

## 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. 24

Thursday, April 09, 2026

Twenty-Fourth 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 4:14 o'clock P.M.

### ROLL CALL

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 33 Senators present and 5 Senators absent as follows:

**PRESENT –33:** 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, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Patalano, Raptakis, Quezada, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas, and Zurier.

**ABSENT – 5:** Senators Kallman, Paolino, Pearson, Rogers, and Sosnowski.

### INVOCATION

The Honorable President, by unanimous consent, presents the Reverend Father Kapriel Nazarian, Pastor of Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church to deliver the invocation.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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


**APPROVAL OF RECORD**

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

Upon suggestion of Senator Tikoian 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>SENATOR <b>MEGHAN E. KALLMAN</b> District 15</p> <hr/> <p>Room 145 Rhode Island State House Providence, Rhode Island 02903</p> <p>MOBILE: 401-648-9422 OFFICE: 401-276-5535 sen-kallman@rilegislature.gov</p>	<p>State of Rhode Island</p>  <p>Senate Chamber</p>	<p>Committee on Housing and Municipal Government</p> <hr/> <p>Committee on Commerce</p> <hr/> <p>Committee on Environment and Agriculture</p>
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April 6, 2026


The Honorable Valarie Lawson  
President of the Senate  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Room 316  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Madam President:

Please be advised and let the record reflect that I will be absent from the Chamber Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

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

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,  
  
Meghan E. Kallman  
Senator District #15

Placed on file.

SENATOR  
MARK P. MCKENNEY  
District 30

Room 309  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

OFFICE 401-276-5599  
sen-mckenny@rilegislature.gov

State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

CHAIR  
Committee on Rules  
Government Ethics & Oversight

VICE-CHAIR  
Committee on Judiciary

Committee on Education

April 9, 2026

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


Dear Ms. Reid:

I respectfully request the withdrawal of Senate Bill 2026-S2910 entitled, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY- CONDOMINIUM LAW.

This bill is assigned to the Senate Housing and Municipal Government and no hearing is scheduled.

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
Mark P. McKenney  
Senate District -30

Placed on file.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**  
**COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL LEGISLATION AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

Chairman Felag, from the Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measures:

**Senate Bill No. 2749**

**BY** Bell

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES  
(Allows for the issuance of a Class BV liquor license for the property located at 819 Westminster Street in the city of Providence.)  
{LC5439/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

**Senate Bill No. 2994**

**BY** Valverde

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES  
(Allows for the issuance of a Class B or Class B-H liquor license for the property located at 349 Main Street in the town of South Kingstown.)  
{LC5552/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

**Senate Bill No. 2750**

**BY** Sosnowski

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- PERMANENT JOINT COMMITTEE ON NAMING ALL NEW BUILDINGS, BRIDGES, EDIFICES AND OTHER STATE CONSTRUCTIONS (Renames the University of Rhode Island football practice field, located at 5E West Alumni Avenue, Kingston, RI 02881, to the "Mark S. Cruise '81 '84 Football Practice Field.")  
{LC5886/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

**Senate Bill No. 3176**

(by request)

**BY** Zurier

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HIGHWAYS -- CROOK POINT BRIDGE AUTHORITY ACT (Creates the Crook Point Bridge Authority for the purpose of maintain the Crook Point Bascule Bridge and any property related thereto.)  
{LC4023/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

**COMMITTEE ON LABOR & GAMING**

Chairman Burke, from the Committee on Labor, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measures:

**Senate Bill No. 2409**

**BY** Thompson, Famiglietti, Burke, Patalano, Dimitri, Quezada, Pearson, Vargas, Tikoian  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' ARBITRATION (Recognizes that municipal employees have the opportunity to utilize binding arbitration and establishes new factors for the arbitrators to consider. These factors include comparisons of wages/hourly conditions of employment in similarly skilled jobs.)  
{LC4253/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

**Senate Bill No. 2925**

**BY** Burke, Ciccone, DiPalma, Famiglietti, Thompson  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- FIREFIGHTERS' ARBITRATION (Provides that all contractual provisions in a firefighters collective bargaining agreement continue until a successor agreement has been reached or an interest arbitration award has been rendered.)  
{LC5951/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

**Senate Bill No. 3119**

**BY** Tikoian, Ciccone, Patalano, LaMountain, McKenney, Thompson, Famiglietti, Vargas, Appollonio, Burke  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MUNICIPAL POLICE ARBITRATION (Extends provisions of an existing collective bargaining agreement for municipal police arbitration purposes until a successor agreement is reached or an interest arbitration award is rendered.)  
{LC4994/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

Chairman LaMountain, from the Committee on Judiciary, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measures:

**Senate Bill No. 2955**

(Judiciary)

**BY** McKenney, Euer

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- SEXUAL ASSAULT

(Requires the electronic filing of domestic violence/sexual assault forms by law enforcement agencies, and enhances the information to be included on the reporting forms.)

