

# State of Rhode Island

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# JOURNAL

-OF THE-

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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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 Second Day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

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Volume 151, No. 12

Thursday, February 8, 2024

Twelfth-Day

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The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence on Thursday, February 8, 2024, and is called to order at 4:22 o'clock P.M., by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 70 members present and 5 members absent as follows:

**PRESENT** – 70: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson and Voas.

**ABSENT** – 5: Representatives Alzate, Bennett, Henries, Lima and Stewart.

## INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents Representative Teresa Ann Tanzi 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 Tuesday, February 6, 2024, is approved.

RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY



House of Representatives

**CO-SPONSORSHIP REMOVAL REQUEST**  
**2024**

Pursuant to House Rule 15(g)(ii), Representative

Desimone

hereby requests the removal of their co-sponsorship of Bill # H - 7487  
entitled: Taxation—Estate and Transfer Taxes

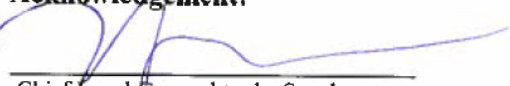
\_\_\_\_\_ which is currently in the House Committee on

Finance

Signature: 

House District # 5

Date: 2/9, 2024

Acknowledgement:  
  
Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker

*NOTE: This request must be submitted to the Clerk of the House, and House Recording Clerk who will retain the original and a copy to be placed in the committee's original bill file*

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Representative David A. Bennett is unable to attend session today, Thursday, February 8, 2024.  
Representative Karen Alzate is unable to attend session today, Thursday, February 8, 2024.  
Representative Jennifer A. Stewart is unable to attend session today, Thursday, February 8, 2024.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE SENATE**

A message from the Honorable Senate transmits with announcement of passage, of the following measure:

**Senate Bill No. 2058**

**BY** Felag, Sosnowski, Lombardi F, Ciccone, Raptakis, Britto, Gallo, Lombardo, Tikoian  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PERSONAL INCOME TAX (Increases the federal adjusted gross income threshold for modification for taxable social security income. Amends references to federal adjusted gross income as pertains to modification of taxable retirement income from certain pension plans or annuities.) {LC3888/1}  
01/12/2024 Introduced, referred to Senate Finance

**CALENDAR**

From the Calendar are taken:

**IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024:****1. 2024-H 7013 SUB A**

**BY** Fellela

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- RYAN'S LAW

Committee on Corporations recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A.

Chairman Solomon moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Cardillo, Vella-Wilkinson, Phillips, Fellela, Corvese, Floor Manager Edwards, Majority Whip Kazarian, Representatives Carson, McEntee, and Majority Deputy Whip Ackerman.

The bill marked Substitute "A" is read and passed, and the original bill indefinitely postponed, on a roll call vote, 67 members voting in the affirmative and 2 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 67: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Biah, Blazejewski, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter,

Quattrocchi, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson, Voas.

NAYS - 2: Representatives Ajello, Boylan.

RECUSED - 0:

**2. 2024-H 7090**

**BY** Phillips

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- UNFAIR SALES PRACTICES

Committee on Corporations recommends passage.

Chairman Solomon moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Cardillo, Morales, Finkelman, McEntee, Noret, Carson, Shanley, Vella-Wilkinson, Costantino, Phillips, Cortvriend, Felix, Corvese, Floor Manager Edwards, Representatives Casey and Potter.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 69 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 69: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**3. 2024-H 7221**

**BY** Shanley

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- PERMANENT JOINT COMMITTEE ON NAMING ALL NEW BUILDINGS, BRIDGES, EDIFICES AND OTHER STATE CONSTRUCTIONS-BILL REYNOLDS MEDIA WORK ROOM

Committee on Special Legislation recommends passage.

