

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. 9

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Ninth Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, and is called to order at 4:08 o'clock P.M. by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called, and a quorum is declared present with 70 members present and 5 members absent as follows:

PRESENT – 7: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, 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, and Voas.

ABSENT – 5: Representatives Abney, Baginski, Craven, Cruz, and Knight.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi presents Representative Karen Alzate, 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 29, 2026, is approved.

CALENDAR

From the Calendar are taken:

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.

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

Chairman Casey discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 66 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative, as follows:

YEAS - 66: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Batista, Bennett, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Quattrocchi, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

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.

Chairman Casey moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Speakman, Donovan, and Spears.

Chairman Casey discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 69 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

3. 2026-H 7046

BY Donovan

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

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

Chairman Casey moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Donovan, Spears, Speakman, Edwards, and Tanzi.

Chairman Casey discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 68 members voting in the affirmative and 1 member voting in the negative, as follows:

YEAS - 68: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Batista, Bennett, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Roberts, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 1: Representative Newberry.

RECUSED - 0:

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.

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

Chairman Casey discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 69 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

5. **2026-H 7151**

BY Finkelman

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

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

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

Chairman Casey discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 70 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 70: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, 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, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

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.

Chairwoman Donovan moves passage of the resolution seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Speakman, Carson, Potter, and Voas.

Chairwoman Donovan discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 70 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 70: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Fellela, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, 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, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

PROXY VOTES

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces, pursuant to Rule 33(e), authorizing Proxy Votes, he has received a request from Chairman Abney to be recorded in the affirmative for items #1 through #6.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

GUESTS

Representative Carson proudly welcomes the League of Women Voters of Rhode Island Board of Directors, including President Gene Thompson-Grove, Vice President Alicia Anthony, Secretary Maureen Thompson, and Director and President of the South County League, Christine Martone, to the House. Speaker Shekarchi thanks them for their services and welcomes them to the House.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Felix, on behalf of Representatives Giraldo and McGaw, wishes their administrative assistant, Sheri Jackson Burke, a happy birthday.

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

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.

Chairman Casey announces that the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual State House Legislative Reception today, after session, in the State Room. All members are welcome to attend.

Vice-Chairman Slater 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.

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces that the next House session will be held this Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

The American Heart Association's annual National Wear Red Day is scheduled for this Friday, and Majority Leader Blazejewski and Speaker Shekarchi encourage all members to wear red at Thursday's session to raise awareness of women's heart health.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

House Resolution No. 7469

BY Felix, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Lombardi, Alzate, Tanzi, Hull, Stewart, Santucci
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY OF 2026 AS "AMERICAN HEART MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC3500/1}

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. 7470

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Diaz, Edwards, Batista, Kislak, Cruz, Giraldo, Casimiro
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING "NATIONAL WOMEN PHYSICIANS DAY" ON FEBRUARY 3RD OF 2026, IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC3499/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairwoman Diaz discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 7471

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, McNamara, Chippendale, Corvese, Furtado, Fascia, Sanchez, Tanzi, Kennedy

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING "NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK" FROM FEBRUARY 2ND THROUGH FEBRUARY 6TH, 2026, IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC3497/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairman McNamara and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 7472

BY Hull, Stewart, Alzate, Felix, Batista, Morales, Chippendale, Giraldo, Shekarchi, Blazejewski
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY OF 2026, AS "BLACK HISTORY MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC3498/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Deputy Speaker Hull requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Deputy Speaker Hull discusses the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi extends his gratitude to Deputy Speaker Hull for his service to the State of Rhode Island and for chairing the Martin Luther King Commission for many years.

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

House Resolution No. 7473**BY** Blazejewski, Chippendale**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS {LC4767/1}

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. 7474**BY** Blazejewski, Chippendale**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES {LC4768/1}

02/03/2026 House read and passed

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.

