

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. 27

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

Twenty seventh-Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, and is called to order at 4:12 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, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Tanzi, and Voas.

ABSENT – 5: Representatives Ackerman, Dawson, Fogarty, Kennedy and Stewart.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi presents Representative Arthur J. Corvese, who delivers the Invocation and leads the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

(For Invocation, see Appendix, this Journal.)

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi requests a moment of silence in honor of the late Rhode Island State Senate President Dominick J. Ruggerio.

GUESTS

On behalf of the House of Representatives, Speaker Shekarchi, welcomes Senate Majority Leader Lawson, Senate Majority Whip Tikoian, Senate President Pro Tempore Gallo, Senator Ciccone, Senator Peter Appollonio, Jr., Senate Chief of Staff John Fleming, Senate Communications Director Greg Pare, and Senate Director of Senate Services Ed Catone in honor of the life and legacy of the late Senate President Dominick J. Ruggerio. Senate President Ruggerio was born and raised in North Providence's Fruit Hill neighborhood. He was first elected to the General Assembly at age 31 in 1981 and moved to the Senate four years later, where he served for nearly 44 years as the chamber's most senior member. An old-school Democrat and steadfast advocate for labor, he was instrumental in legalizing sports betting. He fought tirelessly for his constituents and all Rhode Islanders until his passing after a courageous battle with cancer. Today, the Rhode Island General Assembly members come together to pay tribute to his remarkable service and enduring impact on this State House and the community.

REMARKS

Speaker Shekarchi and Chairman Corvese share heartfelt sentiments on behalf of the entire House of Representatives. They were both privileged to call Senate President Dominick J. Ruggerio a colleague, dear friend, and mentor for many years. His steady leadership, deep institutional knowledge, and unwavering commitment to the people of Rhode Island were the hallmarks of a remarkable career. He was the embodiment of old-school values, wise, compassionate, and fiercely dedicated to the mission of the General Assembly and to the betterment of every Rhode Islander.

Over the years, they had the unique opportunity to work closely with him, learn from his example, and benefit from the depth of experience that only he could offer. Whether guiding them through the complexities of legislation or reminding them of the importance of public service with heart and humility, Senate President Ruggerio left an indelible mark on their lives and this state.

Together, they extend their deepest condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues in the Senate. Rhode Island has lost a statesman, and the Rhode Island General Assembly has lost a trusted advisor and beloved friend.

(For Speaker Shekarchi's remarks, see Appendix, this Journal.)

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**House Resolution No. 6241**

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Corvese, Lombardi, Hull, O'Brien, Felix, McEntee, Roberts

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE DOMINICK J. RUGGERIO, PRESIDENT AND DEAN OF THE RHODE ISLAND SENATE {LC2792/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, on behalf of Speaker Shekarchi, Chairman Corvese requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Speaker Shekarchi and Chairman Corvese discuss the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Chairman Corvese, seconded by Speaker Shekarchi, Majority Leader Blazejewski, and the entire House of Representatives, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

APPROVAL OF RECORD

By unanimous consent, the House Journal of Thursday, April 10, 2025, is approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Kathleen A. Fogarty is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

Representative Jennifer A. Stewart is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

Representative Matthew S. Dawson is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

CALENDAR

From the Calendar are taken:

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025:

1. 2025-H 5866 SUB A

BY McGaw

**ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- UNIFORM
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT**

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

Chairwoman Donovan moves passage of the act, seconded by Representatives Ajello, Blazejewski, Boylan, Caldwell, Carson, Casimiro, Cortvriend, Corvese, Cotter, Craven, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Fellela, Giraldo, Hull, Kazarian, Kislak, Lombardi, McGaw, McNamara, Morales, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Slater, Speakman, Spears, Tanzi.

Chairwoman Donovan discusses the act.