Vice-Chairwoman Diaz moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives McEntee, Ajello, McNamara, Majority Whip Kazarian, and Representative Vella-Wilkinson.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 70 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 70: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

### **GUESTS**

Representative Fenton-Fung welcomes Jaydyn DeLayo, who will be her intern for this session, to the House Chamber. Speaker Shekarchi welcomes Jaydyn to the House.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Abney announced that all members should have received an updated copy of the fiscal report of the governor's budget. He also announces that the Committee on Finance will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 35 of the State House.

Chairwoman Donovan announces that the Committee on Health and Human Services will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 135 of the State House.

Representative Giraldo wishes his younger brother Randy Giraldo a Happy 35<sup>th</sup> Birthday!  
Speaker Shekarchi wishes Randy a Happy Birthday!

### **GUESTS**

Representative Fellela welcomes former Representative John Carnevale to the House Chamber. Speaker Shekarchi welcomes Representative Carnevale to the House.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Representative Sanchez expresses his concern about the closure of 360 High School.

**POINT OF ORDER**

Chairman Corvese rises on a point of order, requesting that Representative Sanchez follow the House Rules.

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi upholds the point of order.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces that the House will meet on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, and Wednesday, February 14, 2024. There will be no session on Thursday.

Speaker Shekarchi and Majority Leader Blazejewski invite all members to attend the annual Ethics Training on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., in the House Lounge of the State House. Ethics Commission Executive Director Jason Gramitt will provide the training and opportunity to ask questions.

**AT EASE**

At 4:38 o'clock P.M., the Honorable Speaker Shekarchi declares the House to be at ease.

**ORDER**

At 4:44 o'clock P.M., the Honorable Speaker Shekarchi calls the House to order.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

**CALENDAR**

- 4. 2024-S 2028 SUB A**  
**BY DiMario**  
**ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- OUTDOOR DINING**  
**ACT**

Ordered to be placed on the Calendar for passage in concurrence.

Chairman Solomon moves passage of the act, seconded by Representative Costantino, Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Spears, Carson, Shallcross Smith, Cortvriend, Phillips, Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy, Representatives Azzinaro, Vella-Wilkinson, Deputy Whip Ackerman, Representatives Felix, Tanzi, McNamara, Floor Manager Edwards, Representatives Cruz, Morgan, Speakman, Morales, Ajello, Fogarty, O'Brien, Cardillo, and Biah.

Read and passed, in concurrence, on a roll call vote, 67 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 67: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey,

Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Potter, Quattrocchi, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaker Shekarchi reminds all members that next week's House session will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, and Wednesday, February 14, 2024. The Providence Chamber of Commerce Luncheon will be held at noon on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at the Rhode Island Convention Center.

### IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

#### **House Resolution No. 7553**

**BY** Kennedy, Fenton-Fung, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Edwards, Diaz, McNamara, Ackerman, Azzinaro

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CELEBRATION OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR "THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON" ON FEBRUARY 10TH OF 2024 {LC4462/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

#### **House Resolution No. 7554**

**BY** Blazejewski, Chippendale

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS {LC4908/1}

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. 7555****BY** Blazejewski, Chippendale**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES {LC4909/1}

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.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

**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.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES  
COMMITTEE ON CORPORATIONS**

Chairman Solomon, for the Committee on Corporations, reports back the following measures, with recommendation of passage:

**Senate Bill No. 2130****BY** Rogers, de la Cruz**ENTITLED**, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER OF LINE BAPTIST CHURCH OF FOSTER, RHODE ISLAND {LC4044/1}

02/09/2024 Placed on House Calendar (02/13/2024)

**Senate Bill No. 2243****BY** DiPalma**ENTITLED**, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER OF CHRISTIAN ACTION CENTER, INC. {LC3897/1}

02/09/2024 Placed on House Calendar (02/13/2024)



**COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING**

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

**House Bill No. 7061**

**BY** Tanzi, Fogarty, McEntee, Spears

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Exempts from taxation the real and tangible personal property of the Johnnycake Center Realty Corporation, a domestic nonprofit corporation, located in South Kingstown.) {LC3812/1}  
02/09/2024 Placed on House Calendar (02/27/2024)

