, Tikoian, Urso, Valverde, Vargas, and Zurier.

**ABSENT – 3:** Senators Pearson, Sosnowski, and Ujifusa.

### **INVOCATION**

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

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

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

**APPROVAL OF RECORD**

The Senate Journal of the Eighth Legislative Day of the 2026 proceedings is read in part.

Upon suggestion of Senator LaMountain 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:

**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**



**Senate Chamber**

February 3, 2026

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

Dear President Lawson:

Please be advised and let the record reflect that I will be absent from the Chamber today, Tuesday, February 3, 2026 due to illness.

Please record my letter in the appropriate Senate Journal. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Ujifusa*  
Linda L. Ujifusa  
Senator - District 11

Committee on  
Health & Human Services

Committee on Special Legislation  
& Veterans' Affairs

Placed on file.

SENATOR  
**ANDREW DIMITRI**  
District 25

Room 114  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

OFFICE: 401-276-5563

[sen-dimitri@rilegislature.gov](mailto:sen-dimitri@rilegislature.gov)

## State of Rhode Island



Committee on Judiciary

Committee on  
Labor & Gaming

## Senate Chamber

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Madam Secretary:

I respectfully request the withdrawal of my name as a co-sponsor of 2026 Senate Bill S-2293 entitled, N ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- FAIRNESS IN WOMEN'S SPORTS ACT.

This legislation is assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew R. Dimitri".

Andrew R. Dimitri  
Senator - District 25

SENATOR  
**THOMAS J. PAOLINO**  
District 17

DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER

19 Heritage Drive  
Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865

Room 120  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

MOBILE 401-749-6120  
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FAX 401-222-1206

sen-paolino@rilegislature.gov

## State of Rhode Island



Committee on  
Education

Committee on  
Health and Human Services

Committee on  
Judiciary

## Senate Chamber

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Ms. Reid:

I am writing to request, pursuant to senate rule 4.1, that my name be removed from senate bill 2026- S- 2314 sponsored by Senator Raptakis.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Paolino".

Thomas J. Paolino  
Deputy Minority Leader

SENATOR  
**GORDON E. ROGERS**  
*Senate Minority Whip*  
District 21

61 Cucumber Hill Road  
Foster, Rhode Island 02825

Room 120  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

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## State of Rhode Island



## Senate Chamber

SECRETARY  
Committee on  
Housing & Municipal Government

Committee on  
Environment & Agriculture

Committee on  
Health & Human Services

Ex-Officio

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Ms. Reid:

I am writing to request, pursuant to senate rule 4.1, that my name be removed from senate bill 2026- S- 2314 sponsored by Senator Raptakis.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gordon E. Rogers".  
Gordon E. Rogers  
Senate Minority Whip

Placed on file.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **Senate Resolution No. 2336**

BY de la Cruz

**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JANUARY 25TH THROUGH JANUARY 31ST, 2026, AS "NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

{LC3514/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Education.

### **Senate Resolution No. 2426**

BY Euer

**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE ANTHONY DELUCA

{LC4598/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

## GUESTS

Upon suggestion of Senator DiPalma and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber from Vanderbilt University; Cynthia Osborne Professor of early childhood education and Policy in the Department of Leadership, Policy and Organizations at Peabody College and Cory Worrall.

## 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

Senate Minority Leader Jessica de la Cruz would like to wish Senator Walter S. Felag, Jr. and his wife Elaine a Happy 45<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

Senator Felag announces that the Senate Committee on Finance will meet Thursday, February 05<sup>th</sup> at the Rise of the Senate in Room 211.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon the Motion of Senate Majority Whip Tikoian, seconded by Senate Majority Leader Ciccone, the Senate adjourns at 4:17 o'clock P.M.

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

**Appendix**

**INVOCATION**

**SENATOR MATTHEW L. LAMOUNTAIN**

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the privilege of serving in this General Assembly. We promise to do the people's business to the best of our ability, with all the insight and foresight that we could apply. Amen.

**Appendix**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026:**

- 1. 2026-S 2426**

**BY** Euer

**ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE  
PASSING OF THE HONORABLE ANTHONY DELUCA**

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

**Appendix**  
**CALENDAR**

**IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026:**

- 1. *The Appointment of Shannon G. Signore, Esq. VICE Daniel A Procaccini as Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Superior Court***

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

- 2. *The Appointment of Alberto Aponte Cardona, Sr. VICE Patricia K. Asquith as Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Family Court***

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

- 3. *The Appointment of Andrea M. Iannazzi VICE Debra E. DiSegna as Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Family Court***

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

- 4. *The Appointment of Michael J. McCaffrey VICE Melissa R. DuBose as Associate Judge of the Rhode Island District Court***

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