The bill marked Substitute "A" is read and passed, and the original bill indefinitely postponed, 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, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read,

Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

2. 2025-H 6038

BY Ajello

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS --
PHARMACIES

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Chairwoman Donovan moves passage of the act, seconded by Representatives Abney, Ajello, Alzate, Blazejewski, Boylan, Caldwell, Carson, Cortvriend, Corvese, Cotter, Craven, Donovan, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kislak, Lombardi, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Speakman, Spears, Tanzi.

Chairwoman Donovan discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 59 members voting in the affirmative and 8 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 59: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cortvriend, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Newberry, Noret, Paplauskas, Potter, Read, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 8: Representatives Chippendale, Fascia, Hopkins, Nardone, Place, Quattrocchi, Roberts, Santucci.

RECUSED - 0:

3. 2025-H 5550

BY Shanley

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- DENTISTS
AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Chairwoman Donovan moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski.

Chairwoman Donovan discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 69 members voting in the affirmative and 1 member voting in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS - 1: Representative Santucci.

RECUSED - 0:

4. 2025-H 5292

BY Fellela

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

Committee on Education recommends passage.

Chairman McNamara moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Donovan, Cotter, Phillips, Fellela, and Kislak.

Chairman McNamara discusses the act.

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, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

5. 2025-H 5165 SUB A**BY** Cotter**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAMS

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

Chairman McNamara moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Carson, Cotter, Spears, Donovan, Speakman, Boylan, McGaw, Cortvriend, Kislak and Casimaro.

Chairman McNamara, Minority Whip Place and Representative Knight discuss the act.

The bill marked Substitute "A" is read and passed, and the original bill indefinitely postponed, on a roll call vote, 60 members voting in the affirmative and 10 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 60: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Noret, O'Brien, Phillips, Potter, Read, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 10: Representatives Chippendale, Fascia, Hopkins, Nardone, Newberry, Paplauskas, Place, Quattrocchi, Roberts, Santucci.

RECUSED - 0:

6. 2025-H 5155 SUB A**BY** Cotter**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- ARCHITECTS

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.

Chairman Solomon and Representative Santucci discuss the act.

The bill marked Substitute "A" is read and passed, and the original bill indefinitely postponed, 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, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro,

Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

7. 2025-H 5157 SUB A

BY Cotter

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE --
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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.
Chairman Solomon and Representative Santucci discuss the act.

The bill marked Substitute "A" is read and passed, and the original bill indefinitely postponed, 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, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

8. 2025-S 351

BY DiPalma

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF
LOCAL TAXES

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage in concurrence.

Vice-Chair Speakman moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski and Representative Cortvriend.

Vice-Chair Speakman discusses the act.

Read and passed, in concurrence, 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, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

PROXY VOTES

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces, pursuant to Rule 33(e), authorizing Proxy Votes, that he has received Proxy Votes from Chairwoman Fogarty to be recorded in the affirmative for items #1 through #8.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Azzinaro announces that Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy's surgery went well and asks all members to keep him in their prayers for a speedy recovery.

Representative Fellela wishes her son Kyle a Happy 38th Birthday!

Chairman Abney 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 tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. in Room 101 of the State House.

Vice-Chair Speakman announces that the Committee on Municipal Government & Housing will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 101 of the State House.

Vice-Chair Kislaka announces that the Committee on Education will meet tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. in the House Lounge of the State House.

Majority Leader Blazejewski offers his deepest sympathies to Senate President Dominick Ruggiero's beloved son Charlie, his wife and children, his sister Lisa, and all who loved and admired him.

Everyone has a Donny story. That's the kind of man Senate President Ruggerio was genuine, approachable, and always willing to make time for others. Whether you were a seasoned legislator or a freshman just beginning your journey in public service, Donny made you feel seen and heard. He would sit with you, listen carefully, and offer advice rooted in decades of experience and a deep love for this state.