**House Bill No. 7062**

**BY** Speakman, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Tanzi, Cotter, Henries, Donovan, Carson, McGaw, Cortvriend

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES (Amends several sections of law relating to zoning ordinances to provide uniform zoning standards for accessory dwelling units.) {LC3794/1}  
02/09/2024 Placed on House Calendar (02/14/2024)

**House Bill No. 7111**

**BY** Fellela, Cardillo, Perez, Costantino

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION -- TOWN OF JOHNSTON (Authorizes the town of Johnston to grant a tax credit to any person over the age of sixty-five (65) years.) {LC3855/1}  
02/09/2024 Placed on House Calendar (02/14/2024)

**House Bill No. 7243**

**BY** Finkelman

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION -- TAX EXEMPTIONS -- JAMESTOWN (Grants the town of Jamestown the legal authority to grant a tax dollar reduction to gold star parents and to visually impaired persons.) {LC4308/1}  
02/09/2024 Placed on House Calendar (02/14/2024)

**House Bill No. 7245**

**BY** Ackerman, Voas, Phillips, Marszalkowski

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- DOGS (Increases the fines for dog ordinance violations in the town of Cumberland.) {LC4085/1}  
02/09/2024 Placed on House Calendar (02/27/2024)

**House Bill No. 7323**

**BY** Cortvriend, McGaw, Speakman

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Allows the town council of Portsmouth, by ordinance or resolution, to exempt Quaker Manor from valuation for taxation or to enter into tax abatement or payment in lieu of taxes agreements.) {LC3337/1}  
02/09/2024 Placed on House Calendar (02/27/2024)

**COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL LEGISLATION**

Chairwoman Alzate, for the Committee on Special Legislation, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of passage:

**Senate Bill No. 2034**

**BY** Lombardi F, Ruggerio, Ciccone, Britto, Acosta, Zurier, LaMountain, Burke, McKenney, Picard  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- PERMANENT JOINT COMMITTEE ON NAMING ALL NEW BUILDINGS, BRIDGES, EDIFICES AND OTHER STATE CONSTRUCTIONS-BILL REYNOLDS MEDIA WORK ROOM (Designates the media room at the Amica Mutual Pavilion as the "Bill Reynolds Media Work Room.") {LC4033/1}  
02/12/2024 Placed on House Calendar (02/14/2024)

**NEW BUSINESS****House Bill No. 7556**

**BY** Vella-Wilkinson, Noret, Shanley, Dawson, Azzinaro, Kennedy, Hull, Solomon, Chippendale, Newberry  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION FEES (Allows veterans with "Disabled Veterans" license plates to all the rights and privileges to persons possessing a disability parking permit. There would be no requirement of a parking privilege placard to be displayed in the vehicle.) {LC4876/1}  
02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7557**

**BY** Hull, Lombardi J, Batista, Fogarty, Cardillo, Fellela, Perez, Diaz, Costantino, Shallcross Smith  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (Requires all public utilities to maintain a customer service facility within the state to perform services such as addressing customer inquiries and accepting bill payments.) {LC4918/1}  
02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7558**

**BY** Dawson, Shanley, Craven  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE -- MANDATORY ARBITRATION PROVISION (Increases the minimum claim amount necessary to require a matter involving motor vehicle liability be submitted to mandatory arbitration.) {LC4817/1}  
02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7559**

(Dept. of Revenue)  
**BY** Voas, Hull, Slater  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL (Requires that certain quarterly reports required to be filed by district charter schools, mayoral academies and independent charter schools be submitted to the commissioner of elementary and secondary education.) {LC4450/1}  
02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Bill No. 7560**

(Dept. of Education (RIDE))

