

# 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 Seventh Day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.

---

Volume 152, No. 12

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Twelfth-Day

---

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, and is called to order at 4:14 o'clock P.M. by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 69 members present and 6 members absent as follows:

**PRESENT** – 69: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Phillips, Place, Potter, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, and Tanzi.

**ABSENT** – 6: Representatives Brien, Costantino, Handy, Perez, Quattrocchi, and Voas.

## INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi presents Representative Justine A. Caldwell, 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 11, 2025, is approved.

RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY



House of Representatives

**CO-SPONSORSHIP REMOVAL REQUEST**  
**2025**

Pursuant to House Rule 15(g)(ii), Rep. Biah  
hereby requests the removal of their co-sponsorship of Bill # H-5296  
Entitled: Born-Alive Infant Protection Act  
which is currently in the House Committee on Judiciary.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

House District: \_\_\_\_\_

3Date: February 12, 2025

Acknowledgement: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Representative Jon D. Brien is unable to attend session today, Wednesday, February 12, 2025.

Representative Brandon T. Voas is unable to attend session today, Wednesday, February 12, 2025.

**NEW BUSINESS****House Bill No. 5415**

(Dept. of Business Regulation)

**BY** Kennedy, Solomon, Kazarian, Azzinaro, Ackerman

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS -- LICENSED ACTIVITIES

(Provides standards for developing, implementing, and maintaining reasonable administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to protect the security, confidentiality, and integrity of customer information.) {LC1270/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 5416**

**BY** Sanchez, Morales, Cruz, Tanzi, Giraldo, Stewart, Alzate

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- CASUALTY INSURANCE RATING

(Prohibits auto insurance companies from using certain race and geographical locations criteria when determining insurance rates.) {LC948/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 5417**

**BY** Nardone, Quattrocchi, Place

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- WATER

SUPPLY (Provides that water utility companies be responsible for all costs associated with maintenance, operation and delivery of water pumping stations to individual parcels of land and schools with no pumping stations on the property.) {LC927/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 5418**

**BY** Nardone, Santucci, Paplauskas, Quattrocchi, Hull, Cortvriend, Place

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- SMALL EMPLOYER HEALTH

INSURANCE AVAILABILITY ACT (Amends the definition of "small employer" for purposes of the small employer health insurance availability act to mean a business employing less than one hundred (100) employees rather than fifty (50) employees.) {LC1085/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 5419**

**BY** O'Brien, Craven, Casey

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY

PROVISIONS -- SAFEGUARDING AMERICAN VETERAN EMPOWERMENT ACT ("SAVE ACT") (Establishes the "safeguarding American veteran empowerment act".) {LC1310/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

(Added to Co-sponsorship is Representative Casey)

**House Bill No. 5420**

(Dept. of Education)

**BY** McNamara, Cortvriend, Corvese, Azzinaro, Phillips, Roberts, Shallcross Smith, Ackerman, Noret, Donovan

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- PUPIL TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES (Amends the definitions of a “pupil transportation vehicle” to a vehicle contrasted to seat not more than ten (10) passengers plus the operator, rather than the existing limit of eight (8) passengers.) {LC1268/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Bill No. 5421**

**BY** Noret, Read, Messier, Casimiro, Serpa, O'Brien, Corvese, Craven, Biah, Finkelman

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SCHOOL BUS SAFETY ENFORCEMENT (Requires that all new school buses be equipped with live digital video school bus violation detection monitoring systems as of July 1, 2027. All buses, new and used, must have the monitoring systems installed by July 1, 2032.) {LC1463/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Bill No. 5422**

**BY** Carson, Kislak, Fogarty, Cotter, McGaw, Donovan, Speakman, Tanzi, Cortvriend, Boylan

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SCHOOL WASTE RECYCLING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL (Amends the certain provisions relative to school waste recycling and refuse disposal and requires reports of waste audits by educational entities and reports of program participation by vendors.) {LC286/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Bill No. 5423**

**BY** Noret, Casimiro, Read, Shallcross Smith, Messier, Serpa, O'Brien, Biah, Finkelman

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS (Repeals the legislative findings in this section and requires elementary, middle and high schools to provide and maintain on-site functional automated external defibrillators (AEDs).) {LC1120/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Bill No. 5424**

**BY** Boylan, Carson, McGaw, Cortvriend, Spears, Handy, Potter, Speakman, Kislak, Tanzi

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND CLIMATE SUPERFUND ACT OF 2025 (Establishes the Rhode Island Climate Superfund Act cost recovery program.) {LC1318/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

**House Bill No. 5425**

**BY** Handy, Dawson, Boylan, Tanzi, Speakman, Carson, Spears, McGaw, Bennett

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION -- STATE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS METRICS

(Requires that the division of planning create a checklist of environmental and energy issues that state construction projects which cost in excess of \$10,000,000 would need to consider.) {LC1545/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

**House Bill No. 5426**

(Dept. of Health)

**BY** Speakman, Morales, Boylan, Donovan, Carson, McGaw, Handy, Bennett, Potter, Casey**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- LICENSING OF HEALTHCARE FACILITIES (Requires the disclosure of the transfer of certain assets of healthcare facilities and provides penalties for failing to file healthcare facility ownership information.) {LC1425/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health &amp; Human Services

**House Bill No. 5427**

(Dept. of Health)

**BY** McGaw, Donovan, Kislak, Casimiro, Cotter, Fogarty, Carson, Batista, Potter, Boylan**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES (Includes the COVID-19 immunization under the consent and reporting provisions required for pharmacy administered immunizations to individuals between nine (9) and eighteen (18) years of age.) {LC1417/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health &amp; Human Services

**House Bill No. 5428****BY** McNamara, Corvese, Chippendale, Place, Craven, Bennett, Ackerman**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- NURSES (Details each of those limited emergency circumstances where a registered nurse and advanced practice registered nurses, may safely administer sedation, such as critical life-saving or emergency situations where there is an imminent threat to life or limb.) {LC950/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health &amp; Human Services

