

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. 21

Thursday, March 26, 2026

Twenty-First Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence on Thursday, March 26, 2026, and is called to order at 4:15 o'clock P.M. by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called, and a quorum is declared present with 69 members present and 6 members absent as follows:

PRESENT – 69: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, and Voas.

ABSENT – 6: Representatives Ackerman, Batista, Fellela, Hopkins, Paplauskas, and Roberts.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker, Shekarchi, presents Representative Robert D. Phillips, 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 Tuesday, March 24, 2026, is approved.

RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY



House of Representatives

CO-SPONSORSHIP REMOVAL REQUEST
2026

Pursuant to House Rule 15(g)(ii) Representative OBrien
hereby requests the removal of their co-sponsorship of 2026 – H - 7805
entitled: An Act Relating to Taxation—Personal Income Tax
which is currently in the House Committee on Finance

Signature: William O'Brien
Representative

House District# 54

Date: 3-26-26

Acknowledgement:
[Signature]
Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker

*NOTE: This request must be submitted to the Clerk of the House, who shall retain the original.
A copy shall be delivered to the Recording Clerk
A copy shall be delivered to Legislative Data, and a copy shall be placed in the committee's original bill file.*

RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY



House of Representatives

CO-SPONSORSHIP REMOVAL REQUEST
2026

Pursuant to House Rule 15(g)(ii) Representative Edwards
hereby requests the removal of their co-sponsorship of 2026 - H - 7805
entitled: An Act Relating to Taxation—Personal Income Tax
which is currently in the House Committee on Finance

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]
Representative

House District# 70

Date: _____

Acknowledgement:
[Handwritten Signature]
Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker

*NOTE: This request must be submitted to the Clerk of the House, who shall retain the original.
A copy shall be delivered to the Recording Clerk
A copy shall be delivered to Legislative Data, and a copy shall be placed in the committee's
original bill file.*

RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY



House of Representatives

CO-SPONSORSHIP REMOVAL REQUEST
2026

Pursuant to House Rule 15(g)(ii) Representative Bennett
hereby requests the removal of their co-sponsorship of 2026 – H - 7805
entitled: An Act Relating to Taxation—Personal Income Tax
which is currently in the House Committee on Finance

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]
Representative

House District# 20

Date: 3/26/26

Acknowledgement:
[Handwritten Signature]
Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker

*NOTE: This request must be submitted to the Clerk of the House, who shall retain the original.
A copy shall be delivered to the Recording Clerk
A copy shall be delivered to Legislative Data, and a copy shall be placed in the committee's original bill file.*

COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Deborah A. Fellela is unable to attend session today, Thursday, March 26, 2026.
Representative José F. Batista is unable to attend session today, Thursday, March 26, 2026.

CALENDAR

From the Calendar are taken:

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026:**1. 2026-H 7634**

BY Bennett

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE,
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS -- MENTAL HEALTH LAW

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

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

Chairwoman McEntee 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, Baginski, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

2. 2026-H 7923

BY Dawson

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- UNIFORM
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Chairwoman Donovan moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski and Representative Giraldo.

Chairwoman Donovan discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, YEAS - 70: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

3. 2026-H 7050

BY Shanley

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- PARKING FACILITIES AND PRIVILEGES

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

Chairman Shanley moves passage of the act, seconded by Representatives Abney, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cortvriend, Corvese, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Morales, O'Brien, Phillips, Potter, Read, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Slater, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Voas.

Chairman Shanley discusses the act.

GUESTS

Representative Shanley warmly welcomes to the House Chamber Real Access Motivates Progress (RAMP) CEO and Founder, Tina Guenette, along with Board Members Phanida Phivilay-Rudolph and Kerri Cassino. They are here today to support House Bill 7050, An Act Relating to Motor Vehicles and Parking Facilities and Privileges, which will be voted on today on the House floor.

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, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

4. 2026-H 7135 SUB A

BY Read

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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

Chairman Shanley moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Brien, Corvese, Potter, Casey, Bennett, Azzinarro, Cortvriend, Reed, Speakman, Spears, Cotter, and Majority Whip Kazarian.

Chairman Shanley discusses the act.

The bill marked Substitute "A" is read and passed, and the original bill indefinitely postponed, 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, Azzinarro, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

5. 2026-S 2328

BY Lauria

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 in concurrence.

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

Chairman Casey discusses the act.

