

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

Volume 153, No. 23

Tuesday, April 07, 2026

Twenty-Third Legislative Day

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 4:10 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, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Raptakis, Quezada, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas, and Zurier.

ABSENT – 1: Senator Morgan.

INVOCATION

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

APPROVAL OF RECORD

The Senate Journal of the Twenty-Second Day of the 2026 proceedings is read in part.

Upon suggestion of Senator Bissaillon 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

March 23, 2026

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE,

I have the honor to inform you in accordance with the provisions Rhode Island General Laws § 42-75-3, I have made the following appointment to the Rhode Island State Council of the Arts:

André Herrera-Quinonez
Vice
Jennifer Fonseca

For a term expiring March 1, 2028

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

Sincerely,



Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, Senate President
Honorable Frank A. Ciccone III, 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 Education.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

April 2, 2026

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE,

I have the honor to inform you in accordance with the provisions of Section § 24-15-10 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following appointment to the Scenic Roadway Board:

Jane E. Weidman

For a term expiring January 31, 2029.

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

Sincerely,

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

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, Senate President
Honorable Frank A. Ciccone III, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

April 2, 2026

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE,

I have the honor to inform you in accordance with the provisions Rhode Island General Laws § 23-28.3-2, I have made the following appointment to the Fire Safety Code Board of Appeals and Review:

Gordon Preiss

Vice
Robert Walker

For a term expiring March 1, 2032.

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

Sincerely,

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

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, Senate President
Honorable Frank A. Ciccone III, 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 Housing and Municipal Government.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

March 25, 2026

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE,

I have the honor to inform you in accordance with the provisions Rhode Island General Laws § 23-28.3-2, I have made the following appointment to the Fire Safety Code Board of Appeals and Review:

Kenneth Filarski

Vice

Dana Newbrook

For a term expiring March 1, 2032.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel J. McKee', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, Senate President
Honorable Frank A. Ciccone III, 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 Housing and Municipal Government.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

March 23, 2026

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE,

I have the honor to inform you in accordance with the provisions Rhode Island General Laws § 12-1.1-4, I have made the following appointment to the Crime Laboratory Commission:

Michael DiLauro
Vice
Linda Bachand-Jackson

For a term expiring January 31, 2028.

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

Sincerely,

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

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, Senate President
Honorable Frank A. Ciccone III, 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 Judiciary.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

March 16, 2026

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE,

I have the honor to inform you in accordance with the provisions Rhode Island General Laws § 42-57-3, I have made the following reappointment to the Fort Adams Foundation:

Christopher Behan

For a term expiring January 31, 2029.

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

Sincerely,

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

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, Senate President
Honorable Frank A. Ciccone III, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

RIHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

March 23, 2026

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE,

I have the honor to inform you in accordance with the provisions Rhode Island General Laws § 12-1.1-4, I have made the following appointment to the Crime Laboratory Commission:

Erin Forry
Vice
Nancy Haley

For a term expiring January 31, 2028.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. McKee", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, Senate President
Honorable Frank A. Ciccone III, 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 Judiciary.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**Senate Resolution No. 3205****BY** Lawson

ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE VALIANT INTERVENTION EFFORTS OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE JOSEPH J. MCBURNEY AND HEAD OF SECURITY, DANA SMITH ON BEHALF OF HIS COURT INTERN WHO WAS WRONGFULLY IDENTIFIED AND TARGETED BY IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE) AGENTS
{LC4898/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator LaMountain requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator LaMountain moves passage, seconded by The Honorable President Valarie J. Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissailon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Famiglietti, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Murray, Patalano, Pearson, Raptakis, Quezada, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, Vargas, and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a voice vote.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Upon suggestion of Senators LaMountain, Urso, Britto, Mack, Tikoian and by unanimous consent, the Honorable Senate President, welcomes to the Chamber Associate Justice Joseph McBurney, wife Mary McBurney, daughters Ann & Bridget McBurney, Magistrate John F. McBurney, wife Cheryl McBurney, Presiding Justice Joseph Montalbano, Associate Justice Luis Matos, Associate Justice Maureen Keough, Associate Justice Christopher Smith, Associate Justice Linda Rekas Sloan, Magistrate Gina Lopes, Retired Associate Justice Daniel Procacini, Dana Smith, Head of Security & Operations, V. Raffini, Quincy Williams, Darren Andrade, Manny Barros, and friend Ronny.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**Senate Resolution No. 3206****BY** Murray**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL OF 2026, TO BE THE "MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC5212/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Murray requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Murray moves passage, seconded by 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, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Raptakis, Quezada, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas, and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a voice vote.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Upon suggestion of Senators Murray, Vargas, Gallo, Thompson and by unanimous consent, the Honorable Senate President, welcomes to the Chamber Lead Child & Youth Coordinator Meredith Barr, Family of Members in the Army National Guard; Andrew, Liam, Emme, Ethan, Shane, Catalina, Lt. Col. Saporita, State Family Program Director Paul Santili, Department Vice Commmander RI Joe Henawilt, Rob Lefort, Rich Allain, Nikki Lefort, Nancy Henawilt, Councilwoman Sharon Harmon, and Monique Conway.