**House Bill No. 5429****BY** Lombardi, Hull, Sanchez, Cruz, Potter, Stewart, Alzate, Voas, Diaz, Morales**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- THIRD-PARTY HEALTH INSURANCE ADMINISTRATORS -- PRESCRIPTION DRUG COST CONTROL AND TRANSPARENCY (Provides certain controls over prescription drug costs by imposing transparency, oversight and accountability requirements on commercial insurers and their pharmacy benefit managers.) {LC1524/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health &amp; Human Services

**House Bill No. 5430****BY** Fogarty, Roberts, Cotter, McGaw, Carson, Speakman, Donovan, Spears, Kislak, Kazarian**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES (Prohibits an insurance company from imposing any cost-sharing requirements for any diagnostic or supplemental breast examinations.) {LC1538/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health &amp; Human Services

**House Bill No. 5431****BY** Donovan, Speakman, Phillips, McNamara, Serpa, Fellela, Edwards, Lima, Casimiro, Potter**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT INSURANCE POLICIES (Provides that individuals enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B guaranteed right to enroll in standardized plans.) {LC1462/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health &amp; Human Services

**House Bill No. 5432**

**BY** Tanzi, Morales, Spears, McGaw, Handy, Fogarty, Ajello, McEntee, Knight, Stewart  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS (Prohibits health insurance providers from requiring preauthorization for in- network mental health or substance use disorder services.) {LC796/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

**House Bill No. 5433**

**BY** Tanzi, Ajello, Fogarty, Handy, Knight, Cortvriend, McEntee, Stewart, Kislak, Felix  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE RHODE ISLAND HEALTH CARE REFORM ACT OF 2004 -- HEALTH INSURANCE OVERSIGHT (Requires a report to be produced that focuses on prescription drug prior authorizations by January 1, 2026.) {LC797/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

**House Resolution No. 5434**

**BY** Stewart, Potter, Cruz, Caldwell, McGaw, Cotter, Kislak, Lombardi, Tanzi, Bennett  
**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROTECT PATIENTS AND TRADITIONAL MEDICARE FROM MEDICARE ADVANTAGE {LC985/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

**House Bill No. 5435**

**BY** Baginski, Lima, Spears, Solomon  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- STATE PURCHASES (Prohibits state agencies from entering into software contracts that limit the agency's ability to install or run the software on their hardware.) {LC1029/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Innovation, Internet, & Technology

**House Bill No. 5436**

(Governor/Secretary of State/General Treasurer/Attorney General)

**BY** Knight, Caldwell, Boylan, Speakman, McEntee, Ajello, Kazarian, Craven, Dawson, Felix  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- RHODE ISLAND ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN ACT OF 2025 (Establishes the Rhode Island Assault Weapons Ban Act of 2025.) {LC1181/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 5437**

(Dept. of Children Youth and Families)

**BY** Noret, Read, Casimiro, Messier, O'Brien, Corvese, Craven, Dawson, McEntee, Shallcross Smith  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- JAILS AND PRISONS (Prohibits individuals from conveying items to or from the training school for youth without prior consent by the executive director of the division of youth development at the department of children, youth and families.) {LC1336/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 5438**

(Dept. of Public Safety)

**BY** Hull, Fascia, Azzinaro, Abney, Roberts, Biah, Lima, Place, Slater, Diaz

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- SEARCH WARRANTS

(Dictates the length a search warrant involving a tracking device would be valid and provide a process to extend the time frame of the tracking device for good cause.) {LC1345/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 5439**

**BY** Felix, Craven, Knight, McEntee, Ajello, Batista, Cruz, Dawson, Lombardi, Sanchez

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- IDENTIFICATION AND

APPREHENSION OF CRIMINALS (Mandates that the clerk of the district court, upon request of the defendant, automatically seal individual counts of criminal complaints upon dismissal pursuant to rule 48(a) of the rules of criminal procedure for district court.) {LC1060/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 5440**

**BY** Craven, Corvese, Shanley

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- ARREST (Permits non-sworn public safety officers and security guards at private colleges and universities to detain individuals for no longer than 30 minutes within the campus's jurisdiction if the officer or guard believes the person committed a criminal offense) {LC1393/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 5441**

**BY** Cruz, Morales, Lima, Batista, Felix, Lombardi, Sanchez, Potter, Shanley, Slater

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- EXPUNGEMENT OF

CRIMINAL RECORDS (Reduces the time for expungements to three (3) years for a single misdemeanor and five (5) years for felonies and multiple misdemeanors.) {LC621/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 5442**

**BY** Fogarty, Carson, Cotter, Noret, Hull, Tanzi, Bennett, Dawson, Cortvriend, Shallcross Smith

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- PUBLIC UTILITIES (Expands meaning of bomb threats and false reports to include any warning or threat of the existence of an explosive device and allows judge to impose conditions of bail to include extreme risk protection orders, no trespass orders and counseling.) {LC1560/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 5443**

**BY** Boylan, Ajello, Knight, McEntee, Craven, Caldwell, Dawson, Batista, Cruz, Felix

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- SUICIDE PREVENTION--

VOLUNTARY FIREARM RESTRICTIONS ACT (Creates process for individual to voluntarily be either temporarily or indefinitely added to a list restricting their rights to purchase or possess firearms.) {LC1478/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 5444****BY** Nardone, Santucci, Quattrocchi, Noret, Read, Chippendale, Marszalkowski, Hull**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SPEED

RESTRICTIONS (Defines slowing a vehicle for purposes of the "move over law" (§ 31-14-3) to mean twenty miles per hour (20 mph) under the posted speed limit.) {LC1087/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 5445****BY** Place, Newberry, Santucci, Perez**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATUTES AND STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION --

EFFECT OF GENERAL LAWS (Directs the office of law revision to identify, on a yearly basis, any decisions or holdings of the United States Supreme Court that would require amendments to any state statutes.) {LC1285/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 5446****BY** Handy, Dawson, Boylan, Speakman, Carson, McGaw, Fogarty, Kislak, Kazarian, Cruz**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD AND

