

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. 28

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Twenty-eighth Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence on Thursday, April 24, 2025, and is called to order at 4:10 o'clock P.M. by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 66 members present and 9 members absent as follows:

PRESENT – 66: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, 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, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, and Voas.

ABSENT – 9: Representatives Ackerman, Cortvriend, Diaz, Finkelman, Fogarty, Kennedy, Slater, Solomon and Speakman.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi presents Der Kapriel Nazarian of Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church of Providence, who delivers the Invocation, Speaker Shekarchi leads the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

(For Invocation, see Appendix, this Journal.)

ADDRESS

Majority Whip Kazarian addresses House members in recognition of Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, a solemn occasion of great significance. To honor the memory of the estimated 1.5 million Armenians who perished in the mass killings and deportations of 1915 in Turkey, it is

essential, as members of this esteemed House, that we acknowledge and remember this tragic chapter in history. By doing so, we not only pay tribute to the victims but also reaffirm our commitment to justice, human rights, and the prevention of such atrocities in the future.

GUESTS

Majority Whip Kazarian, in honor of Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, welcomes Der Kapriel Nazarian, Senator Majority Whip David Tikoian, Steve Mesrobian, Stephen Elmasian, Carol Mesrobian, Pauline Getzoyan, Malcom Varadian, Kristen Horoian, Ani Haroian, Joyce Avedisian, Martha Jamgochian, and her mother, Michele Kazarian, to the House Chamber.

APPROVAL OF RECORD

By unanimous consent, the House Journal of Tuesday, April 22, 2025, is approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Kathleen A. Fogarty is unable to attend session today, Thursday, April 24, 2025.
Representative Joseph J. Solomon, Jr. is unable to attend session today, Thursday, April 24, 2025.
Representative Terri Cortvriend is unable to attend session today, Thursday, April 24, 2025.
Representative Grace Diaz is unable to attend session today, Thursday, April 24, 2025.
Representative Scott A. Slater is unable to attend session today, Thursday, April 24, 2025.
Representative June S. Speakman is unable to attend session today, Thursday, April 24, 2025.

CALENDAR

From the Calendar are taken:

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.

Chairman Shanley moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski.

Chairman Shanley discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 62 members voting in the affirmative and 4 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 62: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Corvese, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix,

Fellela, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Read, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 4: Representatives Costantino, Quattrocchi, Roberts, Santucci.

RECUSED - 0:

2. 2025-H 5514

BY Furtado

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

Chairman Shanley moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Corvese and Carson.

Chairman Shanley discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 63 members voting in the affirmative and 4 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 63: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Read, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 4: Representatives Hopkins, Quattrocchi, Roberts, Santucci.

RECUSED - 0:

3. 2025-H 5518

BY Baginski

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

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

Chairman Shanley moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski.

Chairman Shanley discusses the act.

VOTING IN SECTIONS

Representative Newberry requests to vote (2025 H- 5518) in sections. Page 2, Section 2, Line 13 through 24.

The Honorable Speaker rules it is divisible.

Page 2, section 2, lines 13 through 24, prevails on a roll call, 54 members voting in the affirmative and 12 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 54: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Phillips, Potter, Read, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Spears, Stewart, Voas.

NAYS - 12: Representatives Chippendale, Fascia, Hopkins, Lombardi, Nardone, Newberry, Perez, Place, Quattrocchi, Roberts, Santucci, Tanzi.

RECUSED - 0:

The remainder of the act is read and passed, as amended, on a roll call vote, 65 members voting in the affirmative and 2 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 65: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Fogarty, 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, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 2: Representatives Quattrocchi, Santucci.

RECUSED - 0:

The act prevails.

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.

Chairman Shanley moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Carson, Boylan, Ajello, and Knight.

Chairman Shanley discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 63 members voting in the affirmative and 4 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 63: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Read, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 4: Representatives Nardone, Quattrocchi, Roberts, Santucci.

RECUSED - 0:

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.

Chairman Shanley moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Carson and Shallcross Smith.

Chairman Shanley discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 64 members voting in the affirmative and 2 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 64: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Dawson, DeSimone, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Fellela, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 2: Representatives Cruz, Place.

RECUSED - 0:

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

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

Chairman Craven moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski.

