

# State of Rhode Island

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# JOURNAL

-OF THE-

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

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Volume 152, No. 37

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Thirty-Seventh Day

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The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence on Tuesday, May 27, 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 73 members present and 2 members absent as follows:

**PRESENT** – 73: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, 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, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart and Tanzi.

**ABSENT** – 2: Representatives Kennedy and Voas.

## INVOCATION

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

(For Invocation, see Appendix, this Journal.)

## APPROVAL OF RECORD

By unanimous consent, the House Journal of Thursday, May 22, 2025, is approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Representative Brian Patrick Kennedy is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

**GUESTS**

Representative Felix is honored to welcome the dedicated staff and courageous individuals from ALS United Rhode Island to the State House, Christina Vilardi, Executive Director; Jan DeOrsey, Office Manager; Lorrena Nardi, Care Service Coordinator; and Jacquelin Carrascoza, Clinic Coordinator, also privileged to be joined by individuals living with ALS: Mike Gates, accompanied by his wife Brenda; Jo-Ann Bailey, accompanied by her husband Robert; Donald Farnsworth, accompanied by his wife Jane; and Cheryl Rodriguez who is living with ALS. ALS United Rhode Island is the leading organization in the state serving individuals and families affected by ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, a progressive neurodegenerative condition impacting nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. The organization works to improve lives through comprehensive care, vigorous advocacy, and ongoing research. Their services include support groups, equipment loans, patient advocacy, and access to multidisciplinary care through the Louise Wilcox ALS Clinic. Representative Felix extends her most profound gratitude for their presence and the vital work they do in our community.

Representative Biah is honored and pleased to welcome Colonel Anthony J. Roberson, the Chief of Police of the Central Falls Police Department, to the House Chamber. Colonel Roberson brings a distinguished and trailblazing career in law enforcement, shaped by over two decades of unwavering dedication to public service and community safety.

He began his law enforcement career in 2002 with the Providence Police Department, where he rose through the ranks with distinction. His leadership roles included service as Detective, Patrol Sergeant, Commanding Officer of the Records Bureau, and Juvenile Hearing Board Liaison.

In a historic achievement, Colonel Roberson became the first individual in the 160-year history of the Providence Police Department to earn a doctoral degree, demonstrating his profound commitment to education, leadership, and professional excellence.

Colonel Roberson is also a proud alumnus of some of the nation's most prestigious leadership and public safety programs, including those at Harvard, Yale, Cornell, MIT, and the FBI National Academy. His outstanding service has garnered national acclaim. He is a recipient of the U.S. Department of Justice Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Community Policing, the International Association of Chiefs of Police Leadership Award, and the FBI-LEEDA Agency Trilogy Award, each representing a first for any police department in Rhode Island. Speaker Shekarchi welcomes him and thanks him for his distinguished service.

Representative Cotter welcomes Pat MacMeekin, a Wildland Fire Supervisor, and Ben Arnaldo, the Principal Fire Control Officer with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, to the House Chamber.

Supervisor MacMeekin brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in forest management, wildfire prevention, and environmental stewardship. His leadership has been instrumental in advancing policies and best practices that protect and preserve Rhode Island's natural landscapes.

Earlier today, Representative Cotter hosted an informational briefing in the House Lounge to discuss the role of the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission and the future of Rhode Island's forests. The session featured a comprehensive presentation by Supervisor MacMeekin, offering valuable insights into regional collaboration and proactive strategies in forest fire management. Speaker Shekarchi welcomes them to the House and thanks them for their services.

Representative Noret is pleased to welcome two outstanding young leaders from Exeter-West Greenwich High School, Graeme Griffiths and Priya Cordeiro, to the House Chamber.

Graeme and Priya are both juniors and recent Rhode Island Department of State's Civic Leadership Program graduates. This year-long initiative connects high school students with government and community leaders. The program encourages civic engagement, fosters leadership development, and empowers students to understand the legislative process better and participate actively in our democracy. Their dedication to civic learning and public service represents the best of Rhode Island's next generation of leaders. Speaker Shekarchi joins Representative Noret in warmly welcoming Graeme and Priya to the House.

### CALENDAR

From the Calendar are taken:

#### IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025:

- 1. 2025-H 6315**  
**BY Finkelman**  
**ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- INVESTMENTS BY DOMESTIC INSURANCE COMPANIES**

Committee on Corporations recommends passage.