**BY** McNamara, Donovan, Roberts, Kislak, Giraldo, Voas, Ackerman

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SHEILA C. "SKIP" NOWELL

ACADEMY (Provides for changes to the operating structure of the Nowell Academy establishing a cooperative agreement among school districts.) {LC4856/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Bill No. 7561**

**BY** Casimiro, Donovan, Cotter, Kislak, McNamara, Abney, Voas, Serpa, Shekarchi, Craven

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM (Enables cities and towns to enact enabling legislation authorizing a partner program to assist students with an IEP for specially designed physical education classes.) {LC4667/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Bill No. 7562**

**BY** Noret, Marszalkowski, Bennett, Kazarian, Craven, Caldwell, Cotter, Chippendale, Spears, Costantino

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE -- FURBEARING ANIMALS

(Deletes subsection (b) of this section which lists the furbearing mammals in the state and requires DEM to promulgate by rule, a list of "furbearers" for this chapter.) {LC4675/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

**House Bill No. 7563**

**BY** Roberts, Rea, Place, Chippendale, Nardone, Quattrocchi, Newberry

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY -- ORGANIC

FARMING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (Establishes the organic farming and certification program to be administered by the department of environmental management.) {LC3611/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

**House Bill No. 7564**

(Dept. of Health)

**BY** Casimiro, Voas, Serpa, Newberry, Roberts, Kazarian, Morales, Caldwell, Solomon, Casey

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- LICENSING OF NURSING

SERVICE AGENCIES (Removes the exemption from licensure for certain nursing service agencies accredited by the joint commission.) {LC4860/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

**House Bill No. 7565**

(Lieutenant Governor)

**BY** Messier, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Kazarian, Casimiro

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- LONG-TERM CARE

COORDINATING COUNCIL (Provides for remote participation in open public meetings of the long-term care coordinating council and would provide that a quorum of the council consists of 12 members.) {LC4401/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

**House Bill No. 7566**

**BY** Fogarty, Shallcross Smith, McGaw, Edwards, Donovan, Cotter, Spears, Speakman, Carson, Craven

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT (Requires the department of health to amend its rules and regulations that allow for DEA-registered pharmacies to transfer electronic prescriptions at a patient's request.) {LC5001/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

**House Bill No. 7567**

(Governor/Judiciary)

**BY** Baginski, Casimiro, Spears, Craven, Kazarian, Solomon, Hull, Newberry

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- COURTS -- DOMESTIC ASSAULT (Provides that effective July 1, 2025, any attorney who self-certifies that they have successfully completed a specialized domestic violence prosecution training course shall have the authority to prosecute any violation of a protective order.) {LC4858/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7568**

(Dept. of Transportation/Judiciary)

**BY** Noret, Corvese, Cardillo, Hull, Phillips, Casey, Craven, Kazarian, Speakman, Lima

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MISCELLANEOUS RULES (Provides additional exception to prohibition on usage of wireless communication device while driving and clarifies that use for purpose of navigation must be while the device is mounted or otherwise affixed to vehicle and not held in the motorist's hand.) {LC4410/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7569**

(General Treasurer)

**BY** Finkelman

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROBATE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE -- UNCLAIMED INTANGIBLE AND TANGIBLE PROPERTY (Provides conditions which persons paid to recover or assist in recovering reported property must comply with.) {LC4581/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7570**

(Dept. of Public Safety)

**BY** Noret, Hull, Casey, Corvese, Cardillo, Phillips, Chippendale, Lima, Spears

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS (Allows law enforcement to utilize mufflers, silencers, or other devices for deadening or muffling the sound of a firearm while acting within the scope of their official duties under the supervision of the police chief or colonel of the state police.) {LC4332/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7571**

(Dept. of Public Safety)

**BY** Costantino, Edwards, Ackerman, Shallcross Smith, Cardillo

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- CASINO

GAMING (Amends the law consistent with the advent of iGaming and new technology and codifies the payment of investigatory expenses incurred by the State in limited circumstances.) {LC4329/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7572**