{LC5276/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

**Senate Bill No. 2985**

(Judiciary)

**BY** Quezada, Pearson, Mack, Euer, DiMario

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

PREVENTION ACT (Allows for the electronic filing of domestic violence/sexual assault reporting forms by law enforcement agencies, enhances the information to be included on the reporting forms, and clarifies that the reporting forms should be submitted monthly.)

{LC5275/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION****Senate Resolution No. 3207****BY** Tikoian**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 24, 2026, AS "ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY" TO COMMEMORATE THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915 TO 1923, AND IN HONOR OF ARMENIAN-AMERICANS  
{LC6225/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Tikoian requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Tikoian 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, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Murray, Patalano, Raptakis, Quezada, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas, and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a voice vote.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Upon suggestion of Senator Tikoian and by unanimous consent, the Honorable Senate President, welcomes to the Chamber Stephen Elmasian, John Arzoomanian, Dr. Fotini Dionisopoulos, Martha Jamgotchian, Joyce Avedisian, Gregory Arzoumanian, and Stephan Mesrobian.

**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION****Senate Resolution No. 3208****BY** Valverde**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 9, 2026, TO BE "RHODE ISLAND HOME VISITING DAY"

{LC6179/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Valverde requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Valverde 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, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Murray, Patalano, Raptakis, Quezada, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Vargas, and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a voice vote.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Upon suggestion of Senator Valverde and by unanimous consent, the Honorable Senate President, welcomes to the Chamber Pamela Alcantara, Bilingual Family Visitor, Family Service of Rhode Island's Healthy Families America Program, Tunde Akinlapa, Bilingual Family Support Specialist, Children's Friend's Healthy Families America program, and Emily Spence, Director, Looking Upwards Parents.

**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION****Senate Resolution No. 3209****BY** LaMountain, E Morgan**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE WINNERS OF THE 2026 14TH ANNUAL PROSTART® HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION AND WISHING THEM SUCCESS AT THE NATIONAL PROSTART® INVITATIONAL {LC6015/1}

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, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Famiglietti, Felag, Gallo, Gu, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Patalano, Raptakis, Quezada, 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 LaMountain, Morgan, McKenney, and by unanimous consent, the Honorable Senate President, welcomes to the Chamber 2026 Hospitality ProStart Students: First Place in Hospitality Instructor Don Fair, Chariho Tech School, Rosie Sposato, Logan Berdos, Maddie Niewiecki, and Lilyana Juneau. First Place in Foodservice Management, Instructor Austin Irons, Warwick Area Career & Tech School, Jailyn Huffman, Gianna Gioffreda, Alexiana Medeiros, Anissa Gill, and Liliana Lunsman. First Place in Culinary, Instructor Eva Niosi, Warwick Area Career & Tech School, Anthony Morales, Richard Desmarais, Tyler Hartley, and Liam McGloin.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

Senator Lauria announces that the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services will meet at the Rise of the Senate in Room 211.

Senator DiMario announces that the Senate Committee on Housing and Municipal Government will meet at the Rise of the Senate in Room 212.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES  
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT**

Chairman Bissaillon, from the Committee on Housing and Municipal Government, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measures:

**House Bill No. 7220**

(by request - Barrington)

**BY** Boylan, Knight

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- DOGS  
(Permits the town of Barrington to assess an annual dog licensing fee of seven dollars (\$7.00).)  
{LC4063/1}

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

**House Bill No. 7221**

(by request - Barrington)

**BY** Boylan, Knight

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- DOGS  
(Increases the fines for dog ordinance violations in the town of Barrington.)  
{LC4062/1}

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

Chairman LaMountain, from the Committee on Judiciary, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measure:

**House Bill No. 7049 as amended****BY** Baginski, Paplauskas, Brien**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- PRIMARY ELECTIONS (Requires that the primary election date, statutorily the eighth Tuesday preceding the biennial state elections, shall be held on the Wednesday when Labor Day is the day before said Tuesday. No other filing deadlines would be affected.)