Chairman Solomon moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Biah and Newberry.

Chairman Solomon discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 74 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 74: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo,

Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, 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, Stewart, Tanzi.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**2. 2025-H 6162**

**BY** Kislak

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

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

Chairman Casey moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Ajello, Speakman, Kislak, Slater, Edwards, Corvese, Felix, Diaz, O'Brien, Biah and Deputy Majority Whip Ackerman.

Chairman Casey, Representatives Newberry, Morales, Costantino, Kislak, Slater, Perez, Speakman, Minority Leader Chippendale, Representatives Brien, Ajello, Tanzi, Carson, Sanchez, Minority Whip Place, Representatives Santucci, Diaz and Hopkins discuss the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 56 members voting in the affirmative and 17 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 56: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cortvriend, Corvese, Cotter, Craven, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Noret, O'Brien, Phillips, Potter, Read, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi.

NAYS - 17: Representatives Batista, Chippendale, Costantino, Cruz, Fascia, Hopkins, Lima, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Paplauskas, Perez, Place, Quattrocchi, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci.

RECUSED - 0:

**3. 2025-H 5365**

**BY** Craven

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FIDUCIARIES -- APPLICATION OF LAWS TO TRUSTS

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

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

Chairman Craven discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 72 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 72: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, 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, Stewart, Tanzi.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**4. 2025-H 6077**

**BY** Giraldo

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF CENTRAL FALLS TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, IMPROVEMENT, ALTERATION, REPAIR, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES IN THE CITY BY THE ISSUANCE OF NOT MORE THAN \$15,000,000 BONDS, NOTES AND/OR OTHER EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS THEREFOR

Committee on Finance recommends passage.

Chairman Abney moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Biah and Giraldo.

Chairman Abney and Representative Santucci discuss the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 72 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 72: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, 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, Stewart, Tanzi.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**5. 2025-H 6099****BY** Spears

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH RHODE ISLAND GENERAL LAWS SECTION 16-7-44 APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF \$10,400,000 BONDS BY THE TOWN OF NEW SHOREHAM TO FINANCE ADDITIONS, RENOVATIONS, IMPROVEMENTS, ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS TO SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES IN THE TOWN INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, BONDS AND NOTES ISSUED PURSUANT TO FINANCING AGREEMENTS WITH THE RHODE ISLAND HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL BUILDING CORPORATION

Committee on Finance recommends passage.

Chairman Abney moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Fogarty and Spears.

Chairman Abney discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 72 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 72: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, 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, Stewart, Tanzi.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**6. 2025-H 6129****BY** Noret

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF WEST WARWICK TO ISSUE NOT TO EXCEED \$71,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENT, RENOVATION, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE TOWN AND ALL ATTENDANT EXPENSES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, DEMOLITION, ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL AND LANDSCAPING COSTS

Committee on Finance recommends passage.

Chairman Abney moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Corvese, Serpa, Noret and Read.

Chairman Abney discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 72 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 72: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, 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, Stewart, Tanzi.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**7. 2025-H 6299**

**BY** McNamara

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WARWICK TO ISSUE NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, NOTES AND OTHER EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, IMPROVEMENT, ALTERATION, REPAIR, LANDSCAPING, DEMOLITION, ARCHITECTURAL COSTS, ENGINEERING, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF (I) TWO NEW HIGH SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES TO REPLACE PILGRIM HIGH SCHOOL AND TOLLGATE HIGH SCHOOL AND ON-SITE ATHLETIC FIELDS, AND (II) RECREATION AND ATHLETIC FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE CITY

Committee on Finance recommends passage.

Chairman Abney moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives McNamara, Bennett and Read.

Chairman Abney discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 72 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 72: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, 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, Stewart, Tanzi.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**8. 2025-H 6298**

**BY** McNamara

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO AUTHORIZING THE AMENDMENT OF THE WARWICK CITY CHARTER TO ALLOW FOR ELECTRONIC NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS, RAISING THE SMALL PROCUREMENT DOLLAR THRESHOLD BY ORDINANCE, AND ESTABLISHING MINORITY REPRESENTATION APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS VIA ORDINANCE

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

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

Chairman Casey discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 72 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 72: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, 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, Stewart, Tanzi.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**9. 2025-H 6320**

**BY** McNamara

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

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

Chairman Casey moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski and Representative McNamara.

