

State of Rhode Island

JOURNAL

-OF THE-

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY SESSION of the General Assembly begun and held at the State House in the City of Providence on Tuesday, the Second Day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

Volume 151, No. 7

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Seventh-Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence, Tuesday, January 23, 2024, and is called to order at 4:08 o'clock P.M., by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 67 members present and 8 members absent as follows:

PRESENT – 67: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Bennett, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart and Vella-Wilkinson.

ABSENT – 8: Representatives Batista, Biah, Finkelman, Lombardi, Morgan, Phillips, Tanzi, and Voas.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents Representative Camille Vella-Wilkinson, who delivers the Invocation and leads the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

(For Invocation, see Appendix, this Journal.)

APPROVAL OF RECORD

By unanimous consent, the House Journal of Thursday, January 18, 2024, is approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Robert D. Phillips is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, January 23, 2024.
Representative John J. Lombardi is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, January 23, 2024.
Representative Teresa Ann Tanzi is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, January 23, 2024.
Representative Brandon T. Voas is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, January 23, 2024.
Representative Alex Finkelman is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

CALENDAR

From the Calendar are taken:

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024:**1. 2024-H 7177****BY McEntee****ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES**

Committee on Special Legislation recommends passage.

Chairwoman Alzate moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski and Representative McEntee.

Chairwoman Alzate discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 65 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 65: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Bennett, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Vella-Wilkinson.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

GUESTS

Majority Whip Kazarian extends a warm welcome to Roger Williams University Law Review students Stephanie Fischer, Todd Amaral, and Samantha Larkin in the House Chamber. They are visiting today for a guided tour of the State House. Speaker Shekarchi welcomes them to the House.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Abney announces that all members should have received their copies of the budget at a first glance.

Representative Speakman invites all members to attend the AARP of Rhode Island Accessory Dwelling Unit press event and reception it is hosting in collaboration with the Rhode Island School Design Interior Architecture program this Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

Chairman Azzinaro congratulates Representative Spears on winning the 2024 Rhode Island Southern Firefighters League Legislator of the Year.

Chairman Azzinaro announces that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 101 of the State House.

Chairwoman Serpa announces that the Committee on Oversight will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 35 of the State House.

Representative Sanchez expresses his concerns regarding the Washington Bridge.

Representative Felix invites all members to attend the Center for Health and Justices Transformation's Reentry Simulation event this Thursday, January 25, 2024, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., in the House Lounge.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**House Resolution No. 7260****BY** Blazejewski, Chippendale**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES {LC4370/1}

Majority Leader Blazejewski requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Majority Leader Blazejewski, seconded by Minority Leader Chippendale, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

House Resolution No. 7261**BY** Blazejewski, Chippendale**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS {LC4369/1}

Majority Leader Blazejewski requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Majority Leader Blazejewski, seconded by Minority Leader Chippendale, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 7262

BY Felix, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Ackerman, Kislak, Kennedy, Shallcross Smith, Ajello, Boylan

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JANUARY 23, 2024, TO BE "MATERNAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC4015/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Representative Felix requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Representative Felix discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Felix seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces that the next House session will meet on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

TRANSMITTAL

By unanimous consent, all matters on the clerk's desk are ordered to be transmitted to His Excellency, the Governor, to the Honorable Senate and the Honorable Secretary of State forthwith.

(For Transmittals to Governor, see Appendix of this Journal.)

DESK HELD OPEN

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi announces that the desk will be held open.

NEW BUSINESS**House Bill No. 7264**

BY Corvese, Azzinaro, Kennedy, Noret, DeSimone, Baginski, Fellela, Slater, Shanley, Brien
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- MOTOR VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PARTS (Prohibits insurance companies from refusing to use after market parts that are greater than 48 months and less than 72 months from the date of manufacture, provided the repairer has written consent from the owner of the vehicle.) {LC4397/1}

01/24/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7265**BY** Potter, McGaw, Cruz, McNamara**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 examination.) {LC4474/1}