TENANT ACT (Permits a tenant, at the tenant's expense, to implement energy conservation measures to any dwelling or dwelling unit such as removable weather-stripping around doors and windows.) {LC1541/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 5447****BY** Serpa, Edwards, O'Brien, Baginski, Solomon, Kazarian, Lima**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY

PROVISIONS -- TRADE IN FARMED ANIMAL FUR PRODUCTS (Prohibits a person to sell, offer for sale, display for sale or otherwise distribute a farmed animal fur product within the state and provides graduated civil penalties for violations.) {LC706/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 5448**

(Dept. of Labor and Training)

**BY** McEntee, Caldwell, Craven, Morales, Kislak, Diaz, Slater, Bennett, Edwards, Noret**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- EMPLOYMENT

SECURITY --GENERAL PROVISIONS (Eliminates the "until June 30, 2025" sunset on the increase in the total amount of earnings a partial-unemployment insurance claimant can receive before being entirely disqualified for unemployment insurance benefits.) {LC1339/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**House Bill No. 5449****BY** Newberry, Casey**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES

(Repeals § 3-7-19 which prohibits retail liquor licenses within two hundred feet (200') of schools and religious institutions.) {LC1300/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing



**House Bill No. 5450**

**BY** Handy, Cortvriend, Kislak, Stewart, McGaw, Speakman, Boylan, Fogarty, Carson, Ajello  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- ALL-ELECTRIC BUILDING ACT (Provides that no city or town may issue a permit for the construction of new buildings, that are not an all-electric building, if the initial application for a permit was submitted after December 31, 2026, unless certain circumstances apply.) {LC1198/1}  
02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

**House Bill No. 5451**

(Secretary of State)

**BY** Read

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC RECORDS -- PUBLIC RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (Updates public records administration act, modifies records control schedule, designates records officer, establishes procedures for retention of records. Provides administrator submit yearly reports, establishes public reporting compliance.) {LC1108/1}  
02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 5452**

**BY** Casimiro, Noret, Read, Place, Serpa, Alzate, Cotter, Kislak, Shallcross Smith, Tanzi  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (Provides that it is the public policy of the state that DCYF be the chief agency responsible for all matters related to children's behavioral health.) {LC1123/1}  
02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 5453**

**BY** Edwards, Cortvriend, Finkelman, Knight, Kislak, Fogarty, Shanley, Speakman, Tanzi, Abney  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (Replaces CRMC with a newly created division of coastal resources management, a state entity within the DEM and would transfer all authority to the DEM with duties and responsibilities to be carried out by the division of coastal resources management.) {LC326/1}  
02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 5454**

**BY** Serpa, Ackerman, Fellela, Read, Chippendale, Edwards, O'Brien, Baginski, Brien, Azzinaro  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- COMMITTEES AND STAFF (Requires nonprofit, as a condition for requesting state funds from the general assembly, to submit & post on their website, a list of 10 of their highest paid director, officer & employee salaries & any forms of compensation provided to those individuals.) {LC1100/1}  
02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 5455**

**BY** Perez, Finkelman, Baginski, Serpa, Phillips, Noret, DeSimone, Newberry, Nardone, Hopkins  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1990 (Defines "anti-Semitism" for the state human affairs commission to use while investigating and working to resolve complaints of discrimination and for the commission against prejudice and bias to use in defining hate crimes.) {LC1004/1}  
02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 5456**

**BY** Santucci, Fascia, Paplauskas, Newberry, Roberts, Hopkins, Chippendale, Place, Lombardi, Brien  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND COMMERCE CORPORATION (Requires a seventy-five percent (75%) supermajority vote by the board of directors to establish a quorum and to approve any action taken by the commerce corporation.) {LC924/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 5457**

**BY** Azzinaro, Finkelman, Fellela, Serpa, McNamara, Kennedy, Hull  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC RECORDS -- ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS (Requires a member of the public to pay any outstanding balances due and owing for previous requests before being provided copies of records and documents on a new request from law enforcement agencies.) {LC43/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 5458**

**BY** Craven, Corvese, Shanley  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION AND TITLING (Establishes a system of electronic registration and titling of motor vehicles. Rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this chapter to be promulgated by the administrator of the division of motor vehicles.) {LC1402/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Resolution No. 5459**

**BY** Messier, Kislak, Edwards, Handy, Kazarian, Potter, Shallcross Smith, Serpa, Cortvriend, Fellela  
**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE, PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION -- RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE EDUCATION (Amends the constitution to guarantee Rhode Island residents with equal opportunity to receive an education that is adequate, equitable and meaningful and provides judicial enforcement of this provision.) {LC791/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 5460**

**BY** Azzinaro, Hull, Abney, Read, Fellela, Casimiro, Solomon  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO AERONAUTICS -- UNIFORM AERONAUTICAL REGULATORY ACT (Adds "space force" to many sections of the general laws, listing of military branches.) {LC1288/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Veterans Affairs

