

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 fifth day of January in the year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty-one.

Volume 148, No. 11

Thursday, March 4, 2021

Eleventh Day

The House of Representatives meets at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Providence, Thursday, March 4, 2021, and is called to order at 4:02 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, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Barros, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Craven, Diaz, Donovan, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Filippi, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hawkins, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Lima C., Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McLaughlin, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Speakman, Tanzi, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson and Williams.

ABSENT – 12: Representatives Batista, Costantino, Edwards, Knight, S. Lima, Lombardi, Noret, Price, Quattrocchi, Ranglin-Vassell, Roberts, Solomon

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents Representative 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 2, 2021, is approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Costantino is unable to attend session today, Thursday, March 4, 2021.
Representative Edwards is unable to attend session today, Thursday, March 4, 2021.
Representative Noret is unable to attend session today, Thursday, March 4, 2021.
Representative Solomon is unable to attend session today, Thursday, March 4, 2021.

CALENDAR

From the Calendar are taken:

- 1. 2021-H 5105 SUB A**
BY Baginski
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES - RETAIL LICENSES

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

Representative O'Brien moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Amore, Phillips, Craven, Caldwell, Hawkins, Potter, Henries, Abney, Morales, Ruggiero, Vella Wilkinson, Fogarty, Shallcross Smith, Bennett, Deputy Whip Ackerman, Hull, Tanzi, McNamara, Giraldo, Minority Leader Filippi, Felix, Baginski, Place, Alzate, Whip Kazarian, Fenton-Fung, Biah, and Azzinaro.

ANNOUNCEMENT**PROXY VOTES**

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces pursuant to rule 47B authorizing Proxy Votes he has 6 to be recorded in the affirmative Representatives Costantino, Edwards, Knight, Lima S., Lombardi, and Noret.

Minority Leader Filippi announces pursuant to rule 47B authorizing Proxy Votes he has 3 to be recorded in the affirmative Representative Price, Roberts, and Quattrocchi.

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, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Craven, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Filippi, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hawkins, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima C, Lima S, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Price, Quattrocchi, Roberts, Ruggiero, Serpa, ShallcrossSmith, Shanley, Speakman, Tanzi, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson, Williams.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

3. 2021-H 5217

BY Nardone

ENTITLED, AN ACT VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF COVENTRY

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

Chairman Hull moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Phillips, Abney, Bennett, Diaz, Hull, Azzinaro, and Nardone.

ANNOUNCEMENT

PROXY VOTES

Minority Leader Filippi announces pursuant to rule 47B authorizing Proxy Votes he has 3 to be recorded in the affirmative Representative Price, Roberts, and Quattrocchi.

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces pursuant to rule 47B authorizing Proxy Votes he has 7 to be recorded in the affirmative Representatives Costantino, Edwards, Knight, Lima S., Lombardi, Noret, and Solomon.

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

YEAS - 72: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Craven, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Filippi, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hawkins, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima C, Lima S, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McLaughlin, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Price, Quattrocchi, Roberts, Ruggiero, Serpa, ShallcrossSmith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tanzi, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson, Williams.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

2. 2021-H 5075

BY McNamara

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- DENTISTS AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Representative Donovan moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Carson, Speakman, Vella-Wilkinson, Biah, Abney, O'Brien, Ruggiero, Azzinaro, Cortvriend, Ajello, Bennett, Corvese, Deputy Whip Ackerman, Hull, McEntee, Casimiro, Whip Kazarian, and McNamara.

ANNOUNCEMENT**PROXY VOTES**

Minority Leader Filippi announces pursuant to rule 47B authorizing Proxy Votes he has 3 to be recorded in the affirmative Representative Price, Roberts, and Quattrocchi.

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces pursuant to rule 47B authorizing Proxy Votes he has 8 to be recorded in the affirmative Representatives Costantino, Edwards, Knight, Lima S., Lombardi, Noret, Ranglin- Vassell and Solomon.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 73 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 73: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Craven, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Filippi, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hawkins, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima C, Lima S, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McLaughlin, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Price, Quattrocchi, Ranglin-Vassell, Roberts, Ruggiero, Serpa, ShallcrossSmith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tanzi, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson, Williams.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

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.