Chairman Casey discusses the act.



Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 72 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 72: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, 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, Stewart, Tanzi.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**10. 2025-H 6232**

**BY** Messier

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

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

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

Chairman Casey discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 72 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 72: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, 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, Stewart, Tanzi.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**11. 2025-H 6322****BY** Speakman**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION AMENDING THE MEMBERSHIP AND EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Committee on Municipal Government &amp; Housing recommends passage.

Chairman Casey moves passage of the resolution, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Speakman and Giraldo.

Chairman Casey discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 72 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 72: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, 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, Stewart, Tanzi.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**12. 2025-H 6272****BY** Casimiro**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

Committee on Municipal Government &amp; Housing recommends passage.

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

Chairman Casey, Representatives Newberry and Sanchez discuss the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 69 members voting in the affirmative and 3 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 69: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee,

McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi.

NAYS - 3: Representatives Newberry, Roberts, Santucci.

RECUSED - 0:

### **PROXY VOTES**

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces, pursuant to Rule 33(e), authorizing Proxy Votes, he has received a request from Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy to be recorded in the affirmative for items #1 through #12.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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 Alzate announces that the Committee on Special Legislation will meet today, at the rise, in Room 135 of the State House.

Representative O'Brien rises with a heavy heart to remember the life and legacy of Keri Anne O'Donnell, who tragically passed away on July 12, 2010. In her memory, the Keri Anne O'Donnell Memorial Fund has been established to honor her vibrant spirit and enduring love for the performing arts. This fund provides scholarships and grants to young performers who share Keri's passion, supporting their creative pursuits and encouraging a lifelong dedication to the arts. Through this meaningful initiative, Keri's legacy lives on by inspiring creativity, nurturing talent, and helping to strengthen the arts community that meant so much to her.

Chairwoman Diaz, Majority Leader Blazejewski and Speaker Shekarchi wish Representative Slater a Happy and Blessed Birthday!

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces that the next House session will be held on Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. There will be no session tomorrow; however, the House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing will meet at 4 p.m.

**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION****House Resolution No. 6366**

**BY** Felix, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Tanzi, Lombardi, Hull, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Alzate

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 27, 2025, AS "ALS AWARENESS DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2962/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Felix discusses the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 6367**

**BY** Tanzi, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Fogarty, Felix, Ackerman, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Cortvriend

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING MAY OF 2025, AS "BRAIN CANCER AND TUMOR AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2490/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Tanzi discusses the resolution.

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

**RULE 7D****The following bills were received pursuant to Rule 7D:**

Representative Felix-An Act relating to Motor and Other Vehicles–Rideshare or Transportation Network Company Vehicle Surcharge

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.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE SENATE**

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

**Senate Bill No. 799**

**BY** Bissaillon, Mack

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

(Exempts from taxation the real and tangible personal property of Codac, Inc., a Rhode Island nonprofit domestic corporation, located at 45 Royal Little Drive in Providence, Rhode Island.) {LC2370/1}

05/28/2025 Referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

**Senate Bill No. 1008**

**BY** de la Cruz

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER OF THE HARRISVILLE FIRE DISTRICT (Validates and ratifies amendments to the charter of the Harrisville Fire District in the town of Burrillville.) {LC2801/1}

05/28/2025 Referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

**NEW BUSINESS****House Bill No. 6365**

**BY** Cotter, Carson, Speakman, Boylan, Spears, Potter, Cruz, Stewart, Giraldo, Casimiro

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- RETAIL DELIVERY FEE (Imposes a fifty cent delivery fee (tax) per transaction for deliveries in the state.) {LC2965/1}

05/27/2025 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration (05/29/2025)

**House Bill No. 6368**

(Attorney General)

**BY** Kislak, Donovan, Speakman, McGaw, Potter, Caldwell, Cortvriend, Fogarty, Cotter, Handy**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS

INSURANCE POLICIES (Amends unfair discrimination statutes to encompass more protected categories and protects against additional forms of discrimination.) {LC2772/1}

05/28/2025 Introduced, referred to House Health &amp; Human Services

**House Bill No. 6369**

(Attorney General)

**BY** Donovan, Speakman, Boylan, Cotter, McGaw, Bennett, Fogarty, Handy, Giraldo, Potter**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ADVOCATE (Allows the health care advocate to petition the superior court for the appointment of a receiver as deemed necessary or appropriate by the court.) {LC2519/1}