**House Bill No. 5461**

**BY** Shallcross Smith, Fogarty, Casimiro, Tanzi, Ackerman, Kislak, Cotter, DeSimone, Morales, Noret  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE HEALTHCARE SERVICES FUNDING PLAN ACT (Amends Rhode Island's existing healthcare services funding plan act by adding an account relating to a new psychiatry resource network to fund Rhode Island's present PediPRN and MomsPRN.) {LC1590/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5462****BY** Tanzi, Casimiro, Donovan, McGaw, Ajello, Knight, Giraldo, Felix, Batista, Cruz**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTHCARE NEEDS-EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED INFANTS (Provides that the early intervention program for developmentally disabled infants be under the jurisdiction of the executive office of health and human services (EOHHS).) {LC1169/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5463****BY** Stewart, Potter, Cruz, Cotter, Kislak, Tanzi, Handy**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (Sets controls on Medicaid prescription drug costs by imposing transparency and accountability requirements on managed care organizations (MCOs) and their pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs).) {LC992/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5464****BY** Tanzi, Chippendale, McGaw, Edwards, Shallcross Smith, Ajello, Fogarty, Hull, Blazejewski, Shekarchi**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PUBLIC HEALTH AND WORKPLACE SAFETY ACT (Repeals the exemption granted to pari-mutuel facilities and casinos from the smoke free workplace requirement and provides for a one time appropriate of \$1,000,000 to inform patrons of the smoke free policy within the casino.) {LC856/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5465****BY** Morales, Potter, Tanzi, Batista, Stewart, Cruz, Handy, Lombardi**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THE RHODE ISLAND COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (Establishes a single-payer health care insurance system, consolidating public and private payments into a more efficient Medicare-for-all style program, funded by progressive taxes, to reduce health care costs.) {LC1571/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5466****BY** Solomon, Casey, O'Brien, Casimiro, Noret, Serpa, Kennedy, Corvese, Spears**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (Increases the personal needs allowance of nursing facility residents from seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) to one hundred dollars (\$100) per month.) {LC1276/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5467****BY** Stewart, Cotter, Kislak, Morales, Hull, Lombardi, Tanzi, Handy**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MOTOR FUEL TAX (Extends allocation of motor fuel tax to the Intermodal Surface Transportation Fund through 2025. Changes the allocation to 30% total proceeds, including 30% from the one cent per gallon environmental protection fee through 2026 and thereafter.) {LC988/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5468****BY** Tanzi, Morales, Cortvriend, McGaw, Ajello, Stewart, Kislak, Felix, Alzate, Hull**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MOTOR FUEL TAX (Adjusts the motor fuel tax for inflation every two (2) years based on the inflation that has occurred in the previous two (2) years.) {LC589/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5469****BY** Nardone, Quattrocchi, Santucci, Paplauskas, Hull, Cortvriend, Place, Hopkins, Felix, Shallcross Smith**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (Appropriates two million dollars (\$2,000,000) to the micro-loan program for FY 25-26.) {LC1084/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5470****BY** Tanzi, Morales, Speakman, Donovan, Cortvriend, McGaw, Handy, Stewart, Kislak, Felix**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM -- 2026 BOND REFERENDA (Submits 2026 capital development program requesting the issuance of \$100,000,000 in general obligation bonds to the voters for approval at the November, 2026, general election.) {LC1291/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5471****BY** Craven, Corvese, Shanley**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- OPTIONAL RETIREMENT FOR MEMBERS OF POLICE FORCE AND FIREFIGHTERS (Provides an option for members to receive retirement allowances, without reduction, after twenty (20) years of service upon reaching age fifty-seven (57).) {LC1395/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing

**House Bill No. 5472****BY** McEntee, Messier, Furtado, Casimiro, Caldwell, Craven, Dawson, Fogarty, Noret, Kazarian**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHER'S RETIREMENT (Increases monthly minimum benefit for a spouse, domestic partner, former spouse. Grant a 2.89% COLA for eligible retirees. Provided a modification reducing federal AGI for public pension benefits from the RI employees retirement system.) {LC1458/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5473****BY** Alzate, Casimiro, Batista, Craven, Donovan, Kislak, Potter, Kazarian, Morales, Stewart**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PERSONAL INCOME TAX (Creates an additional tax rate of 3% on taxable income over \$625,000 in 2025 dollars. Applies to tax years 2026 and thereafter and not retroactively.) {LC883/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5474**

**BY** Ackerman, Azzinaro, McNamara, Newberry, Serpa, Donovan, Cotter, Shallcross Smith, Fellela, Kennedy

**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, 2026.) {LC788/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5475**

**BY** Handy, Dawson, Boylan, Tanzi, Spears, McGaw, Bennett, Chippendale, Paplauskas, Lombardi

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (Exempts new or used bicycles from sale and use tax.) {LC1543/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5476**

**BY** Slater, Diaz

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (Removes the exemption from the state hotel tax for residences rented in their entirety.) {LC1437/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Resolution No. 5477**

**BY** Handy, Cortvriend, McEntee, Fogarty, Kislak, Cruz, Stewart, Kazarian, Paplauskas, Caldwell

**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 TO ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE MAIN STREET COORDINATING PROGRAM (Authorizes the appropriation of the sum of \$500,000 for the formal establishment of "Main Street Rhode Island".) {LC1131/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Resolution No. 5478**

**BY** Craven

**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 TO NORA'S HAVEN (This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$500,000 to fund the vital services provided by Nora's Haven.) {LC1394/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Resolution No. 5479**

**BY** Slater, Diaz

**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$750,000 TO WATERFIRE PROVIDENCE (Authorizes the appropriation of the sum of \$750,000 to WaterFire Providence.) {LC1435/1}

02/12/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

### **GUESTS**

Representative Read proudly introduces and welcomes his daughter Susan to the House Chamber. Susan is a Plymouth University graduate with a communication and media studies degree, and he announces that she brings valuable expertise and fresh perspectives as his media manager. Speaker Shekarchi welcomes Susan to the House.

Representative Read proudly congratulates and introduces students from Coventry High School, Regional Career and Technical Center for winning first place in the State round of the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition hosted by the United States Air Force and the United States Space Force. He welcomes Ethan Paul, who demonstrated expertise on the Cisco Networking challenge; Jaden Morales and Logan Till, who focused on the Windows server images; and Krishna Patel and Rohan More, who excelled in developing the Linux images. Representative Read appreciates instructor and team advisor Kyle Kettelle and Lori Ferguson, the Director of the Regional Career and Technical Center, for their guidance and support. Speaker Shekarchi congratulates them and welcomes them to the House.

Representative Cruz honors the memory of the late Joseph Box, a remarkable 101-year-old World War II veteran who distinguishably served our nation. During World War II, Mr. Box dedicated his early years to serving as a dental technician in both the United States Navy and the United States Marines. Later, he served 35 years in the Rhode Island Air National Guard, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Representative Cruz also extends a warm welcome to the House to his daughters Sharon Box Holtkamp and Krista Box, accompanied by her husband, Matthew Riley, and Suzy Box, accompanied by her husband, Harry Adler. Joining them are Dr. Robert E. Bartro, DDS, a long-time colleague and friend, as well as close friend Nikos Kavanya. Representative Cruz offers her heartfelt condolences to Joseph Box's daughters and their entire family. We honor his legacy of service, dedication, and love for our country.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Abney announces that all members should have received a copy of the updated report from the House Fiscal staff on the Governor's Proposed Budget.

