

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-Six.

Volume 153, No. 8

Thursday, January 29, 2026

Eighth Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence on Thursday, January 29, 2026, and is called to order at 4:16 o'clock P.M. by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called, and a quorum is declared present with 63 members present and 12 members absent as follows:

PRESENT – 63: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McNamara, Messier, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, and Tanzi.

ABSENT – 12: Representatives Ackerman, Caldwell, Costantino, Dawson, Felix, Handy, Knight, McGaw, Morales, Potter, Quattrocchi, Voas.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi presents Representative Teresa Ann Tanzi, 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

Minority Leader Chippendale objects to the approval of Tuesday, January 27, 2026, Journal.

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi calls for a vote to approve the Journal of Tuesday, January 27, 2026, as written, 51 members voting in the affirmative and 9 members voting in the negative, as follows:

YEAS - 51: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cortvriend, Corvese, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McNamara, Messier, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Read, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi.

NAYS - 9: Representatives Chippendale, Fascia, Hopkins, Nardone, Newberry, Paplauskas, Place, Roberts, Santucci.

RECUSED - 0:

The House Journal of Tuesday, January 27, 2026, is approved.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

January 27, 2026

Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi is nominating the following Representatives to the 2026 Melissa Hortman Emerging Leaders Program, to be held at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business from July 6 to July 9, 2026.

Representative. Jenni A. Furtado

Representative. Earl A. Read, III

Representative. Tina L. Spears

Read and placed on file.

COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Brandon C. Potter is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 29, 2026.

Representative Michelle E. McGaw is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 29, 2026.

Representative Arthur B. Handy is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 29, 2026.

Representative Brandon T. Voas is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 29, 2026.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

GUESTS

Representative Speakman is pleased to welcome Roger Williams University School of Law, Dean Gregory Bowman, and Professors Anne Proctor, Elizabeth Rosner, and Fernanda Righi. They are here today to commemorate Fred T. Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties, an American civil rights activist who resisted the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Representative Noret is pleased to welcome Natalia Lukankina, MD, and Dr. Jnev Biros, pediatricians with Children's Neurodevelopment Center at Hasbro Children's Hospital, along with Little Rhody Warriors Carter, Natalia, and Nathan Almeida, their parents Marcella and John Almeida, Addison Noret, and staff from Trudeau Center to the House Chamber in recognition of World Fragile X Day. Speaker Shekarchi expresses his gratitude for the recognition of these amazing young children and their struggles and welcomes them to the House.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Chairwoman Donovan announces that the Committee on Health & Human Services will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 101 of the State House.

Vice-Chairman Phillips announces that the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 135 of the State House.

AT EASE

At 4:32 o'clock P.M., the Honorable Speaker Shekarchi declares the House to be at ease.

ORDER

At 4:33 o'clock P.M., the Honorable Speaker Shekarchi calls the House to order.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairwoman McEntee announces that the Committee on Judiciary will meet today, at the rise of the House, in the House Lounge of the State House.

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces that the House will meet on Tuesday, February 3rd, and Thursday, February 5th, at 4:00 p.m.

Majority Leader Blazejewski and Speaker Shekarchi wish Representative Azzinaro a Happy Birthday!

Speaker Shekarchi announces that, for planning during the week of February Recess, the House will meet on Tuesday, February 10, and Wednesday, February 11, at 4:00 p.m. There will be no session

on Thursday, February 12th. Speaker Shekarchi also announces that, due to the impending snowstorm on Sunday, all members are encouraged to read the newsletter and plan for session on Tuesday.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

House Resolution No. 7402

BY Blazejewski, Chippendale

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES {LC4558/1}

Majority Leader Blazejewski requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Majority Leader Blazejewski, seconded by Minority Leader Chippendale, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

House Resolution No. 7403

BY Blazejewski, Chippendale

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS {LC4557/1}

Majority Leader Blazejewski requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Majority Leader Blazejewski, seconded by Minority Leader Chippendale, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 7404

BY Speakman, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Alzate, Boylan, McGaw, Potter

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING JANUARY 30, 2026, AS "FRED KOREMATSU DAY OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND THE CONSTITUTION" {LC4294/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Speakman and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 7405

BY McNamara, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Kennedy, Tanzi, Shallcross Smith, Bennett, Ajello, Hopkins

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF RAYMOND J. TURBITT {LC4560/1}

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. Speaker Shekarchi extends condolences to the Turbitt Family.