{LC3210/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

**FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

A message from the House of Representatives transmits with announcement of passage, of the following measure:

**House Bill No. 7029 SUB A****BY** Boylan, McGaw, Potter, Donovan, Fogarty, Speakman, Azzinaro, Kislak, Bennett, Hopkins**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- NURSES

(Permits a nurse who has the appropriate knowledge, credentials and clinical competency, to provide home services foot care, which includes routine foot and nail care, as well as implementing a plan of care that includes hygiene and fingernails.)

{LC3130/A/2}

Referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

**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 4:50 o'clock P.M.

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

## Appendix

## INVOCATION

**REVEREND FATHER KAPRIEL NAZARIAN  
PASTOR OF STS. VARTANANTZ ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH**

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Lord in your great mercy, compassion and love, we come before you with thankful hearts for all the blessings that you bestow upon us. Not only in the good days, but in our hardest days, you are by our side, walking with us and guiding us as we keep the eyes of our hearts on you, seeking your wisdom and righteousness. We praise you for lifting us up as we endure all the challenges of this world with faith, hope and love.

As we come together today to commemorate the start of the Armenian Genocide 111 years ago, we thank you guiding our families to the shores of the United States and especially to Rhode Island. We thank you for thwarting the continuing evil plans of Turkey, and more recently helped by Azerbaijan, to annihilate us as a people. While we have been displaced from much of our historic homeland through Genocide and ethnic cleansing, yet you have given us new life in this beautiful State of Rhode Island. As our remaining homeland of Armenia faces serious threats to its sovereignty from these same evil forces, we trust in You, our loving Lord, to be our protector.

We are thankful to you, O Lord, for the support that we have received from this gracious assembly of Senators as they raise their voices for justice. Bless, O Lord, these Senators, their staff, and all the individuals that assist them as they seek justice and righteousness in Your name. Together, may we all be the voices for those who are marginalized in our society – the innocently persecuted, the poor, the homeless, the widows, the orphans, the unborn children – all who are in need and lack a voice. Strengthen our Senators to always pursue that which is pleasing in Your sight, especially in the face of resistance. We thank you, O Lord, for your great mercy, love, and compassion, today, tomorrow, and always. Amen.

**Appendix**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026:**

- 1. 2026-H 7220**  
**BY** Boylan  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY --  
DOGS

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends passage in concurrence.

- 2. 2026-H 7221**  
**BY** Boylan  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY --  
DOGS

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends passage in concurrence.

**Appendix****CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026:**

- 1. 2026-S 2955**  
**BY** McKenney  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- SEXUAL ASSAULT

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.
- 2. 2026-S 2985**  
**BY** Quezada  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.
- 3. 2026-S 2749**  
**BY** Bell  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES

Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs recommends passage.
- 4. 2026-S 2994**  
**BY** Valverde  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES

Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs recommends passage.

## Appendix

## CALENDAR

## IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026:

1.     **2026-S 2409**  
      **BY** Thompson  
      **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS --  
      MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' ARBITRATION  
  
      Committee on Labor & Gaming recommends passage.
2.     **2026-S 2925**  
      **BY** Burke  
      **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS --  
      FIREFIGHTERS' ARBITRATION  
  
      Committee on Labor & Gaming recommends passage.
3.     **2026-S 3119**  
      **BY** Tikoian  
      **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS --  
      MUNICIPAL POLICE ARBITRATION  
  
      Committee on Labor & Gaming recommends passage.
4.     **2026-S 2750**  
      **BY** Sosnowski  
      **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- PERMANENT JOINT  
      COMMITTEE ON NAMING ALL NEW BUILDINGS, BRIDGES, EDIFICES AND  
      OTHER STATE CONSTRUCTIONS  
  
      Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs recommends passage.
5.     **2026-S 3176**  
      **BY** Zurier  
      **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HIGHWAYS -- CROOK POINT BRIDGE  
      AUTHORITY ACT  
  
      Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs recommends passage.
6.     **2026-H 7049 as amended**  
      **BY** Baginski  
      **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- PRIMARY ELECTIONS  
  
      Committee on Judiciary recommends passage as amended in concurrence.