Read and passed, in concurrence, 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, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

6. 2026-S 2341 SUB A
BY LaMountain
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS

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

Chairman Shanley moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Tanzi, Ajello, Cortvriend, Spears, Carson, Biah, Speakman, Fogarty, Lombardi, McEntee, O'Brien, Corvese, Phillips, Diaz, and Deputy Speaker Hull.

Chairman Shanley discusses the act.

The bill marked Substitute "A" is read and passed, in concurrence, and the original bill indefinitely postponed, on a roll call vote, 62 members voting in the affirmative and 7 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 62: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Potter, Read, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Voas.

NAYS - 7: Representatives Chippendale, Fascia, Nardone, Newberry, Place, Quattrocchi, Santucci.

RECUSED - 0:

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

NOW PRESIDING

At 4:30 o'clock P.M., the Honorable Speaker Shekarchi yields the rostrum to the Honorable Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

GUESTS

Representative Tanzi, a University of Rhode Island alumnus, proudly welcomes to the House Chamber University of Rhode Island President Marc Parlange, new URI Athletic Director Pat Lyons, Legendary Football Coach Jim Fleming, and Men's Basketball Coach Archie Miller, in recognition of University of Rhode Island Day to showcase the University's statewide impact and role as Rhode Island's flagship university. Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy congratulates them and welcomes them to the House.

Representatives Brien and Cruz warmly welcome the distinguished guests gathered here in the House Chamber to celebrate International Francophone Day. This day holds special importance as we honor the linguistic diversity central to our national identity and recognize the significant influence of the French language, which unites communities around the world. The honored guests include Roger Begin, Honorary Consul of France to Rhode Island and former Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor; Mustafa Soyfurt, Consul General of France in Boston; Rene Sylvestre, Delegate of Quebec in Boston; Josie Cimini, Canada Senior Consular Officer; Dr. C. Morgan Grefe, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Historical Society; and Anne Conway, Director of the Museum of Work & Culture in Woonsocket. Their presence here today highlights the strong cultural ties and shared dedication to the heritage of the Francophone community. We look forward to an inspiring celebration of language, culture, and history.

ADDRESS

Mustafa Soyfurt, Consul General of France in Boston, addresses the members in recognition of Francophone Day.

Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy recognizes former Lieutenant Governor Roger Begin and extends a warm welcome to all our distinguished guests.

GUESTS

Representative Morales proudly welcomes Local Providence Artists, Rafael Medina, Sydney Darrow, Jasmine Alves, and Aiyah Josiah-Faeduwor, to the House. They are here today to be recognized for their creative contributions to the "Black Love PVD" exhibit at Providence Place Mall. Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy welcomes them to the House.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-Chairman Slater announces that the Finance Subcommittee on Education will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 35 of the State House.

Chairman Solomon announces that the Committee on Corporations will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 135 of the State House.

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

PROXY VOTES

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces that the next House session will be held Tuesday, March 31, 2026, and Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. Some committee meetings will be scheduled for Monday, March 30th, because Wednesday, April 1st, marks the first night of Passover observance in the Jewish tradition. Stay tuned for Speaker Shekarchi's Newsletter tomorrow for more details about next week's committee meetings.

Majority Leader Blazejewski and Speaker Pro Tempore wish Representative DeSimone a happy birthday.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**House Resolution No. 8356**

BY Speakman, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Boylan, Donovan, Kennedy, Tanzi, Solomon, Ajello

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION DECLARING MARCH 27, 2026, TO BE "GOOD FOOD POLICY DAY" IN RHODE ISLAND {LC4441/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Speakman discusses 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. 8357

BY Phillips, Casey, Brien, Cruz, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Kennedy, Tanzi, Solomon
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING LA FRANCOPHONIE FLAG RAISING CEREMONY AT THE RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE ON THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026 {LC4518/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Phillips discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 8358

BY McEntee, Fogarty, Tanzi, Craven, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Chippendale, Paplauskas, Hull

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 2026 ATLANTIC 10 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT AND EARNING A BERTH IN THE 2026 NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT {LC6096/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairwoman McEntee and Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy discuss the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 8359

BY Fogarty, McEntee, Tanzi, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Cotter, Carson, Caldwell, McGaw, Chippendale

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING "URI DAY" AT THE RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE ON MARCH 26, 2026 {LC4522/1}

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.