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.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING

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

House Bill No. 7223

BY Boylan

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- PERMANENT JOINT COMMITTEE ON NAMING ALL NEW BUILDINGS, BRIDGES, EDIFICES AND OTHER STATE CONSTRUCTIONS (Names the new coveside dog park, located at Haines Memorial State Park in Barrington "The Christine Conrad Lane Memorial Dog Park.") {LC4376/1}
02/03/2026 Placed on House Calendar (02/05/2026)

NEW BUSINESS

House Bill No. 7475

(General Treasurer)

BY Shanley

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCE -- RHODE ISLAND SECURE CHOICE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PROGRAM ACT (Makes several technical amendments to the Rhode Island secure choice retirement savings program act necessary for continued administration and inter-state partnership.) {LC4644/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7476

BY Shallcross Smith, Fogarty, Bennett, Azzinaro, Marszalkowski, DeSimone, McGaw

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT RIGHT TO REPAIR ACT (Provides that original equipment manufacturers, implemented by/with surrogate distributors, of agricultural equipment, provide to independent service providers repair information and tools to maintain and repair electronics-enabled agricultural equipment.) {LC4801/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7477

BY Voas, Chippendale

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CORPORATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS -- UNIFORM PARTNERSHIP ACT -- THE RHODE ISLAND LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY ACT (Replaces the existing limited liability company act with a newer and updated model act.) {LC4088/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7478

BY Hull, Azzinaro, Lombardi, Biah, Slater, Fogarty, Fellela, Santucci

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- HOMEOWNER CASUALTY INSURANCE BILL OF RIGHTS (Creates a homeowner casualty bill of rights.) {LC4091/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7479

BY Brien, Corvese, Santucci, Hopkins, DeSimone

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGULATION OF BUSINESS PRACTICES AMONG MOTOR VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS, DISTRIBUTORS, AND DEALERS (Extends certain protocols applicable to vehicle manufacturers to their distributors and factory branches, updates definitions relative to common entities and sales.) {LC4739/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7480

BY Carson

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE CHILDREN'S CARDIAC SAFETY ACT (Establishes "The Children's Cardiac Safety Act", and provide for childhood cardiac screening based on modules that incorporate current best practices.) {LC3207/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7481

BY Fogarty, Cortvriend, Alzate, Boylan, Carson, Shallcross Smith, Spears, Kazarian, Handy, Hull

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS (Requires the department of elementary and secondary education and DOH to adopt policies, rules and regulations for the administration of seizure rescue medications for children who have been medically identified as having epilepsy/seizure disorder.) {LC4743/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7482

BY Voas, Potter, O'Brien, Slater

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND SUPERINTENDENTS (Provides that the school year for all public schools, including traditional public and public charter schools, independent charter schools, and mayoral academies, would start on the same date of each calendar year.) {LC4272/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Resolution No. 7483

BY Messier, Furtado, Alzate, Kazarian, Stewart

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ANTI-LITTERING EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS (Extends the reporting and expiration dates of the commission to study an anti-littering education program for RI public elementary school students from February 2, 2026, to February 2, 2027, and would expire on April 2, 2027.) {LC4679/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7484

(by request)

BY Carson

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- BUILDINGS CARBON EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT (Requires large developments, those to be constructed on a parcel of land that is greater than 50,000 square feet in size provide carbon impact reports as part of the permitting process prior to approval and issuance of a building permit.) {LC3214/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

House Bill No. 7485

BY Spears, McEntee, Cotter, Donovan, Azzinaro, Kennedy, Casey, Slater, Kazarian, Casimiro **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (Provides coverage and increases individual and group insurance rates of reimbursement for ambulance services.) {LC4515/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7486

BY Fogarty, Kazarian, Boylan, Alzate, Handy, Hull, Bennett, Speakman, Casimiro, Hopkins **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PRIMARY CARE TRAINING SITES PROGRAM (Allows the office of health insurance commissioner (OHIC) as the state agency that has the authority to designate patient-centered medical home (PCMH) care to obtain maximal health outcomes.) {LC4886/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7487

BY Bennett, McEntee, Corvese, Shanley, Speakman, McGaw, Kislak, Shallcross Smith, Edwards, Morales