**BY** O'Brien, Slater, Shanley, Dawson, McEntee, Noret, Vella-Wilkinson, Perez, Craven, Costantino

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- GAMBLING AND

LOTTERIES (Allows social gaming in private residences and in public taverns or private clubs as long as the gambling is incidental to a bona fide social relationship between the participants and no person other than the participants receive anything of value.) {LC4986/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7573**

**BY** Noret, Craven, Corvese, Finkelman, Dawson, McEntee, Hull, Kazarian, Alzate, Chippendale

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- CHILDREN (Amends the

statute punishing child pornography by replacing the term "child pornography" with the term "child sexual abuse material.") {LC4810/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7574**

**BY** Finkelman

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE

GENERALLY -- THIRD-PARTY LITIGATION FINANCING CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

(Comprehensively regulates the practices of third-party litigation financiers in Rhode Island.)

{LC4646/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7575**

**BY** Morales, Knight, Ajello, Potter, Dawson, Kislak, Cruz, McEntee, Craven, Felix

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- OBSCENE AND

OBJECTIONABLE PUBLICATIONS AND SHOWS (Establishes, as an affirmative defense to the crimes of circulating obscene publications or shows and selling or exhibiting obscene publications to minors, the person's employment status as an employee of a school, museum, or library.)

{LC3598/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7576**

**BY** Noret, Dawson, Lombardi J, Casey, Solomon, McEntee, Brien, Craven, Serpa, Vella-Wilkinson

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT--- RIGHTS

AND PROTECTIONS OF MUNICIPAL POLICE CHIEFS (Provides protections to appointed police chiefs of cities and towns and provides they would be entitled to a hearing and due process before

termination and provides for an appeal of an adverse decision under the administrative procedures act.) {LC4674/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7577**

**BY** Edwards, Kislak, Ajello, McNamara, Kazarian, Knight, Donovan, Craven, McEntee, Felix  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- HEALTH CARE PROVIDER  
SHIELD BILL {LC4704/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7578**

**BY** Corvese, Noret, Azzinaro, Phillips, Brien, McNamara, Hull, Kennedy, Casey, Solomon  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' AND  
CHAUFFEURS' LICENSES (Allows members of the Rhode Island judiciary and their staff to be  
issued a driver's license that contains the applicant's official business address in lieu of a residence  
address.) {LC3554/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7579**

**BY** Morales, Potter, Cruz, Giraldo, Voas, Lombardi J, Handy, Spears, Donovan, Sanchez  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MINIMUM  
WAGES (Increases the state minimum wage by \$1.25 per year from 2026 through 2029 when it  
would reach twenty dollars (\$20.00) per hour and then provides for subsequent annual adjustments  
based on the Consumer Price Index.) {LC3316/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**House Bill No. 7580**

**BY** Voas, Giraldo, Alzate, Hull

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CORPORATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS, AND  
PARTNERSHIPS -- WORKERS' COOPERATIVES (Clarifies the role of a workers' cooperative to  
allow it to operate as a hiring hall under certain circumstances.) {LC3899/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**House Bill No. 7581**

**BY** Corvese, Noret, Azzinaro, Phillips, Brien, McNamara, Hull, Kennedy, Casey, Solomon  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT --  
CORRECTIONS STAFFING (Establishes parameters for staffing of correctional officers.)  
{LC4931/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**House Bill No. 7582**

(by request)

**BY** Azzinaro

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES AND OTHER VEHICLES --  
REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES (Removes the requirement that the applicant for a Bronze Star  
Medal license plate pay a registration fee or transfer charge.) {LC5002/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Special Legislation

**House Bill No. 7583**

(Dept. of Administration)

**BY** Azzinaro

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- PUBLIC BUILDINGS (Allows the department of administration to temporarily loan the state battle flags and markers to approved federal or state agencies under the condition that such loan is insured by bond against damage or loss.) {LC4862/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 7584**

(Dept. of Administration)