Chairman Abney announces that the Committee on Finance will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 35 of the State House.

Representative Shallcross Smith wishes Albert Oscar Keiegar a happy 100th birthday on February 18, 2025. He is a dear friend and a lifelong resident of Lincoln. Speaker Shekarchi also extends his best wishes to Albert on this special milestone.

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces that the House will be in recess next week. The following week, House session will be held on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, both at 4:00 p.m.

The House Oversight Committee will meet tomorrow at 3 p.m. in Room 35 with the Senate Oversight Committee for an update on the Rhode Department of Transportation Washington Bridge project.

The desk will remain open during Recess Week, and legislation may be submitted to Nicole McCarty in the Speaker's Office. The deadline for submitting legislation is Thursday, February 27th. The Legislative Council office will be open during regular business hours tomorrow, Friday, and throughout next week. After Thursday, February 27th, any introductions of legislation will be subject to Rule 7(d) of the House Rules.

Majority Leader Blazejewski and Speaker Shekarchi extend their best wishes to Representatives Alex Finkelman, Arthur Handy, and Chairwoman Representative Grace Diaz on their birthdays.

Speaker Shekarchi wishes his dad, Dr. Khalil Shekarchi, a Happy 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Speaker Shekarchi wishes all House members a restful and safe Recess Week!

Speaker Shekarchi announces that the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas has approved the sale of Fatima and Roger Williams Hospitals. He expresses his sincere gratitude to Attorney General Neronah for his hard work and dedication on this critical matter. He extends his thanks to the lawyers who collaborated with Prospect Medical Holdings.

Chairman Azzinaro announces that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 135 of the State House.

Chairman Corvese announces that the Committee on Labor will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 101 of the State House.

Representative Phillips wishes his mother-in-law Margaret Ottman a Happy 98<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

### IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

#### **House Resolution No. 5480**

**BY** Cruz, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Potter, Corvese, Azzinaro, Morales, Stewart, Voas  
**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE  
PASSING OF DR. JOSEPH J. BOX {LC1510/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Cruz discusses the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 5481**

**BY** Shekarchi, Blazejewski, McNamara, Chippendale, Ackerman, Corvese, Kennedy, Shallcross Smith, Ajello, Boylan

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION JOYOUSLY CELEBRATING PATRICE WOOD'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY WORKING AS A DISTINGUISHED JOURNALIST SERVING THE RHODE ISLAND AND GREATER NEW ENGLAND COMMUNITY {LC1272/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Chairman McNamara requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Chairman McNamara and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 5482**

**BY** Blazejewski, Chippendale

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS {LC1391/1}

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. 5483**

**BY** Blazejewski, Chippendale

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONDOLENCES {LC1392/1}

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  
TRANSFER OF BILLS**

**Chairman Abney, for the Committee on Finance, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of transfer to the Committee on Corporations:**

**House Bill No. 5465**

**BY** Morales, Potter, Tanzi, Batista, Stewart, Cruz, Handy, Lombardi

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THE RHODE ISLAND COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (Establishes a single-payer health care insurance system, consolidating public and private payments into a more efficient Medicare-for-all style program, funded by progressive taxes, to reduce health care costs.) {LC1571/1}

02/13/2025 Committee transferred to House Corporations

**NEW BUSINESS****House Bill No. 5484**

(Division of Public Utilities & Carriers)

**BY** Carson

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- DUTIES OF UTILITIES AND CARRIERS (Increases the penalties for public utilities for violations of the general law governing the duties of utilities and carriers.) {LC1350/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 5485**

(Office of Energy Resources)

**BY** Carson

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- DUTIES OF UTILITIES AND CARRIERS (Provides that the renewable energy fund remains in existence until December 31, 2033, to align with the mandate that 100% of Rhode Island's electricity demand is from renewable energy and also complies with federal grant requirements.) {LC1352/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 5486**

**BY** Baginski, Fellela

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- ATHLETIC TRAINERS (Requires certified athletic trainers to be trained in the administration of epinephrine auto-injectors (epi-pens) and would require such professionals to be equipped with the medication while performing professional activities.) {LC1024/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 5487****BY** Morales, Giraldo, Cruz, Batista, Potter, Stewart, Cotter**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- OFFENSES PERTAINING TO SCHOOLS (Bans preferential treatment to a public or private university applicant because of the student's familial relationship to a previous university attendee.) {LC159/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Bill No. 5488****BY** Kislak, Morales, Speakman, Boylan, Fogarty, Potter, Tanzi, Lombardi, Cruz**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE SCHOOL LIBRARIES ACT (Creates the School Libraries Act.) {LC1218/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Bill No. 5489****BY** Baginski, Fellela**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SCHOOL AND YOUTH PROGRAMS CONCUSSION ACT (Replaces the existing chapter on this subject by requiring school districts to organize concussion oversight teams, develop removal-from-play, return-to-play, and return-to-learn protocols, and develop a concussion brochure.) {LC1026/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Bill No. 5490****BY** Baginski, Fellela**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SCHOOL AND YOUTH PROGRAMS CONCUSSION ACT (Requires all school districts to designate a certified athletic trainer at each high school within its district.) {LC1028/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Bill No. 5491****BY** Fogarty, Carson, Shallcross Smith, Tanzi, Bennett, Dawson, Cortvriend, Noret, Kazarian, Donovan**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS (Requires the department of elementary and secondary education and DOH to adopt policies, rules and regulations for the administration of seizure rescue medications for children who have been medically identified as having epilepsy/seizure disorder.) {LC1557/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Bill No. 5492****BY** Boylan, McGaw, Bennett, Kislak, Speakman, Carson, Handy, Cortvriend, Spears, Fogarty**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- MICROPLASTICS REDUCTION ACT (Creates the Microplastics Reduction Act to prohibit the sale or distribution of products containing synthetic polymer micro particles.) {LC1452/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

**House Bill No. 5493****BY** Kislak, Carson, Spears, Handy, Speakman, McGaw, Boylan, Fogarty, Potter, McEntee**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- BUILDING

DECARBONIZATION ACT OF 2025 (Establishes a program for the energy and water

benchmarking of large buildings in Rhode Island and a standard for their energy performance.)  
{LC1267/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

**House Bill No. 5494**

(Dept. of Business Regulation/OHIC)

**BY** Fogarty, Donovan, Hull, Spears, Carson, Bennett, Dawson, Noret, Handy, Kazarian

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT

INSURANCE POLICIES (Adds several consumer protections to existing Medicare Supplement law.)