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- DOGS (Increases penalties for a second or subsequent offense with a fine of not less than \$500 or no more than tow thousand \$2,500 and up to 2 years imprisonment, for violating the law on the care of dogs.) {LC4808/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7488

BY Potter, Donovan, Slater, Speakman, Kislak, Serpa

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- ABUSE IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES (Removes the intent requirement relative to the definitions of "abuse" within the chapter on "abuse in healthcare facilities" and amends the definitions of "abuse" and "neglect" with regard to elderly affairs by deleting the element of willful conduct.) {LC4603/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7489

(Attorney General)

BY Noret, Read, Serpa, Hull, Dawson, Craven, Santucci, Corvese, Paplauskas, Shanley
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES (Requires persons convicted of driving under influence or refusal to submit to chemical test, have an ignition interlock system installed in vehicle as part of sentence and to pay an assessment to pay for the interlock systems.) {LC3893/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7490

BY Potter, Bennett, Read, Shanley, Edwards, Messier, Furtado, Giraldo
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MINIMUM WAGES--OVERTIME (Requires small employers with one to fifty (1-50) employees and large employers with fifty (50) or more employees to pay overtime wages to exempt workers if their salary exceeds varying multipliers of minimum wage for a forty (40) hour workweek.) {LC4604/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Labor

House Bill No. 7491

(Providence)

BY Kislak, Lombardi, Hull, Slater, DeSimone, Ajello, Sanchez, Lima, Perez, Diaz
ENTITLED, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE TO ISSUE NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES TO FUND THE PROVIDENCE HOUSING TRUST FUND TO FINANCE AFFORDABLE MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING PROJECTS IN THE CITY (Authorizes the city of Providence to issue not more than \$25,000,000 in general obligation bonds and notes to fund the providence housing trust fund to finance affordable multi-family housing projects in the city.) {LC4701/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7492

BY Edwards, Bennett, Casimiro, Potter

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWN AND CITIES -- LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING -- COMPREHENSIVE PERMIT PROJECTS IN TIVERTON (Provides that comprehensive permit projects in Tiverton, involving property not connected to either public water or sewer or both, and for which the property is considered hydric said land be excluded from the building land calculation.) {LC4119/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7493

BY McEntee, Caldwell, Shallcross Smith, Voas, Cortvriend, Cotter, McGaw, DeSimone, Speakman, Carson

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- MANUFACTURING AND WHOLESALE LICENSES (Allows a brewery to sell, deliver, and distribute its own malt beverages directly to retailers without using a wholesaler. The holder of a license for a brewery may also have 1 additional location for the retail sale of alcohol.) {LC4764/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Small Business

House Bill No. 7494

(Board of Elections)

BY Shanley, Dawson, Kennedy, Brien, Kazarian, Casimiro, Solomon

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS (Requires the board of elections to establish a secure area for the public observation of mail ballot processing and require the mail ballot voter's signature be compared to the signature on file within the state central voter registration system.) {LC4580/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7495

BY Boylan, Tanzi, Baginski, Kazarian, Ajello, Stewart, McGaw, Dawson, Messier, Furtado

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- SAFEGUARDING ELECTION CANDIDATES USING REASONABLE EXPENDITURES ACT (Authorizes the use of campaign funds for security related expenses, including home and office security systems and ongoing monitoring, in response to threats arising from their public service or candidacy.) {LC4553/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7496

BY Carson

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE SERVICES (Advances the interests of older Rhode Islanders by adding a representative of an aging adult organization to the state planning council and a permanent committee on aging to the state planning council.) {LC4507/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7497

BY Ackerman, McNamara, Edwards, Kazarian, Finkelman, Kennedy, Dawson, Chippendale, Shekarchi

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES (Provides a definition for antisemitism to be used by state agencies to evaluate whether discrimination is present.) {LC4410/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7498

BY Fogarty, Casimiro, Boylan, Carson, Shallcross Smith, Spears, Kazarian, Handy, Alzate, Hull

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' AND CHAUFFEURS' LICENSES (Authorizes driver education schools to offer the driver training curriculum in a classroom setting or an instructor-led virtual format.) {LC4745/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7499