Chairman Craven, Representatives Sanchez, Cruz, Lima, Minority Leader Chippendale, Representative Corvese, Minority Whip Place, Representatives Knight, Ajello, Fascia, Felix, Cotter, and Tanzi discuss the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 47 members voting in the affirmative and 17 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 47: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casimiro, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Dawson, DeSimone, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Fogarty, Furtado, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Phillips, Read, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Spears, Voas.

NAYS - 17: Representatives Ajello, Batista, Chippendale, Cruz, Fascia, Felix, Giraldo, Lombardi, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Perez, Place, Quattrocchi, Sanchez, Stewart, Tanzi.

RECUSED - 0:

7. 2025-H 5899**BY** Noret**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES --
AGGRESSIVE DRIVING

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

Chairman Craven moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives McNamara, Corvese, Casimiro and Majority Whip Kazarian.

Chairman Craven, Representatives McNamara, Cruz, Noret, Sanchez, Tanzi, Ajello, Corvese, and McGaw discuss the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 41 members voting in the affirmative and 21 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 41: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Alzate, Azzinaro, Bennett, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casimiro, Corvese, Cotter, Craven, Dawson, DeSimone, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Fogarty, Furtado, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kislak, Knight,

Marszalkowski, McEntee, McNamara, Messier, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Phillips, Read, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Spears, Voas.

NAYS - 21: Representatives Ajello, Batista, Biah, Chippendale, Costantino, Cruz, Fascia, Felix, Giraldo, Handy, Lombardi, McGaw, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Place, Quattrocchi, Roberts, Sanchez, Stewart, Tanzi.

RECUSED - 0:

8. 2025-H 6113**BY** Cortvriend**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

Committee on Special Legislation recommends passage.

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

Chairwoman Alzate discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 55 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 55: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ajello, Alzate, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Caldwell, Casimiro, Chippendale, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Place, Quattrocchi, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 1: Representative Carson.

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

Speaker Shekarchi extends his sincere appreciation to Sophia McKean, intern at the House Communications Office, for her valuable contributions to the office. He wishes her all the best in her future endeavors as she graduates from the University of Rhode Island.

GUESTS

Representative Shallcross Smith warmly welcomes three distinguished guests Leslie Martineau, Director of Laboratory Services at Charter Care Health Partners; Maddie Josephs, Chair of the Allied & Rehabilitation Health Science Department at the Community College of Rhode Island; and Betsy Reilly, a dedicated and now retired cytologist to the House Chamber in recognition of Medical Laboratory Professionals Week a time dedicated to honoring the vital contributions of laboratory professionals to our healthcare system. These individuals have each played a crucial role in

advancing medical laboratory science, educating the next generation of healthcare professionals, and ensuring quality patient care across Rhode Island. Their expertise, leadership, and commitment to the field are deeply appreciated.

NOW PRESIDING

At 5:44 o'clock P.M., the Honorable Speaker Shekarchi yields the rostrum to the Honorable Deputy Speaker Hull.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Carson extends her heartfelt thanks to all the members for their support in passing her son Andrew's Marriage Bill. She also wishes Andrew a Happy Birthday!

GUESTS

Representative Carson is pleased to welcome two distinguished guests, Joseph Pratt and Evan Smith, to the Rhode Island State House today and recognize their decades of service and commitment to our State. Evan Smith recently retired after 30 years as the Director of Discover Newport, where he led one of our state's premier regional tourism organizations. Under his leadership, Newport and the surrounding region saw tremendous growth in tourism, economic development, and national recognition. His dedication helped showcase the best of Rhode Island to visitors worldwide. Joseph Pratt is also recently retired, having served as the Director of the Boys and Girls Club, where he made a lasting difference in the lives of countless young Rhode Islanders. In addition to his work in youth development, Joe has held key roles in several executive departments of our state government and served under Governor Gina Raimondo, contributing to policies and initiatives that have shaped Rhode Island for the better.

Representative Noret is honored and pleased to introduce two extraordinary advocates, Cathy Andreozzi and Jodi Fontaine, whose work has impacted Rhode Island. Cathy is the mother of Tori Lynn Andreozzi, a vibrant and compassionate young girl who was tragically struck by a drunk driver in 2003. Tori suffered a severe brain injury and now lives in a minimally conscious state. Though she can no longer speak or walk, Tori's spirit continues to inspire through the work of the Tori Lynn Andreozzi Foundation. This Rhode Island-based foundation promotes youth education, highway safety, traumatic brain injury awareness, and support for families affected by tragedy. Cathy and Jodi have dedicated themselves to this mission with unwavering strength to support families impacted by tragedy. Ensuring Tori's story continues to make a difference.