He lived a remarkable life filled with purpose and compassion. His legacy will live on not only through the laws he helped pass and the institutions he helped strengthen, but through the people he mentored, the stories we'll continue to tell. Today, as we reflect on his passing, there is a profound sense of loss across both chambers of the General Assembly. The words spoken in his honor bring sorrow, but they also bring gratitude for having known him, learned from him, and walked alongside him.

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces that the next House session will be held on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. He notes that there will be no House session tomorrow; however, three committees are scheduled to meet tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. He also reminds all members that today is the deadline to submit the Legislative Priorities Form.

RULE 7D

The following bills were received pursuant to Rule 7D:

Representative Boylan-Act relating to State Affairs and Government- Stay Invested in RI Wavemaker Fellowships

Representative Carson-An Act relating to Resilient Rhode Island Act

Representative Casimiro-An Act relating to Taxation-Property Subject to Taxation

Representative DeSimone-An Act relating to Health and Safety-Refuse Disposal

Representative Fascia-An Act relating to Food and Drug-The Rhode Island Cannabis Act

Representative Furtado-An Act relating to Motor and Other Vehicles--Registration Fees

Representative Serpa-An Act relating to Public Records--Access to Public Records

Representative Slater-An Act relating to Food and Drug-Rhode Island Cannabis Act
An Act relating to Education-Students' Access to Interscholastic Athletics

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.

NEW BUSINESS

House Bill No. 6243

BY Place

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATORY SANDBOX ACT (Establishes the biotechnology regulatory sandbox program within the department of business regulation.) {LC2741/1}

04/23/2025 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 6244

BY Donovan, Speakman, Cotter, Boylan, Spears, Giraldo, Alzate, Furtado, Diaz, Morales

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- ABUSE IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES (Prohibits any personnel, in any healthcare facility, from asking the legal immigration status of any patient.) {LC2749/1}

04/23/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 6245

BY Place, Lombardi, Hull, Ajello, Felix, Brien, Cruz

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- BAIL AND RECOGNIZANCE (Creates a bail task force to study the need of monetary conditions of bail and to consider other methods for ensuring an accused's appearance in court, enhance public safety and honor the presumption of innocence.) {LC2742/1}

04/23/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 6246

BY Spears

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- GENERAL POWERS (Increases the landing fee for the town of New Shoreham from fifty cents (\$.50) to one dollar (\$1.00).) {LC2770/1}

04/23/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 6247**BY** Spears**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (Grants the town council of the town of Charlestown the authority to enact a homestead exemption ordinance.) {LC2781/1}

04/23/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 6248**BY** Cotter, Speakman, Spears, Chippendale, Potter, Giraldo, McGaw, Carson**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES-TAX DEFERRAL PROGRAM (Enables any city or town council to adopt a property tax deferral program for senior citizens and disabled persons or veterans.) {LC2748/1}

04/23/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 6249**BY** Chippendale, Nardone, Roberts**ENTITLED**, AN ACT IN AMENDMENT OF AN ACT PASSED AT THE JANUARY SESSION A.D. 1942 ENTITLED "AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE WESTERN COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT" (Amends the public law incorporating Western Coventry Fire District to require a referendum & affirmative vote of the fire district electors prior to any merge/consolidation of the district with any other district or with the fire department of Coventry.) {LC2783/1}

04/23/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 6250**BY** Place, Newberry**ENTITLED**, AN ACT VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER OF THE HARRISVILLE FIRE DISTRICT (Validates and ratify amendments to the charter of the Harrisville Fire District in the town of Burrillville.) {LC2636/1}

04/23/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 6251**BY** Place, Brien, Sanchez**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- GENERAL PROVISIONS (Redefines "political party" and defines and distinguishes between "major parties" and "minor parties" based on the total number of votes a party's candidate received in the previous election.) {LC2739/1}

04/23/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 6252

(General Treasurer)

BY Cortvriend, Spears, Carson, Speakman, Boylan, McGaw, Bennett**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- RHODE ISLAND INFRASTRUCTURE BANK (Authorizes the Rhode Island infrastructure bank to establish a fund to provide financial assistance to local government units for resiliency and stormwater abatement projects.) {LC2733/1}

04/23/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 6253**BY** Read, Noret, Azzinaro, Chippendale, Paplauskas, Finkelman**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES --

RETIREMENT SYSTEM -- MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICE CREDITS (Allows members of the retirement system who served in the national guard or reserves and qualify as veterans, to purchase retirement service credits based on their years of service in the National guard or reserves.)