BY Stewart, Cotter, Cruz, Speakman, Boylan, Kislak, Kazarian, Alzate, Messier, Potter

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY AND PERFORMANCE AUDIT ACT (Requires that an independent efficiency and performance audit of the department of transportation be commissioned by the department of administration.) {LC4547/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7500

BY Shanley, Bennett, Voas, Stewart, Casimiro

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT (Changes the teacher and state employees' retirement benefit calculations' cutoff date from July 1, 2024, to July 1, 2009, for all retirement members eligible to and who retire on or after the new July 1, 2009, cutoff date.) {LC4876/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7501

BY Shallcross Smith, Fogarty, Slater, Bennett, Azzinaro, DeSimone

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES IN OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME (Provides \$100,000 to support the mental health and emotional well-being of children in OST settings.) {LC4660/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7502

BY Shallcross Smith, Nardone, Slater, Bennett, Azzinaro, DeSimone

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HIGHWAYS -- SIDEWALKS (Requires that all maintenance of sidewalks along state highways, with the exception of snow and ice removal, be the responsibility of the state.) {LC4823/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7503

BY Fogarty, Carson, McGaw, Boylan, Shallcross Smith, Casimiro, Edwards, Donovan, Tanzi, Kazarian

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THE MEDICAL PRIMARY CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (Establishes the medical primary care scholarship program to be administered by the commissioner of postsecondary education.) {LC4402/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7504

BY Kennedy, Azzinaro, Fogarty, Tanzi, Carson, Cortvriend, Speakman, Craven, McEntee, Edwards

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- CATASTROPHE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS ACT (Establishes the catastrophe savings account act.) {LC4493/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7505

BY Stewart, Cotter, Tanzi, Ajello, Carson, Cruz, Speakman, Boylan, Kislak, Potter

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- RHODE ISLAND NEW QUALIFIED JOBS INCENTIVE ACT 2015 (Sunsets/discontinues the Jobs Development Act rate reduction as of July 1, 2026.) {LC4588/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7506

BY Boylan, McGaw, Cortvriend, Speakman, Tanzi, Carson, Alzate, Biah, Potter
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (Exempts from the sales tax behind-the-meter batteries interconnected with a solar photovoltaic system.) {LC4082/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7507

BY Corvese, McNamara, Brien, Azzinaro, DeSimone, Read, Bennett, Noret, Fascia, Slater
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- JUDGMENTS, ORDERS, AND DECREES (Requires that notice of a judgment lien be sent within ten (10) business days of the recording of the lien.) {LC4806/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7508

BY Casimiro, Fogarty, McGaw, Tanzi, Boylan, Cortvriend, Kislak, Lombardi, Alzate, Stewart
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- EXPUNGEMENT OF CRIMINAL RECORDS -- THE RHODE ISLAND CLEAN SLATE ACT (Authorizes the automatic expungement of eligible conviction records by operation of law, initiated and completed by state agencies through electronic processes established within the judicial system.) {LC4746/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7509

BY Carson

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION ACT OF 2015 (Amends the Identity Theft Protection Act by eliminating current definitions and establishing new definitions. This act also raises the penalty provisions for violations.) {LC4505/1}

02/04/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:37 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Casimiro, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Patrick J. Costello; on motion of Representative Fogarty, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of John "Mr. Check" Chakuroff; and Richard A. Zegas on motion of seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Chippendale the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

**Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk**

APPENDIX

INVOCATION

REPRESENTATIVE KAREN ALZATE

Dear God, as we begin Black History Month, help us to value and honor African American contributions to our country. Often ignored or discounted, Black history is American history. When we fully understand their sacrifices and contributions to America, we will be better able to appreciate the diversity that has so blessed this country. Amen.

APPENDIX

CALENDAR

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.

3. 2026-H 7223

BY Boylan

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- PERMANENT JOINT COMMITTEE ON NAMING ALL NEW BUILDINGS, BRIDGES, EDIFICES AND OTHER STATE CONSTRUCTIONS

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

Francis McCabe
Clerk of the House

Friday, January 30, 2026

Updated: Tuesday, February 3, 2026