{LC1358/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

**House Bill No. 5495**

(Dept. of Health)

**BY** Kislak

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS (Authorizes a midwife, nurse practitioner or physicians assistant attending a newborn to cause that child to be subject to newborn screening tests for conditions for which there is a medical benefit to the early detection and treatment of the disorder.) {LC1423/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

**House Bill No. 5496**

(Dept. of Health)

**BY** Bennett, Hopkins, Donovan, Ajello, Fogarty, Solomon, Baginski, Casimiro, Kazarian, Caldwell

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- NURSES (Makes several changes to the licensing and disciplinary process of the board of nursing.) {LC1411/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

**House Bill No. 5497**

**BY** Fogarty, Carson, Dawson, Cortvriend, Noret, Kazarian, Donovan, Alzate, Ajello, McGaw

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS (Requires EOHHS to develop a budget and seek funding to establish an early childhood mental health hub program to improve access to infant and early childhood mental health services for children under six (6) years and their families.) {LC1525/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

**House Bill No. 5498**

**BY** Stewart, Giraldo, Furtado, Potter, Edwards, Donovan, Morales, Fogarty, Tanzi, Place

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (Requires the secretary of the executive office of health and human services to monitor and mandate changes to the price-setting practices of pharmacy benefit managers to prohibit the spread pricing payment model.) {LC1594/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

**House Bill No. 5499****BY** Stewart, Giraldo, Furtado, Potter, Edwards, Donovan, Morales, Fogarty, Tanzi**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT

INSURANCE POLICIES (Seeks to promote increased consumer access to Medicare supplement health insurance policies.) {LC1385/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health &amp; Human Services

**House Bill No. 5500**

(Dept. of BHDDH)

**BY** Kislak**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS --

CONFIDENTIALITY OF HEALTH CARE COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ACT

(Amends provisions relative to confidentiality of health care communications and the process for requesting records and/or confidential health care information.) {LC1337/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 5501****BY** Felix, Craven, McEntee, Batista, Cruz, Ajello, Morales, Potter, Alzate, Lombardi**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- BAIL AND

RECOGNIZANCE (Prohibits the courts from setting cash or surety bail on any misdemeanor offense but permits the court to set reasonable non-monetary conditions of bail to assure the defendant's presence in court as required and to protect the community.) {LC1067/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 5502****BY** Felix, Batista, Cruz, Alzate, Morales, Giraldo, Lombardi, McEntee, Potter, Solomon**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- GENERAL PROVISIONS

(Further delineate the definitions of felony, misdemeanor and petty misdemeanor.) {LC1061/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 5503****BY** Cruz, Potter, Morales, Giraldo, Stewart, Felix, Tanzi, Batista, Lombardi, Ajello**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD AND

TENANT ACT (Provides for just cause evictions for residential landlord tenancies.) {LC1598/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 5504****BY** Serpa, Corvese, Caldwell, Ackerman, Potter, Azzinaro, Read**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- RHODE ISLAND FAIR HOUSING

PRACTICES ACT (Tenants with disabilities may request to keep an emotional support animals.) {LC1378/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 5505****BY** Corvese, Azzinaro, Serpa, DeSimone, Alzate**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- LABOR AND PAYMENT OF DEBTS BY CONTRACTORS (Prohibits payments in lieu of pension benefits to person employed more than ninety (90) days.) {LC1459/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**House Bill No. 5506****BY** Craven, O'Brien, Shanley, Dawson, Finkelman, Corvese, Potter**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- EMPLOYEES' FREE SPEECH IN WORKPLACE (Protects employees' rights in the workplace concerning political and religious matters, by creating a civil action that may provide damages and attorneys' fees.) {LC1622/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**House Bill No. 5507****BY** Felix, Edwards, Kazarian, Batista, Diaz, Sanchez, Stewart, Morales, Potter, Furtado**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MINIMUM WAGES (Gradually increases the minimum wage for employees receiving gratuities.) {LC1062/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**House Bill No. 5508****BY** Sanchez, Cruz, Stewart**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MINIMUM WAGES (Provides that commencing January 1, 2026, the minimum wage shall be twenty-two dollars (\$22.00) per hour.) {LC947/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**House Bill No. 5509****BY** Knight, Cortvriend, Caldwell, Speakman, Spears, Cotter, Donovan, McEntee, Fogarty, Tanzi**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- STATE BUILDING CODE (Requires the state building commissioner to implement electronic permitting for any category of state or local permit authorized under state law to significantly impact the expediency of construction and development.) {LC1307/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing

**House Bill No. 5510****BY** Stewart, Morales, Lombardi, Cruz, Felix, Potter, Batista**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ACTIONS BY AND AGAINST TOWNS (Requires a municipality to disclose on their official website the specific issues, details and costs of any legal action of which the town or city is a named defendant within sixty (60) days after the close of their fiscal year.) {LC1125/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing

**House Bill No. 5511****BY** Finkelman**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (Allows the commissioners of the water and sewer commission for the town of

Jamestown to limit its public water system's obligation to supply water only within designated and described area as opposed to the entire land area of the town.) {LC1509/1}  
02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

**House Bill No. 5512****BY** Batista

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Exempts from taxation the real and tangible personal property of PROJECT Weber/RENEW, a Rhode Island domestic nonprofit corporation.) {LC1626/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