Chairman Bennett welcomes to the House Chamber members of the Rhode Island Motorcycle Association, Paul Bond, President, and Steve Chevette, Legislative Coordinator, whose advocacy and commitment to safety continue to make a meaningful impact on our roads and our communities. These dedicated individuals tirelessly promote motorcycle safety and awareness throughout Rhode Island. Their efforts support the motorcycle-riding community but also help strengthen public understanding and cooperation on our roadways. Speaker Shekarchi joins me in welcoming them and extends his thanks for their vital work on behalf of riders across the State.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Craven and Deputy Speaker Hull express their deepest condolences to John Manni and his family on the passing of his father, Frank Manni. Their thoughts are with the Manni family during this difficult time.

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

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces that the next House sessions will be held on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, and Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. He also informs members that the deadline for submitting Legislative Priorities Forms has been extended until the end of today.

Majority Leader Blazejewski wishes Minority Leader Chippendale and Representative Ajello a Happy Birthday.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**House Resolution No. 6258**

BY Kazarian, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Costantino, Ajello, Fellela, Shallcross Smith, Tanzi, Furtado

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 24, 2025, AS "ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY" TO COMMEMORATE THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915 TO 1923, AND IN HONOR OF ARMENIAN-AMERICANS {LC2450/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Majority Whip Kazarian requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Majority Whip Kazarian discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Majority Whip Kazarian, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 6259

BY Shallcross Smith, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Chippendale, Bennett, Perez, Carson, Fellela

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 20-26 OF 2025 TO BE "MEDICAL LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2443/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Shallcross Smith discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 6260

BY Carson, Chippendale, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Abney, Tanzi, Ajello, Fellela, Shallcross Smith, Furtado

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING JOSEPH PRATT ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF NEWPORT COUNTY (BGCNC) AFTER ELEVEN YEARS OF EXEMPLARY AND DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER {LC2691/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Carson discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 6261

BY Carson, Abney, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Cortvriend, McGaw, Edwards, Donovan, Tanzi

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING AND CONGRATULATING EVAN SMITH ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF DISCOVER NEWPORT {LC2761/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Carson discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 6262

BY Bennett, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Quattrocchi, Paplauskas, Nardone, Solomon, Phillips, Lima

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY OF 2025, TO BE "MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2483/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairman Bennett discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 6263

BY Noret, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Paplauskas, Finkelman, Ajello, Fellela, Shallcross Smith, Furtado

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025, AS “PAY IT FORWARD WITH LOVE FROM TORI DAY” IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC1410/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Noret discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 6264

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Azzinaro, Costantino, Corvese, Edwards, O'Brien, Ajello, Fellela

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF POPE FRANCIS {LC2793/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairman Azzinaro discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Chairman Azzinaro seconded by Speaker Shekarchi, Majority Leader Blazejewski, and many others, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

House Resolution No. 6265

BY Morales, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Hull, Lombardi, Ajello, Fellela, Shallcross Smith, Tanzi

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF DOROTHY JEAN MCCAFFREY {LC2790/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Morales and Deputy Speaker Hull discuss the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 6266

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Slater, McGaw, Fellela, Serpa, Lima, Kazarian, Casimiro, Alzate
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING "ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS' DAY" ON APRIL 23, 2025, AND THANKING ALL THE DEDICATED STAFF WHO WORK TIRELESSLY IN SUPPORT OF THE RHODE ISLAND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES {LC2453/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairman Craven discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 6267

BY McGaw, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Carson, Cortvriend, Speakman, Spears, Boylan, Ajello
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF "EARTH DAY" ON APRIL 22, 2025, IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2434/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Boylan discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 6268

BY McNamara, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Ackerman, Chippendale, Ajello, Fellela, Shallcross Smith, Tanzi, Furtado
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING "NATIONAL INFERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK" ON APRIL 20-26, 2025, IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2401/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairman McNamara discusses the resolution.

