

# 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-Six.

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Volume 153, No. 7

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Seventh Day

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The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, and is called to order at 4:13 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 Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, and Tanzi.

**ABSENT** – 9: Representatives Abney, Biah, Caldwell, Craven, Handy, Lima, Perez, Roberts, and Voas.

## INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi presents Representative Terri Cortvriend, 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, January 22, 2026, is approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Representative Justine A. Caldwell is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

Representative Brandon T. Voas is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

Representative Arthur B. Handy is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

Representative Robert E. Craven, Sr., is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

**GUESTS**

In recognition of Food Insecurity Awareness Day, Representative Slater extends a warm welcome to Melissa Cherney, CEO of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank; Board Director Deborah Thurston; Food Director at Tap-In Food Pantry in Barrington; and Aline Binyungu, Executive Director of the Women's Refugee Food Pantry in Providence. Speaker Shekarchi expresses his gratitude for their hard work and welcomes them to the House.

Representative Read proudly welcomes Warwick Police Captain Charles Boisseau to the House Chamber, where he was formally recognized for his heroic actions on the night of July 5th, 2025, which saved the lives of a Cranston family. Speaker Shekarchi thanks him for his heroic actions and warmly welcomes him to the House.

Chairman Solomon happily congratulates Col. Michael Lima on his well-deserved promotion to Warwick Police Chief and warmly welcomes him to the House. Speaker Shekarchi thanks him for his service and welcomes him to the House.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Representative Batista extends heartfelt condolences to the family of Alex Pretti and requests that the House adjourn in his memory.

Minority Leader Chippendale requests a machine vote on the adjournment of Alex Pretti.

Speaker Shekarchi states that the rules do not permit a machine vote on an adjournment.

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

**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION****House Resolution No. 7325**

**BY** Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Slater, Chippendale, Paplauskas, Hull, Lombardi, Diaz, Kislak, Voas  
**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JANUARY 27, 2026 TO BE “RHODE ISLAND FOOD INSECURITY AWARENESS DAY” IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
{LC3469/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Slater discusses the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 7326**

**BY** Shekarchi, Read, Solomon, Bennett, McNamara, Shanley, Blazejewski, Hopkins, Chippendale, Kennedy

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING, HONORING, AND THANKING WARWICK POLICE CAPTAIN CHARLES BOISSEAU FOR SAVING THE LIVES OF A CRANSTON FAMILY AFTER THEIR HOUSE CAUGHT FIRE ON THE NIGHT OF JULY 5, 2025 {LC3111/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Read discusses the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 7327**

**BY** Shekarchi, Read, Solomon, Bennett, McNamara, Shanley, Blazejewski, Hopkins, Chippendale, Paplauskas

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING COLONEL MICHAEL LIMA ON BEING NAMED THE NEW WARWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT CHIEF OF POLICE {LC3112/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairman Solomon discusses the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 7328**

**BY** Ackerman, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Kislak, Finkelman, Boylan, McNamara, Knight, Place

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JANUARY 27TH OF 2026, AS "INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY" AND COMMEMORATING THE 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ {LC4061/1}

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

There is no objection.

Deputy Majority Whip Ackerman discusses the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 7329**

**BY** Fogarty, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Lombardi, Hull, Carson, Donovan, Shallcross Smith, Messier

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE 12TH ANNUAL "PHYSICIAN ANESTHESIOLOGISTS WEEK" ON JANUARY 25TH THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2026, IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC4638/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Chairwoman Fogarty requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Chairwoman Fogarty discusses the resolution.

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

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Casey announces that the Committee on Municipal Government & Housing will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 135 of the State House.

Minority Whip Place requests a motion to sever the adjournment of Alex Pretti.

Speaker Shekarchi overrules his request.