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

House Resolution No. 7406

BY Noret, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Serpa, McEntee, Finkelman, Kennedy, Tanzi, Shallcross Smith

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING JULY OF 2025 AS "FRAGILE X AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC3117/1}

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.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

TRANSMITTAL

By unanimous consent, all matters on the clerk's desk are ordered to be transmitted to His Excellency, the Governor, to the Honorable Senate and the Honorable Secretary of State forthwith.

(For Transmittals to Governor, see Appendix of this Journal.)

DESK HELD OPEN

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi announces that the desk will be held open.

NEW BUSINESS

House Bill No. 7407

(Governor/Attorney General)

BY Baginski, Fogarty, Hull, Cortvriend, Biah, Hopkins, Serpa, Corvese, Fellela, Slater
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THE HOSPITAL CONVERSIONS ACT (Hospital Conversions act amended to authorize AG and DOH to permit expedited review application for hospital insolvency proceedings. Sunsets in one year.) {LC4673/1}
01/29/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7408

(Governor/Attorney General)

BY Abney, Slater, O'Brien, Brien, Shekarchi, Corvese, Blazejewski, Kazarian, Cortvriend, Hull
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MAKING REVISED APPROPRIATIONS IN SUPPORT OF FY 2026 RELATING TO ROGER WILLIAMS MEDICAL CENTER AND OUR LADY OF FATIMA HOSPITAL AND AUTHORIZING THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND TO PROVIDE FINANCING SUPPORT TO ASSIST THE SALE OF THE HOSPITALS TO CHARTERCARE HEALTH OF RHODE ISLAND, INC. {LC4723/1}

01/29/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7409

BY Bennett, Edwards, McNamara, Kazarian, Corvese, Hull, Noret, Shanley, Read, Slater
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES (Prohibits a seller from imposing a surcharge fee on a customer who uses a credit card for a transaction occurring in the state.) {LC4686/1}
01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7410

BY Slater

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- THE RHODE ISLAND CANNABIS ACT (Amends sections of the Rhode Island cannabis act relating to the residency requirements for applicants for issuance of a license or certificate to own a cannabis establishment.) {LC4455/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7411

BY Slater

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- CONDOMINIUM LAW (Requires condominium associations to charge a reduced fee to update a condominium resale certificate after issuance of the initial certificate.) {LC4419/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7412

(by request)

BY Kislak

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- REGULATORY

POWERS OF ADMINISTRATION (Requires a natural gas and electric utility company to read the meters of all ratepayers on a quarterly basis. The utility would be required to provide a formula, used to create estimated bills, to the PUC in order to send estimated bills.) {LC4661/1}
01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7413**BY** Place

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND ECONOMIC GROWTH BLOCKCHAIN ACT (Creates a council to supervise, manage and regulate special depository institutions. The act also allows for the controlled issuance of limited waivers of regulatory requirements for the creators of innovative financial products.) {LC4333/1}
01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7414**(City of Providence)****BY** Slater, O'Brien

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE PAUL W. CROWLEY RHODE ISLAND STUDENT INVESTMENT INITIATIVE (Nullifies the department of elementary and secondary education recommendation that the turnaround plan for Providence public schools be continued.) {LC4254/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7415**BY** Messier, Kislak, Casey, Furtado, Kazarian, Alzate, Sanchez, Serpa, Fogarty, Phillips

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- ESTABLISHMENT OF CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS (This act would bar the council from granting approval to create or expand a charter school beginning operations in 26-27 school year and bars the state from approving or appropriating funds to a new charter school not approved before July 1, 2025.) {LC4443/1}
01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7416**BY** Spears, Kazarian, Stewart, Fogarty, Cotter, Speakman, McEntee, DeSimone, Read, Shanley