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

RULE 7D

The following bills were received pursuant to Rule 7D:

Representative Cotter-An Act relating to Commercial Law- General Regulatory Provisions- Grocery Stores

Representative Kazarian-An Act relating to Human Services

Representative Knight-An Act relating to Courts and Civil Procedure- Courts–Domestic Assault

Representative Potter-An Act relating to Taxation- Wealth Tax

Representative Read-An Act relating to Human Services- Medical Assistance

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 Deputy Speaker Hull announces that the desk will be held open.

NEW BUSINESS**House Resolution No. 6269**

BY Azzinaro, Fellela, Lombardi, Shallcross Smith, Santucci, Casimiro, Read, Costantino, Lima

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND MAKE

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A PLAN AND THE DESIGN OF A VIETNAM MEMORIAL TO

BE LOCATED IN THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND (Extends the reporting and expiration dates of the commission to study a plan and the design of a Vietnam Memorial in

Providence, from January 31, 2025, to January 31, 2028, and said commission would expire on April 30, 2028.) {LC2802/1}

04/24/2025 Introduced, referred to House Veterans Affairs

House Bill No. 6270

BY Slater, Diaz, Potter, Edwards, Bennett, McGaw

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- THE RHODE ISLAND

CANNABIS ACT (Prohibits the sale of beverages and drink mix powders containing hemp-derived delta-9 THC in RI, unless such products are authorized and regulated under the state's cannabis laws, and maintains regulatory consistency within the state's cannabis framework.) {LC2778/1}

04/25/2025 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 6271

BY Slater, Diaz, Potter, DeSimone, McGaw

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- STUDENT ACCESS TO

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS, "THE VERA RILEY ACT" (Requires public middle schools, to allow students from a recognized non-public, charter, or alternative education institution, to

participate in a non-sponsored sport in the school district where the student resides.) {LC2768/1}

04/25/2025 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 6272

BY Casimiro, Diaz, Slater, Batista, Lombardi, Costantino, Hull, Casey

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

(Exempts from taxation the real and tangible personal property of Amos House, provided it remains a qualified tax-exempt corporation pursuant to §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.) {LC2777/1}

04/25/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 6273

BY Serpa, Fellela

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC RECORDS -- ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS

(Makes changes to the access to public records act, including clarifying various provisions, increasing the sanctions for knowing and willful violations of the law, and making certain traffic accident data

and preferred license plate information public.) {LC2771/1}

04/25/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 6274**BY** DeSimone, Kazarian, Baginski, Voas, Alzate, Craven, Slater**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- REFUSE DISPOSAL (Allows the collection of solid waste and recycling between the hours of seven o'clock (7:00) am and three o'clock (3:00) am seven days a week. It would also ban the use of mobile waste compaction technology for recycling.) {LC2678/1}

04/25/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 6275**BY** Furtado, Kazarian, Boylan, Dawson**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION FEES (Includes an individual who is seventy-five (75) years of age or older with a combined disability rating of fifty percent (50%), as eligible for disabled veterans license plates.) {LC2757/1}

04/25/2025 Introduced, referred to House Veterans Affairs

House Bill No. 6276**BY** Carson**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- RHODE ISLAND PROPERTY RESILIENCE ACT (Creates the resilient Rhode Island property resilience act.) {LC2441/1}

04/25/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 6277**BY** Boylan, McGaw, Chippendale, Cotter, Spears, Donovan**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- STAY INVESTED IN RHODE ISLAND WAVEMAKER FELLOWSHIPS (Clarifies Wavemaker program eligibility to include all full-time Rhode Island medical practitioners.) {LC2769/1}

04/25/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
COMMITTEE ON CORPORATIONS**

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

House Bill No. 5043**BY** Azzinaro, Fellela, Serpa, Casimiro, Kennedy, Corvese**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES (Provides protection from and prevent the unethical, improper conduct and the collection of fees by, anyone advising or assisting a veteran filing a claim for disability benefits with the Department of Veterans Affairs except as authorized by federal law.) {LC40/1}

04/25/2025 Placed on House Calendar (04/29/2025)

House Bill No. 5570 SUB A**BY** Serpa

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- CASUALTY INSURANCE RATING (Prohibits casualty insurers from assessing any premium surcharge or penalty against an insured solely for inquiring about the terms of the insured's policy.) {LC2103/A/1}
04/25/2025 Placed on House Calendar (04/29/2025)

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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

House Bill No. 5593

(Dept. of Education (RIDE))