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces that the next House session will be held on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

**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. 7330**

**BY** Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Bennett, Craven, Knight

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- INSURANCE BENEFITS (Allows private employees at nursing homes, developmental disability and home care providers whose salaries are 90% funded with federal or state monies to be eligible to opt into the state healthcare plan.) {LC4099/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7331**

**BY** Kennedy, Azzinaro, McEntee, Tanzi, Cortvriend, Edwards, Bennett, Ackerman, Kazarian, Diaz

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (Requires that certain data centers requiring large amounts of electricity be required to fund the cost of necessary infrastructure improvements to supply such electricity.) {LC4385/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7332**

**BY** Hull, Lombardi, Fogarty, DeSimone, Tanzi, Felix, Azzinaro, Alzate, Bennett, Slater

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- DUTIES OF UTILITIES AND CARRIERS (Requires all public utilities to maintain a customer service facility within the state to perform services such as addressing customer inquiries and accepting bill payments.) {LC4618/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7333**

**BY** McGaw, Fogarty, Carson, Potter, Fellela, Furtado, Morales, Messier, Donovan, Boylan

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT AND INVESTMENT ACT -- RHODE ISLAND BROADBAND OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2026 (Enacts the Rhode Island Broadband Oversight and Accountability Act of 2026.) {LC4437/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7334****BY** Cotter, Potter, Serpa, Fellela, Cruz, Casimiro, Kazarian, Alzate, Stewart, Tanzi**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY --

PSITTACINE BIRDS (Bans the sale of parrots at pet stores from a breeder or broker. The pet store may sell parrots obtained from animal care facilities or animal rescue organizations. The sale also prohibits at any outdoor markets or retail parking lots.) {LC4282/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7335****BY** DeSimone, Fellela, Boylan, Messier, McGaw**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PSYCHOLOGISTS

(Includes licensed school psychologists under the provisions of the general laws governing the regulations of psychologists and expands the licensing of school psychologists for independent practice.) {LC4414/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7336****BY** Corvese, Azzinaro, Kennedy, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Lombardi, Noret, Dawson, McNamara**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- LIABILITY INSURANCE --

UNINSURED MOTORIST COVERAGE (Adds property damage to statutory underinsured motor coverage, rather than just uninsured motorist coverage, as it is presently.) {LC4508/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7337****BY** Place, Fascia, Hopkins, Santucci**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.) {LC4327/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7338**

(by request)

**BY** Carson**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CORPORATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND

PARTNERSHIPS -- RHODE ISLAND NONPROFIT CORPORATION ACT (Prevents condominium associations and home owner associations from prohibiting the installation of EV charging stations to be installed at the owner's expenses.) {LC3439/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7339****BY** Place, Hopkins, Fascia, Santucci, Quattrocchi**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CORPORATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS, AND

PARTNERSHIPS -- THE RHODE ISLAND LIMITED-LIABILITY COMPANY ACT (Permits a member or members of a limited-liability company to avoid dissolution by buying the membership interest owned by the other member or members seeking dissolution.) {LC4316/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Resolution No. 7340**

**BY** Speakman, Boylan, Alzate, McGaw, Potter, Cotter, Carson, Spears, Knight, Cortvriend  
**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY URGING RHODE ISLAND INSURERS AND THE RHODE ISLAND PROPERTY INSURANCE ASSOCIATION TO REDUCE INSURANCE COSTS ON LOCAL RESIDENTS BY PURSUING SUBROGATION CLAIMS AGAINST POLLUTERS WHO KNOWINGLY ENGAGED IN MISLEADING AND DECEPTIVE PRACTICES REGARDING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THEIR PRODUCTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE {LC4380/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7341**

**BY** McNamara, Shanley, Bennett, Hopkins, Solomon  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS (Provides for better communication between sending and receiving districts regarding students receiving CTE or pathways education.) {LC3591/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Bill No. 7342**

**BY** Carson, Cortvriend, Boylan, Speakman, McGaw, Fogarty, Spears, Casimiro, Tanzi, Cotter  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SCHOOL WASTE RECYCLING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL (Amends the certain provisions relative to school waste recycling and refuse disposal and requires reports of waste audits by educational entities and reports of program participation by vendors.) {LC3438/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Bill No. 7343**