**House Bill No. 5513**

(Dept. of Revenue)

**BY** Phillips, Perez, Casey, Corvese, Costantino, Noret, Shanley, Read, Dawson

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' AND CHAUFFEURS' LICENSES (Implements a thirty (30) day waiting period following the issuance of a learners permit and the waiting period must expire before the person is permitted to take the road test in order to obtain a full license.) {LC1264/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 5514**

(Secretary of State)

**BY** Furtado, Dawson, Kazarian, Messier, Fascia, Read, Boylan

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS (Exempts emergency mail ballots from the requirement to have certain wording regarding "mail voters" on the ballot.) {LC1109/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Resolution No. 5515**

(Secretary of State)

**BY** Alzate, Hull, Ajello, Cortvriend, Fogarty, Edwards, Batista, Morales, Tanzi, Carson

**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION -- OF SUFFRAGE (Would propose to the voters of the state a constitutional amendment regarding eligibility to vote and to be a candidate.) {LC1110/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 5516****BY** Baginski, Paplauskas, Lima

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- CONDUCT OF ELECTION AND VOTING EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES (Requires all write-in votes, regardless of qualification, to be reported and published by the state board of elections, on its website.) {LC1144/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 5517****BY** Baginski, Paplauskas, Lima

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTION -- VOTING DISTRICTS AND OFFICIALS (Increases the maximum number of voters that a polling place can accommodate 3,000 to 3,500 and

provide for existing polling places that exceed the maximum number of voters, not be required to be changed until the next decennial redistricting.) {LC1025/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 5518**

**BY** Baginski, Paplauskas

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- LOCAL CANVASSING AUTHORITIES

(Requires the local board of canvassers to publish early voting dates, hours, and location, at least twice in a newspaper of general circulation and to publish the same on the municipality's website for the duration of in-person early voting period.) {LC1145/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 5519**

**BY** Newberry, Edwards, Chippendale, Azzinaro, Roberts, Paplauskas, Fascia, Corvese, Brien, Casey

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- AGREEMENT AMONG THE STATES

TO ELECT THE PRESIDENT BY NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE (Repeals authorizing Rhode Island to join an interstate compact, which would allow Presidents and Vice Presidents to be elected by a national popular vote rather than the electoral college.) {LC476/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 5520**

**BY** Newberry

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- ELECTION OF ELECTORAL COLLEGE

ELECTORS (Changes the manner by which presidential electoral college electors are elected and create a system of grouping of municipalities of equal populations, one of each of Rhode Island's electoral votes.) {LC1299/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 5521**

**BY** Newberry

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- REDISTRICTING

COMMISSION (Creates a redistricting commission to act every ten (10) years to adopt a redistricting plan for all general assembly and congressional districts. It also provides for a possible right of appeal of the plan, to the state supreme court.) {LC931/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 5522**

**BY** Corvese, Solomon, Azzinaro, Serpa, DeSimone

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

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES (Requires the rule adopting agency, to send the general assembly members a copy of the proposed rule within 20 days of filing a final rule.) {LC1599/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 5523****BY** Felix, Lombardi, Batista, Hull, Tanzi, Giraldo, Stewart, Potter, Cruz, Morales**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OPEN MEETINGS (Requires public bodies to offer translation services for all open meetings of said bodies.) {LC1065/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**House Bill No. 5524**

(Dept. of Corrections)

**BY** Dawson, O'Brien**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- RETIREMENT SYSTEM--CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS (Includes the deputy chief of inspection and inspector within the provision of law related to retirement on service allowance relating to correctional officers.) {LC1343/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5525****BY** Serpa, Ackerman, Read, Noret, Fellela, Donovan, Caldwell, Azzinaro, Potter, Corvese**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- TEACHERS' AND STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT (Exempts teachers and state employees who have been retired for more than three (3) full calendar years, from having their retirement benefit adjustment reduced based upon the funded ratio of the employees' retirement system of Rhode Island.) {LC1302/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5526****BY** Fogarty, Carson, Tanzi, Bennett, Casey, Noret, Serpa, Read, McEntee, Dawson**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- THUNDERMIST FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM (Appropriates the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to fund the Thundermist family medicine residency program during fiscal year 2026 and every fiscal year thereafter.) {LC1530/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5527****BY** Casimiro, Noret, Read, Serpa, Tanzi, Cotter, Carson, Alzate, Shallcross Smith, Ajello**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS -- CHILDREN'S MOBILE RESPONSE AND STABILIZATION SERVICES ACT (Establishes a statewide standalone children's mobile response and stabilization services to address the behavioral health needs of children and youth ages 2 to 21. DCYF to oversee implementation of the program.) {LC1319/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance



**House Bill No. 5528****BY** Fellela, Messier, Serpa, O'Brien**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT --

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (Requires the school district of a child in the custody of the department of children, youth and families (DCYF) to pay all the educational cost of the child if the child is placed in another school district.) {LC1072/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5529****BY** Alzate, Shanley, Morales, Ajello, Spears, Carson, Felix, Cortvriend, Fogarty, Edwards**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- MEDICARE SAVINGS

PROGRAMS (Expands eligibility for the qualified Medicare beneficiary program by increasing the income limit from 100% to 138% of the federal poverty line.) {LC885/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5530****BY** Corvese, Solomon, Azzinaro, Serpa, DeSimone, Alzate**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY

EDUCATION (Beginning on July 1, 2025, allows state union employees to negotiate longevity payments in their collective bargaining agreements.) {LC1595/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5531****BY** Stewart, Morales, Potter**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- RHODE ISLAND NEW QUALIFIED