BY Biah

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COOPERATIVE SERVICE AMONG SCHOOL DISTRICTS (Amends the composition of the Urban Collaborative and provide that the collaborative be governed by a board of trustees.) {LC1689/1}
04/25/2025 Placed on House Calendar (05/01/2025)

House Bill No. 5602**BY** O'Brien

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS (Eliminates any requirement that any person who is employed as a physical education teacher not be required to have a certification in adaptive physical education) {LC1725/1}
04/25/2025 Placed on House Calendar (05/01/2025)

House Resolution No. 5605**BY** Messier, Alzate, Furtado, Kazarian, Casimiro

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION REINSTATING AND EXTENDING THE LIFE AND EXPIRATION DATES OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ANTI-LITTERING EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS (Reinstates and extends reporting and expiration of commission studying the development and implementation of an anti-littering education program for elementary students, from February 2, 2024, to February 2, 2026, and would expire on April 2, 2026.) {LC2054/1}
04/25/2025 Placed on House Calendar (05/01/2025)

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Chairman Bennett, for the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of passage:

House Bill No. 5844 SUB A

BY Cortvriend, McGaw, Speakman, Fogarty, Kislak, Carson, Morales

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- WATER POLLUTION (Requires quarterly testing of biosolids for PFAS contaminants by those seeking to apply biosolids to lands, with subsequent reports to the department of environmental management.) {LC1674/A/1}
04/25/2025 Placed on House Calendar (05/01/2025)

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

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

House Bill No. 5649

BY Caldwell, Batista, Edwards, Morales, Knight, Place

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE--COURTS -- FAMILY COURT (Gives statewide juvenile hearing boards the authority to refer a juvenile offender to a rehabilitative driving course, as part of a disposition of an offense before the board. The order may be enforced by the traffic tribunal.) {LC1446/1}
04/25/2025 Placed on House Calendar (04/29/2025)

House Bill No. 5794 SUB A

BY Craven, Speakman, Spears, Noret, McEntee, Bennett, Solomon, Casimiro, Fogarty, Casey

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- LOCAL PLANNING BOARD OR COMMISSION (Provides technical amendments to the chapters on subdivision of land and zoning ordinances for towns and cities.) {LC2154/A/1}
04/29/2025 Placed on House Calendar (05/01/2025)

House Bill No. 5795

BY Spears, Speakman, Donovan, McEntee, Knight, Cotter, Boylan, Caldwell, Dawson, O'Brien

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES (Amends the administration requirements a zoning ordinance must provide and/or designate and would require that zoning certificates be issued within 20 days of the written request.) {LC2155/1}
04/29/2025 Placed on House Calendar (05/01/2025)

COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING

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

House Bill No. 5032

BY Finkelman

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES

(Allows for the issuance of a Class T liquor license by the town of Jamestown.) {LC45/1}

04/25/2025 Placed on House Calendar (04/29/2025)

House Bill No. 5950

(by request)

BY Slater

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- GENERAL POWERS

(Establishes a reimbursement system for a municipalities cost of training public safety personnel when they are hired by a different municipality or public safety agency within Rhode Island within 3 years of receiving the public safety training.) {LC2047/1}

04/25/2025 Placed on House Calendar (04/29/2025)

House Bill No. 5960

BY Cortvriend, Tanzi, Dawson

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HIGHWAYS -- ABANDONMENT BY TOWNS (Allows for a qualified abandonment of public town roads which grants a public easement over said road allowing it to be converted to walking, biking, and hiking trails and access to parks, nature preserves and other recreational facilities.) {LC925/1}

04/25/2025 Placed on House Calendar (04/29/2025)

House Bill No. 6111

(Tiverton)

BY Edwards, McGaw

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO

THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF TIVERTON (Validates and ratifies the amendments to the Tiverton Home Rule Charter which were approved by the electors of the town of Tiverton on November 5, 2024.) {LC1052/1}

04/25/2025 Placed on House Calendar (04/29/2025)

House Bill No. 5793 SUB A

BY Corvese, Kislak

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (Amends the provisions under which a city or town may exceed the maximum levy for the assessment of local taxes.) {LC2153/A/2}

04/29/2025 Placed on House Calendar (05/01/2025)

COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS

Chairman Shanley, for the Committee on State Government and Elections, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of passage:

House Resolution No. 6125

BY Kislak, Shekarchi, Felix, Hull, Cotter, Blazejewski, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Morales, Potter
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE LGBTQIA+
COMMUNITY {LC2398/1}