**BY** Carson  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PESTICIDE CONTROL (Restricts application of pesticides and rodenticides at schools and childcare centers and requires schools to provide copies of notice to parents and guardians.) {LC3211/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Resolution No. 7344**

**BY** Cortvriend, Spears, Boylan  
**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION CREATING A PERMANENT COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS AND SOLUTIONS (Establishes a permanent commission on climate change impacts and solutions.) {LC3190/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

**House Bill No. 7345**

**BY** Donovan, McGaw, Fogarty, Messier, Boylan, Cruz, Potter, Giraldo, Carson, Speakman  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- HEALTHY KIDS ACT (Establishes the Healthy Kids Act whereby restaurants would be required to offer at least two (2) healthy versions of children's meals, or twenty-five percent (25%) of the children's meals on its menu, whichever is greater.) {LC4490/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

**House Bill No. 7346**

**BY** Hull, Lombardi, DeSimone, Tanzi, Felix, Azzinaro, Alzate, Bennett, Slater, Diaz  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS  
INSURANCE POLICIES (Prohibits insurance companies from paying a rate that is less than the approved Medicaid rate set by the executive office of health and human services.) {LC4620/1}  
01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

**House Bill No. 7347**

**BY** McGaw, Fogarty, Carson, Potter, Fellela, Furtado, Morales, Messier, Donovan, Boylan  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS  
INSURANCE POLICIES (Limits prior authorization requirements for rehabilitative and habilitative services. Also prohibits prior authorization for the first twelve (12) visits of a new episode of care and for ninety (90) days following a chronic pain diagnosis.) {LC4486/1}  
01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

**House Bill No. 7348**

**BY** Place, Hopkins, Nardone, Quattrocchi, Fascia, Santucci, Paplauskas  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS  
INSURANCE POLICIES (Mandates all health insurance contracts, plans, or policies provide the same reimbursement to independent healthcare facilities as that of hospital affiliated facilities where the same healthcare service is provided.) {LC4317/1}  
01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

**House Bill No. 7349**

**BY** Spears, Carson, Messier, Speakman, Shanley, McEntee, Baginski, Kazarian, Cotter, Donovan  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS -- OVERSIGHT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE  
TECHNOLOGY IN MENTAL HEALTH CARE ACT (Establishes regulations regarding the use of artificial intelligence in mental health care treatments.) {LC4589/1}  
01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

**House Bill No. 7350**

**BY** Spears, Carson, Messier, Speakman, Shanley, McEntee, Baginski, Kazarian, Cotter, Donovan  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW--GENERAL REGULATORY  
PROVISIONS -- ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COMPANION MODELS (Creates additional safety features for AI companion technology that include addressing suicidal ideation, potential physical harm or financial harm to others expressed by a user. It also requires notification the AI companion does not have human emotions.) {LC4590/1}  
01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Innovation, Internet, & Technology

**House Bill No. 7351**

**BY** McNamara, Cortvriend  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- EMINENT  
DOMAIN (Allows the department of environmental management to acquire established foot paths by eminent domain, to provide public access to streams, rivers, lakes and ponds.) {LC3593/1}  
01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary



**House Bill No. 7352****BY** McEntee, Craven, O'Brien, Potter, Cruz, Stewart, Giraldo**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT--THE RHODE ISLAND CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT ACT (Established a cause of action against state government entities for violation of civil rights.) {LC4433/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7353****BY** Ajello, Morales, Cruz, Stewart, Felix, Batista, Biah, Knight, Alzate, Diaz**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY-- POLICE RELATIONSHIP ACT OF 2015 (Amends the comprehensive community-police relationship act of 2015 to require an annual study by an outside agency chosen by the department.) {LC3925/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7354****BY** Bennett, Edwards, Potter, Chippendale, Quattrocchi, Nardone, Hopkins, Paplauskas, Slater, O'Brien**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- PASSING, USE OF LANES AND RULES OF THE ROAD (Allows lane filtering, the act of passing stopped or slow-moving vehicles proceeding in the same direction, for motorcycles at low speeds.) {LC4435/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7355****BY** Fogarty, Boylan, Edwards, Donovan, Kazarian, Handy, Ajello, Lombardi, Cortvriend, Hull**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- CERTIFICATES OF TITLE AND SECURITY INTERESTS (Allows on and after September 1, 2026, an owner of motor vehicle(s) to transfer ownership and registration of said vehicle on their death, by a certificate of title designation and requires DMV to amend title forms, to include transfer-on-death language.) {LC4403/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7356****BY** Chippendale, Santucci, Place**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SCHOOL EMPLOYEE BACKGROUND CHECKS (Provides for a comprehensive criminal and employment background check procedure for all school employees.) {LC4591/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7357****BY** Knight, Boylan, McEntee, Speakman, Donovan, Carson, Diaz, Cortvriend, Spears, Kazarian**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND GENDER-AFFIRMING HEALTHCARE DATA PRIVACY ACT (Creates the reproductive health and gender-affirming healthcare data privacy act.) {LC4350/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7358****BY** Baginski, Paplauskas**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- CONDUCT OF ELECTION AND VOTING EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES (Requires all write-in votes, regardless of qualification, to be reported and published by the state board of elections, on its website.) {LC3495/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**House Bill No. 7359****BY** Baginski**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- PUBLIC AUCTIONS OF REAL ESTATE (Requires public auctions by any city or town of real estate or an interest therein to only be done in person and not by electronic or remote procedures unless authorized by court order.) {LC4631/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7360****BY** Batista, Knight, Speakman, Cruz, Felix, Tanzi, Morales, McEntee, Diaz, Potter**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- PROTECT OUR COURTS ACT (Protects people attending Rhode Island court proceedings from civil arrest without a judicial warrant, ensures court access, sets enforcement rules, and provides remedies for violations.) {LC3707/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7361****BY** Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Bennett, Craven, Knight**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS -- QUALITY SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORTS ACT OF 2026 (Ensures that more developmentally disabled adults can self-direct the care they need and want, by incorporating collective bargaining rights into the self-directed supports program.) {LC4100/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**House Bill No. 7362****BY** Alzate, Cotter, Fogarty, Dawson, Speakman, Batista, Morales, Felix**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- HEALTH AND SAFE FAMILIES WORKPLACES ACT--WORKWEEK (Mandates the workweek be reduced to 32 hrs. Rate of pay for a 32 hr workweek remains the same as the rate of pay for 40 hrs. Work in excess of 32 hrs in any one workweek qualify for overtime pay. Does not apply to employers with less than 500 employees.) {LC3718/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**House Bill No. 7363****BY** Hull, Ackerman, Read, DeSimone, Tanzi, Felix, Azzinaro, Alzate, Bennett, Slater**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- THE COMMUTER TRANSPORTATION BENEFITS ACT (Establishes the commuter transportation benefit chapter. Employers with five hundred (500) or more employees required to establish a pre-tax commuter transportation fringe benefit program.) {LC4621/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**House Bill No. 7364****BY** Shanley, Slater, Bennett, Craven, Knight**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- WAREHOUSE WORKER PROTECTION ACT (Requires employers to provide each employee of a warehouse distribution center, upon hire, with written description of quotas applicable to the employee within defined time periods and adverse employment action for failure to meet the quota.) {LC4101/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**House Bill No. 7365****BY** Place, Quattrocchi, Nardone, Hopkins, Fascia, Santucci, Chippendale, Paplauskas**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- PORTABLE BENEFIT PLAN (Establishes a voluntary portable benefit plan for independent contractors.) {LC4321/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**House Bill No. 7366****BY** McNamara, Ackerman, Bennett, Kennedy, Read, Serpa, Edwards**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- SANITATION IN FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS (Establishes a restricted receipt account at the DLT for hospitality industry workforce training grants, funded by an annual \$50 dollar fee to be charged by RIDOH to food service establishments.) {LC3592/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**House Resolution No. 7367****BY** Alzate, Stewart, Potter, Casimiro, Cotter, Fogarty, Dawson, Hull, Speakman, Boylan**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE THE FORTY-HOUR WORKWEEK TO A THIRTY-TWO-HOUR WORKWEEK (Creates a 9-member commission to study and provide recommendations to reduce the forty-hour workweek to a thirty-two-hour workweek, and would report back to the House by March 15, 2027, and would expire on June 15, 2027.) {LC3719/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**House Resolution No. 7368****BY** Place, Nardone, Quattrocchi, Hopkins, Fascia, Santucci**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE MANNER IN WHICH HEALTH INSURANCE, DISABILITY INSURANCE, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, RETIREMENT PLANS AND OTHER TRADITIONAL EMPLOYER PROVIDED BENEFITS ARE ACCORDED TO UBER AND LYFT DRIVERS, SELF-DIRECTED PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANTS, SELF EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS, AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED IN PROVIDING SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC (Creates 5 member commission to study the way insurance plans/traditional employer-provided benefits are given to Uber/Lyft drivers, self-directed personal care attendants and others providing services to public, and reports back 1/5/27 and expires 3/5/27.) {LC4334/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**House Bill No. 7369**