01/24/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7266**BY** Casimiro, Noret, Solomon, Kazarian, Alzate, Potter, Morales**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS -- CURRENCY TRANSMISSIONS -- VIRTUAL CURRENCY KIOSKS (Establishes guidelines for the operation of virtual currency (crypto) kiosks.) {LC4090/1}

01/24/2024 Introduced, referred to House Innovation, Internet, & Technology

House Resolution No. 7267**BY** Ackerman, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kazarian, Finkelman, Edwards, Chippendale, Corvese, Newberry, Brien**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL {LC4057/1}

01/24/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7268**BY** Boylan, Knight, Tanzi, Caldwell, Kazarian, Stewart, Fogarty, Craven, McEntee, Batista**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS (Requires purchasers of firearms, to take and pass a basic firearm safety test and requires the firearm test administered by DEM be updated every two years, as deemed appropriate and repeals § 11-47-35.2.) {LC3489/1}

01/24/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7269**BY** Boylan, Knight, Tanzi, Caldwell, Kazarian, Stewart, Craven, McEntee, Dawson, Batista**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS (Prohibits purchases of more than one firearm in any thirty (30) day period.) {LC3490/1}

01/24/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7270**BY** Noret, Place, Dawson, O'Brien, Corvese, Chippendale, Casey, Phillips, Cardillo, Bennett**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS {LC3741/1}

01/24/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7271**BY** Craven, Dawson, Shanley**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- COURTS -- FAMILY COURT (Provides that a magistrate of the family court has the power and authority to hear contested divorce matters.) {LC4266/1}

01/24/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7272**BY** Baginski, DeSimone, Solomon**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

(Provide that the maximum number of unrelated persons living together that could be constitute an individual household would not be less than one person per bedroom.) {LC4422/1}

01/24/2024 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7273**BY** Casimiro, Noret, Solomon, Kazarian, Alzate, Potter, Morales**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS

INSURANCE POLICIES (Requires insurance coverage for all services provided by a pharmacist provided coverage of such services would have been covered if provided by a physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant.) {LC3663/1}

01/24/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7274**BY** Edwards, Fellela, Diaz, Serpa, Solomon, Messier, McNamara, Baginski, Kennedy, Bennett**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT (Amends

sections of law relating to retirement of various public employees and the calculation of their final average salary and service accruals.) {LC3770/1}

01/24/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7275**BY** Diaz, Casimiro, Quattrocchi, Slater**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES --

RETIREMENT SYSTEM -- CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS (Adds the administrator of community confinement and the home confinement coordinator to the state retirement system.)

{LC3846/1}

01/24/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7276**BY** Morgan P, Fenton-Fung**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE

ISLAND HOUSING AND MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION (Establishes a revolving fund to assist first-time home buyers and veterans to purchase a home in Rhode Island by issuing grants of up to forty thousand dollars (\$40,000).) {LC3998/1}

01/24/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7277**BY** Baginski, Brien, Serpa**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY

AND COMPUTATION (Exempts from the sales and use tax the sale of beer and malt beverages at retail.) {LC4423/1}

01/24/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7278**BY** Baginski, Lima, Potter, McNamara, Handy, Cardillo, Bennett, Fenton-Fung**ENTITLED**, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF CRANSTON TO ISSUE NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, NOTES AND OTHER EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE AND/OR ACQUISITION OF LAND AND BUILDINGS, CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, IMPROVEMENT, ALTERATION, REPAIR, LANDSCAPING, FURNISHING AND/OR EQUIPPING OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE CITY, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF STATE HOUSING AID AT A REIMBURSEMENT RATE OR STATE SHARE RATIO OF NOT LESS THAN 50% AT THE TIME OF ISSUANCE (Authorizes the City of Cranston to issue not to exceed \$40,000,000 general obligation bonds.) {LC4261/1}

01/24/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:23 o'clock P.M., on motion of Majority Leader Blazejewski seconded by Minority Leader Chippendale, the House adjourns on a unanimous voice vote.

Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX

INVOCATION

REPRESENTATIVE CAMILLE VELLA-WILKINSON

Holy God: We come before you this day to attend to the business before us. Abide with us as we move forward into the future. Pray that through your good graces, we may best serve those in our society who need help the most. Amen