04/25/2025 Placed on House Calendar (05/01/2025)

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Chairman Azzinaro, for the Committee on Veterans Affairs, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of passage:

House Resolution No. 6269

BY Azzinaro, Fellela, Lombardi, Shallcross Smith, Santucci, Casimiro, Read, Costantino, Lima
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION
DATES OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A PLAN AND THE DESIGN OF A VIETNAM MEMORIAL TO
BE LOCATED IN THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND (Extends the reporting and
expiration dates of the commission to study a plan and the design of a Vietnam Memorial in
Providence, from January 31, 2025, to January 31, 2028, and said commission would expire on April
30, 2028.) {LC2802/1}

04/29/2025 Placed on House Calendar (05/01/2025)

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:08 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Azzinaro, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Pope Francis; on motion of Representative Morales, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Dorothy "Dottie" McCaffrey; on motion of Representative Chippendale, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Kimberly Pickering Dube; on motion of Representative Craven, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Frank Manni; seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski and Minority Whip Place the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX**INVOCATION****DER KAPRIEL NAZARIAN****SAINT VARTANANTZ ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH**

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen. Heavenly Father, as we gather together today at the gracious invitation of the members of the Rhode Island House of Representatives to commemorate the 110th anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide, we ask for your blessings on this assembly and all of its members and their staffs.

As the Genocide that was begun 110 years ago continues to be perpetuated today, Azerbaijan with the support of Turkey, blockaded, starved, and finally brutally attacked our brothers and sisters in September of 2023, forcibly deporting the 120,000 remaining Christians from their ancestral land of Nagorno-Karabagh / Artsakh. A cultural Genocide continues to take place, as centuries old churches, monasteries, and monuments are being destroyed in an attempt to erase all evidence of our living on this land for close to three thousand years. The world and all its leaders, have been deafeningly silent about this Genocide and forced deportation and now the enemy is turning their aggression toward our sovereign nation of Armenia. We ask for your mercy, O Lord, and to touch the hearts of this and all government bodies around the world to do their part, no matter how small it might seem, to hold accountable all who perpetuate the hatred that leads to Genocide and the suffering of so many innocent people.

May we each be your light in the world, always seeking to please you and not giving in to the unjust desires of men. Teach us O Lord to perceive and seize every opportunity to serve; to give of ourselves without assessing its value; to debate without wounding; to work without seeking rest; to serve without compensation; knowing it is your will we fulfill. We ask this in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

APPENDIX**CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025:****1. 2025-H 5043****BY** Azzinaro**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES

Committee on Corporations recommends passage.

2. 2025-H 5570 SUB A**BY** Serpa**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- CASUALTY INSURANCE RATING

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

3. 2025-H 5950**BY** Slater**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- GENERAL POWERS

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

4. 2025-H 5649**BY** Caldwell**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE--COURTS -- FAMILY COURT

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

5. 2025-H 5960**BY** Cortvriend**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HIGHWAYS -- ABANDONMENT BY TOWNS

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

6. 2025-H 5032**BY** Finkelman**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

7. 2025-H 6111**BY** Edwards**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF TIVERTON

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025:**1. 2025-H 5602****BY** O'Brien**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS

Committee on Education recommends passage.

2. 2025-H 5593**BY** Biah**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COOPERATIVE SERVICE AMONG SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Committee on Education recommends passage.

3. 2025-H 5605**BY** Messier**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION REINSTATING AND EXTENDING THE LIFE AND EXPIRATION DATES OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ANTI-LITTERING EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Committee on Education recommends passage.

4. 2025-H 5844 SUB A**BY** Cortvriend**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- WATER POLLUTION

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A.

5. 2025-H 6125**BY** Kislak**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

6. 2025-H 5793 SUB A**BY** Corvese**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A.

7. 2025-H 5794 SUB A**BY** Craven**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- LOCAL PLANNING BOARD OR COMMISSION

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

8. 2025-H 5795**BY** Spears**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

9. 2025-H 6269**BY** Azzinaro**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A PLAN AND THE DESIGN OF A VIETNAM MEMORIAL TO BE LOCATED IN THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Committee on Veterans Affairs recommends passage.

Francis McCabe
Clerk of the House

Friday, April 25, 2025**Updated: Tuesday, April 29, 2025**