(Auditor General)

**BY** Felix, Santucci, Tanzi, McNamara, Place, Casey, Chippendale, Giraldo, Cruz, Stewart  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS AND INSTALLATION OF SYSTEMS (Amends the audit compliance requirements for municipalities' contributions to pension plans under the budget of accounts and installation of systems chapter.) {LC4186/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing

**House Bill No. 7370****BY** Place, Nardone, Hopkins, Quattrocchi, Fascia, Santucci, Chippendale

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES - BURRILLVILLE AND GLOCESTER PUBLIC NOTICE ACT (Allows the towns of Burrillville and Glocester to publish notices in any newspaper located within their municipalities and would also allow publication in other designated digital or print platforms selected by their town councils.) {LC4303/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing

**House Bill No. 7371**

**BY** Shallcross Smith, Fellela, Diaz, Slater, Hull, Messier, Donovan, Fogarty, Ackerman, McNamara  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES (Sets the zoning statewide for "family child care homes" to no fewer than twelve (12) children maximum.) {LC4489/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing

**House Bill No. 7372****BY** Edwards, Bennett, Diaz

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES (Allows the town of Tiverton to determine its density bonuses based upon its underlying zoning.) {LC4117/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing

**House Bill No. 7373**

**BY** Felix, Stewart, Shallcross Smith, Messier, Cruz, Tanzi, Furtado, Kazarian, Spears, Potter  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Exempts from taxation the real and tangible personal property of Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center located in the city of Pawtucket.) {LC4487/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing

**House Bill No. 7374****BY** McEntee, O'Brien, Spears, Fogarty

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES (Amends the zoning ordinances to allow the town to restrict occupancy to one unrelated person per bedroom in a dwelling, up to a five (5) bedroom unit. Units with more than five (5) bedrooms may be limited to five (5) unrelated persons per unit.) {LC4432/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing

**House Bill No. 7375****BY** Place, Hopkins, Santucci, Chippendale**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

(Allows the operation of a home-based business, which meets criteria for home office IRS income tax deduction, without securing approval from the municipality with no storage of chemicals/park heavy equipment/not more than 10% of premises used for parking.) {LC4323/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing

**House Bill No. 7376****BY** Donovan, Fogarty, Cotter, Potter, Cruz, Edwards, Shallcross Smith, Carson, Speakman, Spears**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION

OF VEHICLES (Allows for a special RI license plate to raise awareness for colon cancer. The plate would be designed by the partnership to reduce cancer in RI. The fees for the plate to be divided equally between the general fund and the partnership not-for-profit.) {LC4491/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Special Legislation

**House Bill No. 7377**

(by request)

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

(Requires party chairpersons to submit lists of party voters to the mayor or council president within 30 days of notice of vacancy in a municipal election office and mayor/council president are required to make a replacement nomination within 30 days.) {LC4040/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**House Bill No. 7378****BY** Baginski, Paplauskas**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- LOCAL CANVASSING AUTHORITIES