Representative Fellela wishes her granddaughter Mia Fellela a happy 2nd birthday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Cassar announces in honor of Black History Month and Women's History Month she would like to recognize Matilda Sissieretta Joyner Jones for becoming the first African American woman to headline a concert on the main stage at Carnegie Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Phillips announces that the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources will meet today, at the rise of the House, at 6:30 P.M. in the House Lounge of the State House.

Representative Williams announces in the spirit of Black History celebration she recognizes Notable Black Inventors and Their Inventions.

Chairman Hull announces that the Committee on Municipal Government and Housing will meet today, at the rise of the House, in the House Lounge of the State House.

Majority Leader Blazewski announces we will next be **meeting next Tuesday, March 9th**, at 4 p.m. here at the Vets.

For your planning purposes, our only House session next week will be on Tuesday. **On Thursday, March 11th, instead of session, we will be holding House Sexual Harassment Training at 4 p.m. on WebEx.** The link to that training will be sent to you early next week. Speaker Shekarchi and I strongly recommend all members attend this most important training that will be conducted by Rep. Camille Vella-Wilkinson, the chair of our House Conduct Committee, and Tina Christy, the senior compliance officer of the Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights. We will hold committee hearings after the training session.

Also, Speaker Shekarchi and I would like to recommend that if you are attending committee hearings at the Rise in the State House, that you **move your cars from the parking lot here at the Vets to the LOWER legislative parking lot at the State House – the upper lot is for assigned parking spots only.** Some of the committees end late and we want to ensure your safety when leaving the State House.

Majority Leader Blazewski wishes Representative Kislak a happy birthday.

RULE 7D

The following bill was received pursuant to Rule 7D:

Representative Casimiro-An Act relating to State Affairs and Government

Representative Amore-An Act relating to Student Transportation

Representative Lima C.-An Act relating to Deceptive Trade

Representative McEntee - An Act relating to Towns and Cities - Zoning Ordinances

Representative McLaughlin-An Act relating to Public Officers and Employees- Retirement Sysytem - Membership and Services Credits.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

NEW BUSINESS

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

House Resolution No. 6105

BY Kazarian, Alzate, Casimiro, O'Brien, Morales, Filippi, Ruggiero, Blazewski, Tanzi, Ajello

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MARCH OF 2021 TO BE "SOCIAL WORKER APPRECIATION MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2299/1}

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

There is no objection.

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

House Resolution No. 6106

BY Donovan, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Ruggiero, Carson, Cortvriend, Ackerman, Serpa, Vella-Wilkinson, Kazarian

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH 8, 2021, AS "INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2332/1}

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

There is no objection.

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

House Resolution No. 6107

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Ackerman, Marszalkowski, Filippi, Kennedy, Baginski, Ruggiero, Caldwell, Potter

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING DANIEL J. MCKEE ON BECOMING THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2339/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, On behalf of Speaker Shekarchi, Deputy Whip Ackerman requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

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

TRANSMITTAL

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

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**TRANSFER OF BILLS**

Chairman Hull, for the Committee on Municipal Government & Housing, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of transfer to the Committee on Finance:

House Bill No. 5951

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF COMMERCE (Creates a deputy secretary of commerce and housing within the executive office of commerce to oversee housing initiatives and develop a housing plan.) {LC2089/1}

03/05/2021 Committee transferred to House Finance

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Chairman Casey, for the Committee on Health and Human Services, reports back the following measures, with recommendation of passage:

House Bill No. 5164

BY Bennett, Ackerman

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

(Allows students in public schools to possess and use a topical sunscreen product. Children enrolled in grades K-5 would need a note from a parent or guardian in order to possess sunscreen on school property.) {LC96/1}

03/05/2021 Placed on House Calendar (03/09/2021)

House Bill No. 5241

BY Vella-Wilkinson, Williams, Ajello, Noret, Kazarian, Ackerman, Ruggiero

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES

(Authorizes a pharmacist to prescribe and dispense hormonal contraceptive patches and self-administered oral hormonal contraceptives, provided that the pharmacist has completed a training program approved by the state board of pharmacy.) {LC790/1}

03/05/2021 Placed on House Calendar (03/09/2021)