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- GUARANTEED ADMISSION FOR EAGLE SCOUT AND GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS (Grants automatic admission to state public institutions for qualified Eagle Scout and Gold award recipients from the Girl Scouts.) {LC4517/1}
01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7417**BY** Kislak, Read, Furtado, Cotter, Cortvriend, Shallcross Smith, Noret, McNamara, Cruz, Casimiro

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE SAVE RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL LIBRARIES ACT (Creates the Save Rhode Island School Libraries Act.) {LC4665/1}
01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7418

BY Hopkins, Brien, Casimiro, Shanley, Perez, Solomon, Nardone, Fascia, Read, Tanzi
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY (Provides for the creation of medical and dental schools at the University of Rhode Island.) {LC3609/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7419

BY Giraldo, Alzate, O'Brien, Cruz
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS (Extends teacher certifications without fee or penalty for three (3) or five (5) years for teachers who hold certifications as of July 1, 2026.) {LC4616/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7420

BY Paplauskas, Hopkins, Brien, Fascia, Santucci, Nardone, Place, Newberry, Chippendale, Roberts
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT (Amends the current law on education to address unfunded mandates.) {LC3269/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7421

BY Paplauskas, Hopkins, Nardone, Fascia, Place, Newberry, Chippendale, Roberts, Noret, Brien
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- STATE AID (Increases transparency provisions and require reporting of the partially funded and unfunded school district costs.) {LC3604/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7422

BY Shanley, Noret, Bennett, Casey, Chippendale, Casimiro, Craven, O'Brien
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THE RHODE ISLAND CLEAN AIR PRESERVATION ACT (Creates "the Rhode Island clean air preservation act.") {LC4132/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

House Bill No. 7423

BY Speakman, Spears, Potter, Cortvriend, Boylan, Carson, McGaw, DeSimone, Cotter, Fogarty
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION (Requires the division of statewide planning coordinate a wastewater capacity study to evaluate the capacity, flows, physical conditions, regulatory compliance and vulnerabilities to natural hazards of publicly/privately owned wastewater infrastructure.) {LC3777/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

House Bill No. 7424

BY Solomon, Casimiro, Casey
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- COLLABORATIVE PHARMACY PRACTICE (Expands the existing law regarding collaborative

practice agreements between pharmacists and physicians to allow other healthcare providers to enter into such agreements and removes the definition of “collaborative practice committee.”) {LC3360/1} 01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7425

BY Casimiro, Alzate, Fellela, DeSimone, Solomon, Cotter, Hopkins, Read, Craven
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- LICENSE OF NATUROPATHY ACT OF 2017 (Changes the naming of doctor of naturopathy to naturopathic doctor.) {LC4408/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7426

BY Hopkins, Tanzi, Casimiro, Brien, Perez, Sanchez, Cotter, Roberts
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- NURSE ANESTHETISTS (Expands the scope of practice for nurse anesthetists with two years' or more experience to remove the requirement of physician supervision.) {LC4092/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7427

BY Hopkins, Brien, Casimiro, Perez, Nardone, Fascia, Read, Chippendale, Place, Paplauskas
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- THE PRIMARY CARE PRESERVATION ACT (Prohibits health insurance companies or other payors from including in physician participation agreements any provisions that restrict or prevent a physician from charging patients reasonable administrative or operational fees to support overhead.) {LC3921/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7428

BY Giraldo, Potter, Cruz, Diaz, Ajello, Speakman, Shallcross Smith, McNamara
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- CERTIFICATION OF CHILDCARE AND YOUTH-SERVING WORKERS AND OPERATORS (Commencing July 1, 2026, this act eliminates the provision of this section that requires new applicants for employment under this section to pay the expense for their criminal background checks.) {LC4612/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7429

BY Bennett, Edwards, McNamara, Casimiro, Kazarian, Hull, Cortvriend, Shanley, Read, Slater
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES -- PHYSICAL THERAPY COPAY (Limits copays, coinsurance or office deductibles for services of a physical therapist to the amount authorized for the services of a primary care physician or osteopath on or after January 1, 2027.) {LC4688/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Resolution No. 7430