05/28/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 6370****BY** Casey, Corvese, Furtado**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE

GENERALLY -- CAUSES OF ACTION (Provide to provide greater clarity in insurance claim settlements, the appraisal process and procedural safeguards to enhance consumer protections against bad faith practices by insurers.) {LC2941/1}

05/28/2025 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 6371****BY** Corvese**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

(Exempts from taxation real and tangible personal property of Little Flower Home, provided it remains a qualified tax-exempt corporation pursuant to § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, by amending the address from former location to current location.) {LC2958/1}

05/28/2025 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing

**House Resolution No. 6372****BY** Carson, Spears, Caldwell, McGaw, Batista, Shanley, Finkelman, Cortvriend, Fogarty, Handy**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION STRONGLY REPROVING THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD'S PLAN TO REMOVE 38 BUOYS FROM RHODE ISLAND WATERS {LC2952/1}

05/28/2025 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**House Bill No. 6373**

(Attorney General)

**BY** Cotter, Donovan, Speakman, Boylan, McGaw, Casimiro, Fogarty, Kislak, Potter, Place**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

(Requires the executive office of health and human services to increase Medicaid payment rates for primary care services furnished by primary care providers to be commensurate with Medicare rates.) {LC2954/1}

05/28/2025 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES  
TRANSFER OF BILLS**

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

**Senate Bill No. 957**

**BY** Ciccone, DiPalma, Bissaillon, Dimitri, LaMountain, McKenney, Burke  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- COURTS --  
COURT CLERKS' INCENTIVE PAY (Extends the incentive pay plan to all full-time court clerks,  
including the traffic tribunal, who meet the eligibility requirements. It would also repeal § 8-4.1-6  
regarding additional credit for a master's degree.) {LC2648/1}  
05/29/2025 Committee transferred to House Finance

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 5:53 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Tanzi, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Catherine Abbate; on motion of Representative Quattrocchi, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Rae- Anne Laprade seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Chippendale the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

**Diane M. DePina  
Recording Clerk**

**APPENDIX****INVOCATION****REPRESENTATIVE JOHN J. LOMBARDI**

Gracious God, we come to you this day asking for your guidance, wisdom and support during this session. Remind us that the decisions we make affect the lives of not only our constituents, but all who call Rhode Island home. Amen.



**APPENDIX****CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025:****1. 2025-H 6286****BY Knight****ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- COURTS -  
- DOMESTIC ASSAULT**

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

**2. 2025-H 5893****BY McEntee****ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- SEXUAL ASSAULT**

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

**3. 2025-H 5946 SUB A****BY Casey****ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- STATE BUILDING  
CODE**

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

**4. 2025-H 5684****BY Giraldo****ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS --  
MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE**

Committee on Labor recommends passage.

**5. 2025-H 5715 SUB A****BY Serpa****ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES --  
RETIREMENT SYSTEM--ADMINISTRATION**

Committee on State Government &amp; Elections recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A.

**6. 2025-H 6156 SUB A****BY** Casimiro**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN IN STATE CARE

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

**7. 2025-H 5603****BY** O'Brien**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS

Committee on Education recommends passage.

**8. 2025-H 5882 SUB A****BY** Cortvriend**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' AND CHAUFFEURS' LICENSES

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

**9. 2025-H 5961 SUB A****BY** Serpa**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL BUILDING CORPORATION

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

**10. 2025-H 5565 SUB A****BY** Kennedy**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- THE RHODE ISLAND KRATOM ACT

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

**11. 2025-H 5110****BY** McGaw**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- FUNERAL DIRECTOR/EMBALMER AND FUNERAL SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS

Committee on Corporations recommends passage.

**12. 2025-S 462 SUB A****BY** Murray**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- HARM REDUCTION CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PILOT PROGRAM

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

**13. 2025-S 475 SUB A****BY** Dimitri**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS REQUIRED AT PUBLIC PLACES AND HEALTHCARE FACILITIES -- DAVID CASEY ACT

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

**14. 2025-S 343 SUB A****BY** Tikoian**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- THE GOOD SAMARITAN OVERDOSE PREVENTION ACT OF 2016

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A in concurrence.

**15. 2025-S 624****BY** DiPalma**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' AND CHAUFFEURS' LICENSES

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage in concurrence.

**Francis McCabe**  
Clerk of the House

**Friday, May 23, 2025**