House Bill No. 5247

BY Amore, Kazarian

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

SUBSTANCES ACT (Excludes chronic intractable pain from the definition of acute pain management. Prescribes new guidelines for treatment based upon 2016 CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain.) {LC175/1}

03/05/2021 Placed on House Calendar (03/09/2021)

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Chairman Craven, for the Committee on Judiciary, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of passage:

House Bill No. 5100

BY Solomon, Noret

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS (Prohibits any development of land contiguous to the State House unless approved by the general assembly.) {LC466/1}

03/05/2021 Placed on House Calendar (03/09/2021)

COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING

Chairman Hull, for the Committee on Judiciary, reports back the following measures, with recommendation of passage:

House Bill No. 5477**BY** McLaughlin, Giraldo, Ackerman, Corvese

ENTITLED, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF CUMBERLAND TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND/OR NOTES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,500,000 TO FINANCE THE DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, IMPROVEMENT, ALTERATION, REPAIR AND EQUIPPING OF RECREATIONAL AREAS AND FACILITIES IN THE TOWN (Authorizes the town of Cumberland to issue general obligation bonds and notes not to exceed \$2,500,000 for the development/improvement/repair/alteration/construction/renovation/equipping of recreational areas and facilities in the town.) {LC1571/1}
03/05/2021 Placed on House Calendar (03/09/2021)

Senate Bill No. 53

(by request)

BY Algieri

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF WESTERLY TO ISSUE NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, NOTES AND OTHER EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, IMPROVEMENT, ALTERATION, REPAIR, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES IN THE TOWN (Authorizes the Town of Westerly to issue bonds and notes in an amount not exceeding \$2,000,000 to finance the construction, renovation, improvement, alteration, repair, furnishing and equipping of schools and school facilities in the town.) {LC663/1}
03/05/2021 Placed on House Calendar (03/09/2021)

NEW BUSINESS**House Bill No. 6108****BY** Kennedy, Azzinaro, Filippi

ENTITLED, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF WESTERLY TO ISSUE NOT TO EXCEED \$11,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, NOTES AND OTHER EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD AND SIDEWALK INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WATER LINE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TOWN (Authorizes the Town of Westerly to issue bonds and notes in an amount not exceeding \$11,000,000 to finance the construction of road and sidewalk infrastructure improvements and related water line improvements in the town and all costs related thereto.) {LC2373/1}
03/04/2021 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 6109**BY** Tanzi

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES (Allows John Wardle to join Alison Bubly and Adam Feinstein in marriage on or about August 1, 2021, within the Town of Middletown, Rhode Island.) {LC2335/1}
03/04/2021 Introduced, referred to House Special Legislation

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:35 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Potter, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Eleanor Peckham Menzies seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Filippi the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX

INVOCATION

REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT D. PHILLIPS

Dear Lord: When we neglect the great contributions and sacrifices of African Americans in our history we do a disservice to ourselves and our children. Help us to always recognize and honor their contributions and achievements. In doing so we can help heal old wounds and create a more just, inclusive society. Amen

APPENDIX

TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR

Senate Bill No. 81

BY Seveney

ENTITLED, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER
OF PET CONNECTION, LLC {LC502/1

03/04/2021 Transmitted to Governor

APPENDIX**CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021:**

1. **2021-H 5100**
 BY Solomon
 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS

 Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.
2. **2021-H 5164**
 BY Bennett
 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

 Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.
3. **2021-H 5241**
 BY Vella-Wilkinson
 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS --
 PHARMACIES

 Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.
4. **2021-H 5247**
 BY Amore
 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- UNIFORM CONTROLLED
 SUBSTANCES ACT

 Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.
5. **2021-H 5477**
 BY McLaughlin
 ENTITLED, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF CUMBERLAND TO ISSUE
 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND/OR NOTES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED
 \$2,500,000 TO FINANCE THE DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION,
 IMPROVEMENT, ALTERATION, REPAIR AND EQUIPPING OF RECREATIONAL
 AREAS AND FACILITIES IN THE TOWN

 Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

6. 2021-S 53

BY Algieri

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF WESTERLY TO ISSUE NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, NOTES AND OTHER EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, IMPROVEMENT, ALTERATION, REPAIR, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES IN THE TOWN

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage in concurrence.

Francis McCabe
Clerk of the House

Friday, March 5, 2021