BY Stewart, Fogarty, Cotter, Tanzi, Ajello, Carson, Giraldo, Cruz, Speakman, Boylan
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROTECT PATIENTS AND TRADITIONAL MEDICARE FROM MEDICARE ADVANTAGE {LC4548/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7431

BY Casimiro, McEntee, Alzate, Read, Fellela, DeSimone, Cotter, Craven

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- CAUSES OF ACTION (Creates "Harter's Law" to extend the civil statute of limitations, for injuries resulting from first degree child abuse, to thirty-five (35) years and cap civil damages recovery at five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).) {LC4480/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7432

BY Place, Lombardi

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- INDICTMENTS, INFORMATIONS AND COMPLAINTS (Prohibits prosecutions for crimes in Rhode Island if the prosecution arises from the same facts or acts for which the defendant was acquitted in another jurisdiction, unless newly discovered evidence substantially warrants prosecution.) {LC4520/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7433

BY Place, Lombardi

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- SEARCH WARRANTS (Requires law enforcement to obtain consent before placing audio or video recorders on the private property of another.) {LC4521/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7434

BY Giraldo, Kazarian, Fogarty, Speakman, Alzate, Diaz, Stewart, Cruz

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- CONDUCT OF ELECTION AND VOTING EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES (Prohibits ICE employees, agents or officials from being within two hundred feet (200 ft) of any polling place during voting.) {LC4030/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7435

BY Perez, Fellela, Fascia, Roberts, Santucci, Serpa, Azzinaro, Hull, Hopkins, Diaz

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- BORN-ALIVE INFANT PROTECTION ACT (Provides duties/obligations of medical personnel to born-alive infants resulting from an abortion punishable as a felony along with a civil action for compensatory/punitive damages/automatic one year license suspension.) {LC3937/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7436

BY Giraldo, Alzate, Morales, Felix, Batista, Kazarian, Stewart, Potter, Cruz, Sanchez

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DETENTION FOR FEDERAL CIVIL IMMIGRATION VIOLATIONS (Prohibits state and municipal officials or body from entering into and renewing any agreements that will be used to detain individuals for federal civil immigration violations.) {LC4613/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7437

(City of Providence)

BY Slater

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- AUTOMATED TRAFFIC VIOLATION MONETARY SYSTEMS (Extends the sunsetting of the "Don't Block the Box" automated traffic detection systems from January 15, 2027, to January 15, 2030.) {LC4258/1} 01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7438

BY Casimiro, Craven, Solomon, Read

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (Provides that all extended benefits offered by DCYF to foster children shall be extended to children placed in guardianship.)

{LC4608/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7439

BY Alzate, Stewart, Batista, Tanzi, Fogarty, Kislak

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' DUE PROCESS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND TRANSPARENCY ACT -- ICE OUT ACT (Prohibits law enforcement agencies from hiring individuals who was hired as a sworn officer of the US Immigration and Customs enforcement Agency on or after January 20, 2025 and would apply prospectively to an individual hired on or after October 1, 2026.) {LC4602/1} 01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7440

BY Furtado, Kislak, Bennett, Casimiro, Kazarian, Donovan, Alzate, O'Brien, Stewart, Messier

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- EMPLOYMENT SECURITY -- BENEFITS (Allows unemployment benefits for workers who are on strike or are locked out of their workplaces by their employer due to a labor dispute.) {LC4168/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Labor

House Bill No. 7441

BY Bennett, Edwards, McNamara, Corvese, Kazarian, Nardone, Furtado, Cortvriend, Read, Shanley

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MINIMUM WAGES (Effective January 1, 2028, Increases the hourly minimum wage in accordance with the Consumer Price Index for the Northeast Region for the previous four (4) fiscal years.) {LC4687/1} 01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Labor