Appendix**CONSENT CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026:****1. 2026-S 3204****BY** Pearson**ENTITLED**, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE CUMBERLAND LODGE #14, FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Raptakis, Quezada, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas, and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:**Appendix****CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026:****1. *The Appointment of Will Tsonos as Chair of the Life Science Hub of Rhode Island for a term expiring January 1, 2030.***

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

Senator DiPalma moves that the advice and consent of the Senate be given this appointment, seconded by The Honorable President Valarie J. Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, Famiglietti, Felag, Gallo, Gu, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Raptakis, Quezada, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Vargas, and Zurier.

Senators DiPalma and Thompson discuss the advice and consent.

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 1 member voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS – 36: The Honorable President Valarie J. Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Famiglietti, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Raptakis, Quezada, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas, and Zurier.

NAYS – 1: Senator Bell.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Upon suggestion of Senator Thompson and by unanimous consent, the Honorable Senate President, welcomes to the chamber *newly appointed Chair of the Life Science Hub of Rhode Island, Will Tsonos.*

2. 2026-S 3155

BY Thompson

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

Committee on Finance recommends passage.

Senator Thompson moves passage of the act, seconded by The Honorable President Valarie J. Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, DiMario, DiPalma, Famiglietti, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Vargas, and Zurier.

The act is read and passed, 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 Valarie J. Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Famiglietti, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Raptakis, Quezada, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas, and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

3. 2026-S 2116 SUB A**BY** Urso**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- NURSES

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A.

Senator Urso moves passage of the act, seconded by The Honorable President Valarie J. Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Famiglietti, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, McKenney, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, Vargas, and Zurier.

The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 37 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

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, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Raptakis, Quezada, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas, and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

4. 2026-S 2270**BY** Sosnowski**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SITUS AND OWNERSHIP OF TAXABLE PROPERTY

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends passage.

Senator Sosnowski moves passage of the act, seconded by The Honorable President Valarie J. Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Famiglietti, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, McKenney, Patalano, Pearson, Raptakis, Quezada, Rogers, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas, and Zurier.

The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 37 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

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, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Raptakis, Quezada, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas, and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

5. **2026-S 2292**
BY DiPalma
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- DISARMING A PEACE OFFICER

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

Senator DiPalma moves passage of the act, seconded by The Honorable President Valarie J. Lawson, Senators Appollonio, Bell, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, Dimitri, Famiglietti, Felag, Gallo, Gu, LaMountain, McKenney, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Raptakis, Quezada, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Vargas, and Zurier.

The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 34 members voting in the affirmative and 3 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS – 34: The Honorable President Valarie J. Lawson, Senators Appollonio, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Famiglietti, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, McKenney, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Raptakis, Quezada, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas, and Zurier.

NAYS – 3: Senators Acosta, Bell, and Mack.

6. **2026-S 2725**
BY Bissaillon
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- FEES

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

Senator Bissaillon moves passage of the act, seconded by The Honorable President Valarie J. Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Famiglietti, Felag, Gallo, Gu, LaMountain, McKenney, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Raptakis, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Vargas, and Zurier.

The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 37 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

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, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Raptakis, Quezada, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas, and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

7. 2026-S 3099**BY** Tikoian**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE --
COURTS -- SUPERIOR COURT

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

Senator Tikoian moves passage of the act, seconded by The Honorable President Valarie J. Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Famiglietti, Felag, Gallo, Gu, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, Murray, Patalano, Pearson, Raptakis, Quezada, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Vargas, and Zurier.

The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 37 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

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, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Raptakis, Quezada, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas, and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Sosnowski announces that the Senate Committee on Commerce will meet at the Rise of the Senate in Room 212.

Senator Lauria announces that the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services will meet at the Rise of the Senate in the Senate Lounge.

Senator Felag announces that the Senate Committee on Finance will meet at the Rise of the Senate in Room 211.

Senator Murray announces that the Senate Committee on Education will meet tomorrow Wednesday, April 8th at 4:00pm in Room 313.

Senator Bissaillon announces that the Senate Committee on Judiciary will meet at the Rise of the Senate in Room 313.

Senator Raptakis announces that the Senate Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs will meet tomorrow Wednesday, April 8th at 4:30pm in Room 211.

Senator Thompson announces that the Senate Committee on Labor and Gaming will meet tomorrow Wednesday, April 8th at 4:00pm in Room 212.

Senator Britto announces that the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture will meet tomorrow Wednesday, April 8th at 4:30pm in the Senate Lounge.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Senator Tikoian, seconded by Senate Majority Leader Ciccone, the Senate adjourns at 4:54 o'clock P.M.

HELENA S. REID
Secretary of the Senate

Appendix

INVOCATION

SENATOR JACOB E. BISSAILLON

Dear Lord, We thank you for giving us the opportunity and privilege of being the voice of our constituents in their government. Help us to make the right and just choices in our decisions to improve the lives of all our citizens. Amen.