JOBS INCENTIVE ACT 2015 (This act would sunset/discontinue the Jobs Development Act rate reduction as of July 1, 2025.) {LC1386/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5532****BY** Furtado, Kazarian, Messier, Cruz, Read, Boylan, Alzate, Stewart, Donovan, Morales**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT (Mandates additional state education funding for the mental and behavioral health of students equal to 2% of the district's total expenditures, and require those funds be used to hire staff such as school social workers, and behavioral specialists.) {LC1259/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5533****BY** Cortvriend, McGaw, Cotter, Chippendale, Newberry, Place, Edwards, Corvese, Noret, Donovan**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- STATE AID (Reinstates general

revenue sharing of state aid among the 39 cities and towns in Rhode Island. The initial amount is based upon population, and increased annually thereafter based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers.) {LC1136/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5534****BY** McGaw, Fogarty, Batista, Sanchez, Hull, Diaz, Giraldo, Stewart, Fellela, Boylan**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION {LC1568/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5535****BY** Boylan, McGaw, Alzate, Edwards, Spears, Carson, Tanzi, Handy, Finkelman, Cruz**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (Exempts from the sales tax behind-the-meter batteries interconnected with a solar photovoltaic system.) {LC1562/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Resolution No. 5536****BY** Donovan, Tanzi, Furtado, Morales, Stewart, Cortvriend, Fogarty, Ajello, Alzate, Speakman**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$200,000 TO BE USED FOR INCENTIVES FOR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES SOLD AT PARTICIPATING BONUS BUCKS OUTLETS IN RHODE ISLAND (Authorizes the appropriation of the sum of \$200,000 for incentives for the Farm Fresh Bonus Bucks Program.) {LC1600/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5537**

(Dept. of BHDDH)

**BY** Bennett, Hopkins, Donovan, Chippendale, Fogarty, Ajello, Casimiro, Kazarian, Caldwell, Baginski**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS -- MENTAL HEALTH LAW (Provides that advanced practice registered nurses have the same immunity from liability as physicians and surgeons.) {LC1338/1}

02/13/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 5538****BY** Cruz, Ajello, Morales, Stewart, Alzate, Handy, Sanchez, Felix**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- RESIDENCE OF INDIVIDUALS IN GOVERNMENT CUSTODY ACT (Requires state use actual residences of persons in government custody for redistricting purposes. Information would be collected by the department of corrections and forwarded to the division of statewide planning, to be utilized for redistricting.) {LC1569/1}

02/18/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES  
COMMITTEE ON CORPORATIONS**

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

**House Bill No. 5215****BY** Phillips, Bennett, Corvese, Newberry, Chippendale, Brien, Solomon, Read, Serpa, Fellela**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- UNFAIR SALES PRACTICES (Provides that health clubs must discontinue

automatic deductions from the consumer's account or credit card within 30 calendar days of receiving a notice to stop from the consumer.) {LC748/1}  
02/21/2025 Placed on House Calendar (02/27/2025)

### COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Chairman McNamara, for the Committee on Education, reports back the following measures, with recommendation of passage:

#### House Bill No. 5162

**BY** McNamara, Cotter, Solomon, Potter, Carson, Ackerman

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (Incorporates the department of elementary and secondary education's SurveyWorks school climate indicators for evaluating the performance of LEAs and individual public schools.) {LC498/1}  
02/21/2025 Placed on House Calendar (02/25/2025)

#### House Bill No. 5163

**BY** McNamara, Cotter, Solomon, Potter, Carson, Ackerman

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM (Directs all local education agencies to select one of the identified high-quality curricula and materials for science and technology no later than June 30, 2026.) {LC512/1}  
02/21/2025 Placed on House Calendar (02/25/2025)

#### House Bill No. 5252 SUB A

**BY** McNamara, Shekarchi, Solomon, Bennett, Read

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- WARWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUDGET COMMISSION (Creates the Warwick public schools budget commission consisting of 5 members to oversee the operations of Warwick public schools and to present a preliminary analysis of the school district's financial situation.) {LC917/A/2}  
02/21/2025 Placed on House Calendar (02/25/2025)

### COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Chairman Craven, for the Committee on Judiciary, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of passage:

#### House Bill No. 5025

**BY** Edwards, Bennett, Spears, O'Brien, Hull, Newberry, Chippendale

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (Provides that the trapping and subsequent release of any unowned feral or free roaming cat for the purpose of spaying or neutering of the cat would not be considered abandonment.) {LC319/1}  
02/21/2025 Placed on House Calendar (02/27/2025)

**House Bill No. 5046**

**BY** Knight, Speakman, Kislak, Caldwell, Noret, Cortvriend, Kazarian, Casimiro, Alzate, Corvese  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- ELECTRONIC IMAGING  
DEVICES (Criminalizes the unauthorized dissemination of sexually explicit images of another  
person that are created by digital devices or created without the consent of the person depicted.)  
{LC53/1}

02/21/2025 Placed on House Calendar (02/27/2025)

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:41 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Cruz, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Dr. Joseph Box; on motion of Representative Finkelman, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Margaret Janikies; on motion of Representative Messier, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of John Pita Jr.; on motion of Representative Fogarty, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Amy (McGovern) DeThomas Brennan seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Chippendale the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

**Diane M. DePina**  
**Recording Clerk**

**APPENDIX****INVOCATION****REPRESENTATIVE JUSTINE A. CALDWELL**

Lord God: As we continue to honor Black History this month, help us never forget the courage and determination of all African Americans. Forced to come here, they overcome many challenges and struggles, eventually persevering to become an integral part of the very fabric of American history.

**APPENDIX****CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025:**

1.     **2025-H 5252 SUB A**  
      **BY** McNamara  
      **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- WARWICK PUBLIC  
      SCHOOLS BUDGET COMMISSION

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

2.     **2025-H 5162**  
      **BY** McNamara  
      **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- EDUCATION  
      ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Committee on Education recommends passage.

3.     **2025-H 5163**  
      **BY** McNamara  
      **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM

Committee on Education recommends passage.

**IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025:**

1.     **2025-H 5046**  
      **BY** Knight  
      **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- ELECTRONIC  
      IMAGING DEVICES

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

2.     **2025-H 5215**  
      **BY** Phillips  
      **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL  
      REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- UNFAIR SALES PRACTICES

Committee on Corporations recommends passage.

**3. 2025-H 5025**

**BY** Edwards

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY --  
CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

**Francis McCabe**  
Clerk of the House

**Friday, February 21, 2025**