House Bill No. 7442

BY Shanley, Spears, Batista, Tanzi, Dawson, Craven, McEntee

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- INSPECTION OF PERSONNEL FILES (Expands the obligations of employers to create, maintain and retain their employees' personnel records, it requires that records be retained for at least 3 years after employee's termination. It also increases the financial penalties for each violation.) {LC4127/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Labor

House Bill No. 7443

BY O'Brien, Read, Furtado, Noret, Messier, Azzinaro, Corvese, McNamara, Hull, Biah
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- OPTIONAL RETIREMENT FOR MEMBERS OF POLICE FORCE AND FIREFIGHTERS (Authorizes an annual two and one-half percent (2.5%) escalation for all active and retired police and firefighter's retirement pension allowance, compounded each year on January 1 following the year of retirement and continuing yearly, on that date.) {LC3865/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7444

BY O'Brien, Read, Furtado, Noret, Messier, Azzinaro, Corvese, McNamara, Hull, Biah
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- OPTIONAL RETIREMENT FOR MEMBERS OF POLICE FORCE AND FIREFIGHTERS (Changes the retirement allowance based on accrued benefits.) {LC3866/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7445

BY Speakman, Potter, Morales, Hull, Giraldo, Ajello, Fogarty, Kislak, Corvese, Alzate
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- FAITH-BASED AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ACT (Allows faith-based organizations to develop affordable and mixed-use housing on land they own as a by-right use, set statewide development standards, limit local barriers, and streamline approvals to expand housing supply.) {LC4245/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7446

BY Cotter, McGaw, Fogarty, Edwards, Santucci, Quattrocchi, Chippendale, Casimiro, Newberry, Roberts

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (Eliminates mandated housing densities/density bonuses for public drinking water supply watersheds/groundwater. Requires densities not exceed water availability, introduce pollution, stay within public water or sewer system capacity limits.) {LC4172/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7447

BY Roberts, Chippendale

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING -- PROCEDURE FOR APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION (Restores the requirement that a local review board issue findings for denial in reviewing a comprehensive permit request and clarifies that affordable housing units shall be included in each town and city when the building permits for units are granted.) {LC4630/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7448

BY Perez, Fellela, Fascia, Corvese, Cruz, Serpa, Azzinaro, Hull, Bennett, Sanchez
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (Places a cap of twenty percent (20%) on increases in consecutive revaluations of real property in all cities and towns conducting revaluations commencing December 31, 2026, and every December 31 thereafter.) {LC3935/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7449

BY Paplauskas, Nardone, Fascia, Place, Newberry, Chippendale, Roberts, Brien, Santucci, Hopkins
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY FAIRNESS IN ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES-ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENTS (Requires agencies preparing economic impact statements for small businesses contain findings that the anticipated compliance costs of a proposed rule scale proportionally with the business size, and do not impose fixed costs that favor larger businesses.) {LC3602/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Small Business

House Bill No. 7450

BY Fogarty, Casimiro, Cruz, Tanzi, Alzate, Stewart, Kazarian, Speakman, McEntee, Spears
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- RHODE ISLAND CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES REPORTING (Amends various sections of law relating to campaign contributions and expenditures, including prohibitions on self-dealing with committee funds and prohibits donations made in fictitious names.) {LC4742/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7451

BY Brien, Corvese, Chippendale, Noret, 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.) {LC4728/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7452

BY Craven, DeSimone, Casimiro, O'Brien, Shanley
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION AND TITLING (Permits the implementation of a system of electronic registration and titling of motor vehicles, by the DMV and would require that rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this chapter, would be promulgated by the administrator of the DMV.) {LC4649/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Resolution No. 7453

BY Messier, Kislak, Cruz, Casey, Furtado, Kazarian, Alzate, Sanchez, Serpa, Fogarty
ENTITLED, JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE, PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION -- RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE EDUCATION (Amends the constitution to guarantee Rhode Island residents with equal opportunity to receive an education that is adequate, equitable and meaningful and provides judicial enforcement of this provision.) {LC4444/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7454

BY Giraldo, Alzate, O'Brien, Cruz
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT (Provides that a student's enrollment in Medicaid would be included in calculating and determining the student success factor for use in the foundation education-aid formula.) {LC4617/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7455