RULE 7D

The following bills were received pursuant to Rule 7D:

Representative Corvese- An Act relating to Motor Vehicles Offence

Representative Fogarty-An Act relating to the University of Rhode Island

Representative McNamara-An Act relating to Accident-Sickness Insurance

Representative Spears-An Act relating to the Rhode Island Prescription Drug Purchasing Pool Act.

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 TRANSFER OF BILLS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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

House Bill No. 8310

BY Place, Hopkins, Santucci, Kislak, McNamara, Cotter, Shanley, Stewart, Noret, Knight
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS
INSURANCE POLICIES -- HEALTHCARE PROVIDER CREDENTIALING (Amends the
timelines related to healthcare provider credentialing.) {LC6085/1}

03/26/2026 Committee transferred to House Corporations

COMMITTEE ON CORPORATIONS

Chairman Solomon, for the Committee on Corporations, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of transfer to the Committee on State Government & Elections:

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}

03/27/2026 Committee transferred to House State Government & Elections

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

House Bill No. 7064

BY Shallcross Smith, Bennett, Fogarty, McNamara, Perez, Carson, Casimiro, Azzinaro, Donovan, Fellela

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS -- MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS (Changes the direct client contact hour requirements for applicants for licensure of marriage and family therapist associate and applicants for licensure of marriage and family therapist.) {LC3825/1}

03/27/2026 Placed on House Calendar (03/31/2026)

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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

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}

03/27/2026 Placed on House Calendar (04/02/2026)

House Bill No. 7733

BY Cotter, Roberts, Kazarian, Tanzi

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO THE EXETER -- WEST GREENWICH SCHOOL DISTRICT (Amends chapter 80 of the public laws of 1965 with respect to the composition of the regional district school building committee, apportionment of construction and operating costs and amendments to the agreement.) {LC5137/1}

03/27/2026 Placed on House Calendar (04/02/2026)

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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

House Bill No. 7738

BY Cortvriend, McGaw, Speakman, Boylan, Spears

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- STATE BUILDING CODE

(Establishes a moratorium on changes to the state energy conservation code from the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code until January 1, 2031, unless approved by the legislature and made effective by the governor.) {LC3193/1}

03/27/2026 Placed on House Calendar (04/02/2026)

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. 7227

BY Lombardi, Hull, Sanchez

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

(Allows for the issuance of a Class B liquor license for the property located at 150 Broadway in the city of Providence.) {LC4393/1}

03/27/2026 Placed on House Calendar (03/31/2026)

House Bill No. 7568

BY Noret, Cortvriend, Shallcross Smith, Nardone, Place, Speakman, Costantino, Read, Solomon, Santucci

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (Allows the waiver of interest on overdue taxes for commercial properties.) {LC3888/1}

03/27/2026 Placed on House Calendar (03/31/2026)

Senate Bill No. 2037

BY Lauria

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.) {LC3418/1}

03/27/2026 Placed on the House Consent Calendar (04/02/2026)

Senate Bill No. 2040

BY Ujifusa, Felag, Lauria

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.) {LC3488/1}

03/27/2026 Placed on the House Consent Calendar (04/02/2026)

Senate Bill No. 2041**BY** DiPalma**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.) {LC3740/1}

03/27/2026 Placed on the House Consent Calendar (04/02/2026)

NEW BUSINESS**House Bill No. 8360**

(Attorney General)

BY Ackerman, Donovan, McNamara, Fellela, Edwards, Slater, Potter, Newberry, Corvese
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES (Provides that certain actions taken by pharmacy benefits managers are deceptive or unfair trade practices.) {LC6206/1}

03/27/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 8361**BY** Craven, Dawson, DeSimone, O'Brien**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- RHODE ISLAND TOWING INDUSTRY MODERNIZATION AND REGULATORY EQUITY ACT (Establishes the Rhode Island towing advisory board, to provide advice to the DPUC regarding the DPUC's regulation of tow truck operators.) {LC6121/1}

03/27/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 8362**BY** Casimiro, Kazarian, Potter, McEntee, Speakman, Donovan, Cruz, Hopkins, Craven, Caldwell
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM -- FOSTER CARE YOUTH ACADEMIC REPORTS (Expands foster care academic youth reports to include information regarding 504 eligibility, graduation progress and surrogate parents. The act would require implementation of additional strategies to improve performance and additional progress reports.) {LC6183/1}