(Changes how voter are notified of elections and vote registration deadlines, and local board questions.) {LC3496/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**House Bill No. 7379****BY** Brien, Corvese, Chippendale, Noret, Paplauskas, Baginski**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS (Requires mail ballots applications to include the RI driving license or state identification number, if unexpired or expired no more than 6 months prior to the election, or the last four digits of the voter's Soc Sec number.) {LC4499/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**House Bill No. 7380****BY** Brien, Corvese, Lima, Chippendale, Hopkins, Newberry**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- CONDUCT OF ELECTION AND

VOTING EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES (Prohibits the use of ranked choice voting in all local, state and federal public office elections.) {LC4422/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**House Bill No. 7381****BY** Cortvriend, Speakman, Donovan, Finkelman, Edwards, Fellela**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SIZE, WEIGHT, AND LOAD LIMITS (Authorizes a blanket permit and fee to allow the movement of self-propelled cranes which are in excess of size and weight load requirements, to move on state highways.) {LC3198/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**House Bill No. 7382****BY** Boylan, Speakman, Donovan, Kazarian, Hopkins, DeSimone, Fogarty, Stewart, Ackerman, McGaw**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SPECIAL LICENSES FOR MOTORCYCLES, MOTOR SCOOTERS, LOW-SPEED VEHICLES AND OTHER MOTOR DRIVEN CYCLES (Requires all motorcycle operators to wear a helmet regardless of age.) {LC4322/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**House Bill No. 7383****BY** Place, Hopkins, Fascia, Santucci**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- UNIVERSAL REGULATORY SANDBOX ACT (Establishes a Regulatory Sandbox program designed to provide a depository for ideas in a regulatory approach.) {LC4318/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**House Bill No. 7384****BY** Place, Nardone, Hopkins, Fascia, Santucci, Chippendale**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES (Amends the administrative procedures act and provides that on the review of an agency decision by a court upon appeal, the court shall decide questions of law without deference to any previous determination or interpretation of the law by the agency.) {LC4325/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**House Bill No. 7385****BY** Place, Hopkins, Fascia, Santucci**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION - AGREEMENT TO PHASE OUT CORPORATE INCENTIVES COMPACT ACT (Establishes a compact agreement among at least two (2) states to prohibit the selective use of subsidies to an existing specific industry or company, entice relocation from one state to another state or to open a new facility.) {LC4351/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**House Resolution No. 7386****BY** Place, Felix, Brien, Hopkins, Fascia, Santucci, Chippendale**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION -- JURY NULLIFICATION AS PROPER TRIAL DEFENSE ARGUMENT (Proposes to the voters a constitutional amendment which would allow a criminal defendant to argue jury nullification as a defense.) {LC4307/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**House Resolution No. 7387****BY** Place, Hopkins, Fascia, Nardone, Santucci, Chippendale, Quattrocchi, Paplauskas**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE -- LINE ITEM VETO (This proposed amendment to our state Constitution grants the governor a line-item veto on the budget and other appropriation bills.) {LC4326/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**House Bill No. 7388****BY** Cortvriend, Finkelman**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE PAUL W. CROWLEY RHODE ISLAND STUDENT INVESTMENT INITIATIVE (Establishes a new high-cost special education fund to pool resources and generates income to support excess costs associated with providing services to special education students.) {LC3196/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7389****BY** Morales, Felix, Giraldo, Alzate, Batista, Stewart, Carson, Speakman, Diaz, Kislak**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE SUPPORT AND ACCESS TO BILINGUAL EDUCATION ACT (Appropriates nine hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$950,000) to establish a bilingual education support fund within the department of elementary and secondary education and provides for implementation of support and access to bilingual education.) {LC3702/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7390****BY** Fellela, Serpa, Messier, Hull, Fogarty, Bennett, Donovan, McNamara, Noret, Shallcross Smith**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT (Allows teachers, state and municipal employees to retire upon the earlier of reaching age sixty (60) with thirty (30) years of service or the employee's retirement eligibility date under present state statutes.) {LC3366/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7391****BY** O'Brien, McEntee, Dawson, Corvese, Bennett, Solomon, Cotter, Casey, Kazarian, Casimiro**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT (Reinstates, for all teachers and state employees who retired after July 1, 2012, their annual cost of living adjustment for retirement plan year 2026.) {LC4417/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7392****BY** Place, Hopkins, Nardone, Quattrocchi, Fascia, Santucci, Chippendale, Paplauskas**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- DETERMINATION OF NEED FOR NEW HEALTHCARE EQUIPMENT AND NEW INSTITUTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES (Limits the application fees paid under the certificate of need program within the department of health to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000)) {LC4293/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7393****BY** Diaz, Slater, Shallcross Smith, Tanzi, Giraldo, Kislak, Casimiro, Cruz, Edwards**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- RHODE ISLAND CHILDCARE IS ESSENTIAL ACT (Expand eligibility for the childcare assistance program to meet the federal eligibility benchmark.) {LC4394/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7394****BY** Place, Santucci, Fascia, Hopkins**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- THE RHODE ISLAND WORKS PROGRAM (Provides that a family eligible for cash assistance pursuant to § 40-5.2-11, shall if qualified, be provided SNAP benefits.) {LC4309/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7395****BY** McEntee, Craven, O'Brien, Serpa, Spears**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- RETIREMENT SYSTEM -- CONTRIBUTION AND BENEFITS (Permits paid members on the state labor relations board to continue to receive their retirement benefits.) {LC4440/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7396****BY** Place, Hopkins, Santucci, Fascia, Chippendale**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- BUSINESS CORPORATION TAX -- AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX CREDIT ACT (Creates an affordable housing business tax credit as well as eliminate sales tax on any materials purchased for use in the renovation of affordable rental housing.) {LC4337/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7397****BY** Casey, Solomon, Costantino, Lima, Serpa, Phillips, Shallcross Smith, McEntee, Chippendale, Brien**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- BUSINESS CORPORATION TAX (Repeals the corporation minimum tax.) {LC3897/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance



**House Bill No. 7398**

**BY** Casey, Solomon, Costantino, Lima, Serpa, Phillips, Shallcross Smith, McEntee, Chippendale, Brien

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- RHODE ISLAND TAX AMNESTY ACT OF 2017 (Authorizes the tax administrator to waive interest and penalties on delinquent taxes paid in full during a one week amnesty period. Also reinstates a suspended driver's license upon payment in full.) {LC3894/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7399**

**BY** Place, Hopkins, Fascia, Nardone, Santucci, Quattrocchi

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (Repeals pet care services from the services subject to sales tax as defined by §§ 44-18-7(19) and 44-18-7.3(b)(3).) {LC4310/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Resolution No. 7400**

**BY** Spears, Carson, Messier, Speakman, Shanley, McEntee, Baginski, Kazarian, Cotter, Donovan

**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF THE SUM OF \$118,422 TO THE RHODE ISLAND PARENT INFORMATION NETWORK TO CONTINUE THE OPERATION OF THE RIPIN DUAL OBUDESMAN PROGRAM (Authorizes the appropriation of the sum of \$118,422 to the Rhode Island Parent Information Network to support Rhode Island's Medicare-Medicaid Dual Ombudsman Program.) {LC4466/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Resolution No. 7401**

**BY** Bennett, Edwards, Boylan, Potter, Newberry, Hopkins, Paplauskas, Quattrocchi, Kazarian, Kislak

**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$75,000 FOR THE JEWISH COLLABORATIVE SERVICES (Appropriates the sum of \$75,000 to Jewish Collaborative Services.) {LC4262/1}

01/28/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:39 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Fellela, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Pamela Rotella; on motion of Representative Batista and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Alex Jeffrey Pretti, seconded by Leader Blazejewski and Majority Whip Kazarian, the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

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

**APPENDIX**

**INVOCATION**

**REPRESENTATIVE TERRI CORTVRIEND**

Eternal God: As the session continues, we ask your blessing upon the men and women of this, the people's house. Grant that we are good in thought, gracious in words, and spirit. Amen