BY Furtado, Messier, Kislak, Shallcross Smith, Read, Cortvriend, Casimiro, Donovan, O'Brien, Stewart

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT (Mandates additional state education funding for the mental and behavioral health of students equal to 2% of the district's total expenditures, and require those funds be used to hire staff such as school social workers, and behavioral specialists.) {LC4167/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7456

BY Shallcross Smith, Furtado, Diaz, Fellela, Serpa, Tanzi, Kislak

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT (Mandates public schools (K-12) have one full-time certified social worker for every 250 students and allocates \$2 million in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget for school districts and municipalities to hire additional social workers.) {LC4653/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7457

BY Shallcross Smith, Furtado, Diaz, Serpa, Fellela, Tanzi, Kislak

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (Creates the Rhode Island Student Loan repayment program which would allow eligible individuals who have unpaid student loans, provided said individuals meet specified criteria.) {LC4650/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7458

BY Giraldo, Alzate, O'Brien, Cruz

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- POSTSECONDARY TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR SHORTAGE TEACHING FIELDS (Creates a postsecondary tuition assistance for shortage teaching fields.) {LC4614/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7459

BY Paplauskas, Hopkins, McNamara, Nardone, Fascia, Place, Newberry, Read, Chippendale, Roberts

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT (Allows teachers to retire earlier upon what would be referred to as a Rule of 93, rather than the existing Rule of 95 under present state statutes.) {LC3277/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7460

BY Paplauskas, McNamara, Nardone, Fascia, Place, Newberry, Read, Chippendale, Roberts, Brien

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TRANSPORTATION OF SCHOOL PUPILS BEYOND CITY AND TOWN LIMITS (Provides local agencies with a mechanism to opt-out of statewide transportation upon a showing of a cost-effective alternative to the current fee-for-service model.) {LC3605/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7461

BY Giraldo, Alzate, Cruz

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- STATE AID (Includes municipal detention facility corporations as exempt from taxation, and requires that an amount equal to 27% of all tax that would have been collected if the property was taxable be paid to the municipality annually.) {LC4615/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7462

BY Diaz, Kazarian, Shallcross Smith, Donovan, Cruz, Giraldo, Slater, Tanzi, Casimiro

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE

PROGRAM COPAYMENTS (Codifies child care copayments in law, expand zero copays to families under 125% FPL, lower costs for working families, and cap most copayments at 6% while preserving a 7% statutory maximum.) {LC4488/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7463

BY Shanley, Spears, Batista, Fogarty, Ajello, Craven

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE--

LONG-TERM CARE SERVICE AND FINANCE REFORM (Authorizes the secretary of the executive office of health and human services (EOHHS) to increase resource eligibility limits for persons with long-term care needs who reside at home to \$12,000 for single persons and \$18,000 for couples.) {LC4449/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7464

BY Sanchez

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY (Prohibits RIPTA from using state funds or the proceeds of any bond(s) to pay for any work performed after 8/1/26, pursuant to the “transit center joint development project” RFP and/or pursuant to related the preliminary services agreement.)

{LC4586/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7465

BY Casey, Casimiro, Hull, McEntee, Read, Messier, Serpa, O'Brien, Shanley, Baginski

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND FIRE SERVICES TRAINING FUND ACT (Establishes the Rhode Island Fire Services Training Fund.) {LC4285/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7466

BY Speakman, Spears, Potter, Alzate, Boylan, Knight, Donovan, Cotter, Tanzi, Giraldo

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND INDIVIDUAL MARKET AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2026 (Enacts the RI individual market affordability act of 2026 to establish a program to help reduce out-of-pocket costs for low- and moderate-income consumers enrolled in individual health insurance coverage through the RI health benefits exchange.) {LC4163/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7467

BY McEntee, Spears, Phillips, Casey, Shallcross Smith, Fogarty, Craven, Kennedy, Azzinaro, Cotter

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT (Removes the requirement that 5% of the hotel tax generated from regional tourism districts be paid to the Greater Providence-Warwick Convention and Visitors Bureau, and adds that 5% of the hotel tax to the existing tax paid to the RI commerce corporation.) {LC3369/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7468

(City of Providence)

BY Slater

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- STATE AID (Increases the amount of state aid distributed to the towns and cities through appropriation in lieu of property tax provisions applicable to certain private and state properties that are exempt from property tax.)