{LC2666/1}

04/23/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 6254**BY** Shallcross Smith, Voas, Casimiro, Solomon, Fellela, Cotter, Perez, Biah, McNamara, Caldwell**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

(Authorizes office of health and human services (EOHHS) to establish coverage for obesity treatments, including medication. Office of health and human services would seek a 1115(a) waiver.)

{LC2712/1}

04/23/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 6255**BY** Giraldo, Voas, Alzate, Cruz, Morales, Biah, Felix, Shallcross Smith, Casimiro, Phillips**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND

SUPERINTENDENTS -- CENTRAL FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT (Authorizes the city of Central Falls, via home rule charter or city ordinance, to create a school board with all powers and duties thereto, to govern the Central Falls school district.) {LC2669/1}

04/23/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 6256**BY** Lombardi, Potter, Perez, Biah, Morales, Ajello, Felix, Sanchez, Cruz, Hull**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

(Repeals the property tax and sales and use tax exemption for boats.) {LC2767/1}

04/23/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 6257**BY** Handy**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- REAL ESTATE CONVEYANCE TAX

(Provides for an additional real estate conveyance tax for commercial properties sold in excess of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) at a rate of three dollars and thirteen cents (\$3.13) for each five hundred dollars.) {LC2754/1}

04/23/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:00 o'clock P.M. on behalf of Speaker Shekarchi, Leaders Blazejewski and Chippendale and the entire House, on motion of Chairman Corvese, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Honorable Senate President Dominick J. Ruggerio, seconded by Majority Whip Kazarian and Minority Whip Place the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX**INVOCATION****REPRESENTATIVE ARTHUR J. CORVESE**

Gracious God, as we start our session, let us pause to honor the life of Senate President Dominick J. Ruggerio. Help us to always remember his commitment to his community, family and friends. Please comfort those who are grieving and grant them peace. May the memory of his strength and courage through adversity be an inspiration to us all. Amen

APPENDIX**SPEAKER SHEKARCHI'S REMARKS**

Statement from Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi:

"I am heartbroken by the news of the passing of my dear friend, Senate President Dominick Ruggerio. I had enormous respect and admiration for his dedication and leadership. Even through his illness, we communicated on nearly a daily basis about the important issues facing our state. Donny devoted his life to the people of Rhode Island, which will always be his legacy. This is the end of an era at the State House, where Donny was a true giant for well over four decades, beginning his career in the House in 1981 before moving to the Senate four years later. On behalf of the House of Representatives, we extend our deepest sympathies to his family and his Senate colleagues, and we will miss him greatly."

APPENDIX**CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025:****1. 2025-H 5311****BY** Shanley**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

2. 2025-H 5514**BY** Furtado**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

3. 2025-H 5518**BY** Baginski**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- LOCAL CANVASSING
AUTHORITIES

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

4. 2025-H 5384**BY** Boylan**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- CONDUCT OF ELECTION AND
VOTING EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

5. 2025-H 5710**BY** Perez**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- PRIMARIES FOR ELECTION OF
DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND FOR PRESIDENTIAL
PREFERENCE

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

6. 2025-H 5638**BY** Serpa**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES --
ACCIDENTS AND ACCIDENT REPORTS

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

7. 2025-H 5899

BY Noret

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES --
AGGRESSIVE DRIVING

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

8. 2025-H 6113

BY Cortvriend

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

Committee on Special Legislation recommends passage.

Francis McCabe
Clerk of the House

Friday, April 18, 2025