**BY** Edwards, Solomon, Potter, Ackerman, Costantino, Diaz, Kennedy, Casey, Fogarty

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- STATE PURCHASES (Reduces the required number of members present to constitute a quorum from three (3) to two (2) members.) {LC4859/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 7585**

**BY** Kennedy, Azzinaro, Vella-Wilkinson, Edwards, Corvese, Serpa, Cardillo, Fellela

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND COMMERCE CORPORATION (Removes nuclear plant projects from seeking the approval from the general assembly for the construction of said nuclear plant.) {LC4844/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 7586**

**BY** Hull, Lombardi J, Fogarty, Cardillo, Fellela, Perez, Diaz, Costantino, Shallcross Smith, Tanzi

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES GENERALLY (Authorizes Providence canteen vehicles to be equipped with sirens, whistles or bells and would require operators of any canteen vehicle to receive 5 hours of training in the operation of the vehicle and its emergency equipment.) {LC4923/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Resolution No. 7587**

**BY** Cortvriend, Nardone, Edwards, Morales, Potter, Batista, Handy, McGaw

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION STRONGLY SUPPORTING A NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE BANK THROUGH THE PASSAGE OF THE 118TH CONGRESS H.R. 4052 {LC3763/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 7588**

**BY** Ackerman, McNamara, Serpa, Edwards, Messier, Chippendale, Donovan, Shallcross Smith, Hull, Vella-Wilkinson

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PERSONAL INCOME TAX (Phases in modifications to federal adjusted gross income over a four (4) year period for social security income, from twenty percent (20%) up to eighty percent (80%), beginning on or after January 1, 2025.) {LC4924/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7589**

**BY** O'Brien, Slater, Kennedy, Azzinaro, Shanley, Dawson, McEntee, Noret, Perez, Vella-Wilkinson  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PERSONAL INCOME TAX (Raises the earned-income tax credit from sixteen percent (16%) to thirty percent (30%) for the tax years 2025 and beyond.) {LC4987/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7590**

**BY** Tanzi, Ajello, Morales, Cortvriend, Handy, Potter, Stewart, Diaz, Kislak, McGaw  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM -- 2024 BOND REFERENDA (Submits 2024 capital development program requesting the issuance of \$100,000,000 in general obligation bonds to the voters for approval at the November 8, 2024, general election.) {LC4074/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7591**

**BY** Spears, Donovan, Tanzi, Casimiro, Kazarian, Alzate, Boylan, Chippendale, McEntee, Ajello  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCE -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASELOAD ESTIMATING CONFERENCES (Requires that the department of human services and the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals provide forecasted costs reflecting the recommended rate review on a monthly basis.) {LC4835/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7592**

**BY** O'Brien, McNamara, Slater, Kennedy, Azzinaro, Shanley, Dawson, McEntee, Noret, Vella-Wilkinson

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT (Extends the sunset provision of § 16-16-24.2 to June 20, 2026.) {LC4970/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7593**

**BY** Cortvriend, Handy, Boylan, Carson, Spears, Bennett, Finkelman, McGaw, McNamara  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SCHOOL FUNDS AND PROPERTY (Directs the department of education to develop and adopt regulations for energy capable school buildings.) {LC4502/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7594**

**BY** Morales, Cruz, Shallcross Smith, Biah, DeSimone, Kislak, Potter, Giraldo, Kazarian, Diaz  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- BILINGUAL, DUAL LANGUAGE AND WORLD LANGUAGE TEACHERS INVESTMENT ACT (Authorizes the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish a program to expand the issuance of teaching certificates to bilingual dual language and world language teachers in urban and urban ring schools.) {LC3449/1}

02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance



**House Bill No. 7595**

(by request)

**BY** Azzinaro

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS -- NATIONAL GUARD (Raises the amount of life insurance the state would provide at no charge to Rhode Island National Guard members called up for federal duty to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).) {LC4963/1}  
02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7596****BY** Speakman, Knight