{LC4259/1}

01/30/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Chairwoman Donovan, for the Committee on Health, and Human Services, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of passage:

House Resolution No. 7279

BY Carson

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS PERTAINING TO SERVICES AND COORDINATION OF STATE PROGRAMS RELATING TO OLDER ADULT RHODE ISLANDERS (Extends the reporting and expiration dates of Commission to Study And Provide Recommendations on Services and Coordination of State Programs for Older Adults from November 30, 2025, to November 30, 2026, and would expire on January 31, 2027.) {LC3206/1}

01/29/2026 Committee recommends passage

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. 7005

BY Boylan, Knight

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Authorizes the town of Barrington to provide a tax dollar credit reduction for legally blind persons by ordinance.) {LC3126/1}

01/30/2026 Placed on House Calendar (02/03/2026)

House Bill No. 7045

BY Donovan, Speakman

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION - LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (Authorizes the town of Bristol to apply the owner-occupied tax rate for mixed-used properties where the residential portion is owner-occupied.) {LC3159/1}

01/30/2026 Placed on House Calendar (02/03/2026)

House Bill No. 7046

BY Donovan, Speakman

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Exempts from taxation the real and tangible personal property of Blithewold, Inc., located at 101 Ferry Road, Bristol, Rhode Island.) {LC3146/1}

01/30/2026 Placed on House Calendar (02/03/2026)

House Bill No. 7047

BY McGaw, Shallcross Smith

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (Authorizes the town council of Little Compton to establish a homestead exemption for residential dwellings.) {LC3550/1}

01/30/2026 Placed on House Calendar (02/03/2026)

House Bill No. 7151

BY Finkelman

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Authorizes the town of Jamestown to authorize, by ordinance, the expansion of the local tax exemption ordinance for seniors.) {LC3859/1}

01/30/2026 Placed on House Calendar (02/03/2026)

COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS

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

House Bill No. 7007

(Secretary of State)

BY O'Brien, Shanley, Solomon, Dawson, Biah, McEntee, Noret, Read, Azzinaro, Corvese

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS (Entitles disabled and military voters to utilize electronically transmitted ballots.) {LC3125/1}

01/30/2026 Placed on House Calendar (02/05/2026)

House Bill No. 7049

BY Baginski, Paplauskas, Brien

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- PRIMARY ELECTIONS (Requires that the primary election date, statutorily the eighth Tuesday preceding the biennial state elections, shall be held on the Wednesday when Labor Day is the day before said Tuesday. No other filing deadlines would be affected.) {LC3210/1}

01/30/2026 Placed on House Calendar (02/05/2026)

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:36 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative McNamara, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Raymond J. Turbitt, seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Chippendale, the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

**Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk**

APPENDIX

INVOCATION

REPRESENTATIVE TERESA ANN TANZI

Dear Lord, we pray today, and every day, for all those who are less fortunate. Guide us to always remember to put their needs ahead of our own. Give a special blessing to all who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Amen.

APPENDIX

CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026:

1. 2026-H 7005

BY Boylan

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

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

2. 2026-H 7045

BY Donovan

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

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

3. 2026-H 7046

BY Donovan

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

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

4. 2026-H 7047

BY McGaw

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

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

5. 2026-H 7151

BY Finkelman

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

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

6. 2026-H 7279

BY Carson

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATIONS DATES OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS PERTAINING TO SERVICES AND COORDINATION OF STATE PROGRAMS RELATING TO OLDER ADULT RHODE

ISLANDERS

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026:

1. 2026-H 7007

BY O'Brien

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

2. 2026-H 7049

BY Baginski

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

Francis McCabe
Clerk of the House

Friday, January 30, 2026