03/27/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 8363**BY** DeSimone**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES (Authorizes municipalities, through ordinance, to require private real property owners to obtain a license to operate a dwelling unit as student housing.) {LC6196/1}

03/27/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 8364

(Attorney General)

BY Donovan, Speakman, Boylan, Spears, Kislak, Fogarty, Knight, Diaz, Potter

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THE HOSPITAL

CONVERSIONS ACT (Authorizes the Superior Court to place a hospital into receivership upon action by the attorney general or department of health when a hospital is mismanaged, financially distressed, acting illegally, or endangering patient health and safety.) {LC6203/1}

03/27/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 8365

BY Fogarty, Handy, Bennett, Donovan, Spears, Cotter, Carson, Speakman, McGaw, Craven

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH COLLABORATION (Authorizes the department of health to participate in international public-health collaboration networks.) {LC6207/1}

03/27/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 8366

BY Fascia, Corvese

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS REQUIRED AT PUBLIC PLACES AND HEALTHCARE FACILITIES (Adds centers for independent living pursuant to § 42-12.2-2 to the healthcare facilities required to have automated external defibrillators on site.) {LC6077/1}

03/27/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 8367

BY Donovan, Kislak, Fogarty, Boylan, Potter, Giraldo, Furtado, Tanzi, Shallcross Smith, Ajello

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS

INSURANCE POLICIES (Requires healthcare insurers, without prior authorization, to provide post-acute care services to patients discharged from a hospital for a minimum of seven (7) days commencing on or after January 1, 2027.) {LC6194/1}

03/27/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 8368

(by request)

BY Kennedy, Cotter, Azzinaro

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- GENERAL POWERS -- TOWN OF HOPKINTON MUNICIPAL COURT (Grants the town council of the town of Hopkinton the authority to confer jurisdiction to the municipal court to hear and determine appeals from decisions of the Chief of Police related to the return of seized firearms.) {LC3510/1}

03/27/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 8369

BY Furtado, Messier, Donovan, Alzate, Tanzi, Cruz, Stewart, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Cortvriend

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- INSPECTION OF MOTOR VEHICLES (Increases and reallocates the fees collected for motor vehicle inspections, including motorcycle inspections, with an allocation of ten dollars (\$10.00) to the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA).) {LC6217/1}

03/27/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 8370

BY O'Brien

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- CIGARETTE, OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS, AND ELECTRONIC NICOTINE-DELIVERY SYSTEMS PRODUCTS (Defines "electronic nicotine-delivery system shop" and requires that ten percent (10%) of sales revenue from said shops be transferred to the tobacco cessation programs pursuant to § 27-20-53.)
{LC6208/1}03/27/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:56 o'clock P.M., on motion of Majority Leader Blazejewski, seconded by Minority Leader Chippendale, the House adjourns, on a unanimous voice vote.

Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX

INVOCATION

REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT D. PHILLIPS

Dear Lord: Today, we recognize the many contributions of the French people to our country. As a friend and ally, France has stood with America since our revolution. The French culture is an essential part of the fabric of Rhode Island. Let us acknowledge and honor their contributions to our State and Nation and pray that we continue our long history of friendship. Amen.

APPENDIX

TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR

Senate Bill No. 2328

BY Lauria

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.") {LC4377/1}

03/26/2026 Transmitted to Governor

Senate Bill No. 2341 SUB A

(Secretary of State)

BY LaMountain

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS (Allows eligible disabled and military voters to continue to utilize electronically transmitted ballots as originally enacted in 2022.) {LC3679/A/1}

03/26/2026 Transmitted to Governor

APPENDIX

CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026:

1. **2026-H 7568**
BY Noret
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

2. **2026-H 7227**
BY J. Lombardi
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

3. **2026-H 7064**
BY Shallcross Smith
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS -- MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

Committee on Corporations recommends passage.

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026:

1. **2026-H 7733**
BY Cotter
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO THE EXETER -- WEST GREENWICH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committee on Education recommends passage.

2. **2026-H 7738**
BY Cortvriend
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- STATE BUILDING CODE

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources recommends passage.

3. **2026-H 7483**

BY Messier

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

Committee on Education recommends passage.

APPENDIX

CONSENT CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026:

1. 2026-S 2037

BY Lauria

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

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage in concurrence.

2. 2026-S 2040

BY Ujifusa

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

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage in concurrence.

3. 2026-S 2041

BY DiPalma

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

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage in concurrence.