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES--LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (Imposes the local meals and beverage tax on retail liquor stores with a Class A liquor license.) {LC3925/1}  
02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Resolution No. 7597****BY** Tanzi, Cruz, Boylan, Potter, Giraldo, Voas, Alzate, Diaz, Kislak, Spears

**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$250,000 TO THE HOSPITAL CARE TRANSITIONS INITIATIVE (HCTI) (This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$250,000 to the Hospital Care Transitions Initiative.) {LC4882/1}  
02/09/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES  
TRANSFER OF BILLS****COMMITTEE ON CORPORATION**

Chairman Solomon, for the Committee on Corporations, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of transfer to the Committee on Health & Human Services:

**House Bill No. 7140****BY** Lombardi J, Hull, Ajello, Felix, Henries, Stewart, Cruz

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACEUTICAL COST TRANSPARENCY (Directs the state board of pharmacy to annually identify up to fifteen prescription drugs with increased costs and provide the list to the attorney general to obtain reasons for the cost increases.) {LC3367/1}  
02/12/2024 Committee transferred to House Health & Human Services

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Chairwoman Donovan, for the Committee on Health and Human Services, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of transfer to the Committee on State Government and Elections:

**House Bill No. 7565**

(Lieutenant Governor)

**BY** Messier, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Kazarian, Casimiro

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- LONG-TERM CARE COORDINATING COUNCIL (Provides for remote participation in open public meetings of the

long-term care coordinating council and would provide that a quorum of the council consists of 12 members.) {LC4401/1}

02/12/2024 Committee transferred to House State Government & Elections

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:47 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 TERESA ANN TANZI**

God of grace, this month is Black History Month. We pray that throughout this month, the true history of their suffering and injustice is fully recognized, along with the great contributions African Americans have made to this country. We pray that soon this history is so widely taught that we no longer need a separate month to fully honor their place in our history. Amen

**APPENDIX**

**TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR**

**Senate Bill No. 2028 SUB A**

**BY** DiMario, Bissaillon, Lombardi F, Pearson, Raptakis, Lawson, Euer, Cano, Murray  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- OUTDOOR DINING ACT  
(Establishes standards governing the municipal regulation of outdoor dining at food service establishments.) {LC3529/A/1}  
02/08/2024 Transmitted to Governor

**APPENDIX****CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024:****1. 2024-H 7111****BY Fellela****ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION -- TOWN OF JOHNSTON**

Committee on Municipal Government &amp; Housing recommends passage.

**2. 2024-H 7243****BY Finkelman****ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION -- TAX EXEMPTIONS -- JAMESTOWN**

Committee on Municipal Government &amp; Housing recommends passage.

**3. 2024-H 7062****BY Speakman****ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES**

Committee on Municipal Government &amp; Housing recommends passage.

**4. 2024-S 2034****BY F. Lombardi****ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- PERMANENT JOINT COMMITTEE ON NAMING ALL NEW BUILDINGS, BRIDGES, EDIFICES AND OTHER STATE CONSTRUCTIONS-BILL REYNOLDS MEDIA WORK ROOM**

Committee on Special Legislation recommends passage in concurrence.

**IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024:****1. 2024-H 7245****BY Ackerman****ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- DOGS**

Committee on Municipal Government &amp; Housing recommends passage.

2. **2024-H 7323**  
**BY** Cortvriend  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

3. **2024-H 7061**  
**BY** Tanzi  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

4. **2024-S 2130**  
**BY** Rogers  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER OF LINE BAPTIST CHURCH OF FOSTER, RHODE ISLAND

Committee on Corporations recommends passage in concurrence.

5. **2024-S 2243**  
**BY** DiPalma  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER OF CHRISTIAN ACTION CENTER, INC.

Committee on Corporations recommends passage in concurrence.

**Francis McCabe**  
Clerk of the House

**Monday, February 12, 2024**