

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. 24

Thursday, May 6, 2021

Twenty-fourth Day

The House of Representatives meets at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Providence, Thursday, May 6, 2021, and is called to order at 4:03 o'clock P.M., by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 66 members present and 9 members absent as follows:

PRESENT – 66: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Barros, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Cardillo, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Craven, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Filippi, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hawkins, Henriess, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima S., McEntee, McGaw, McLaughlin, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Price, Quattrocchi, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tanzi, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson and Williams.

ABSENT – 9: Representatives Ackerman, Carson, Diaz, C. Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, Newberry, Ranglin-Vassell, Roberts.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents Representative Donovan who delivers the Invocation and leads the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

(For Invocation, see Appendix, this Journal.)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Speaker Shekarchi welcomes back to the House Representative McLaughlin and looks forward to his debates.

APPROVAL OF RECORD

By unanimous consent, the House Journal of Tuesday, May 4, 2021, is approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Diaz is unable to attend session today, Thursday, May 6, 2021.
Representative C. Lima is unable to attend session today, Thursday, May 6, 2021.

CALENDAR

From the Calendar are taken:

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021:

- 1. 2021-H 5130 SUB A**
BY Bennett
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MINIMUM WAGES

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

Chairwoman Williams moves passage of the act, seconded by Representatives Speakman Amore, Shanley, Perez, Morales, Batista, Ruggiero, Craven, Majority Leader Blazejewski, Abney, Donovan, Cassar, Cortvriend, Knight, Handy, Fogarty, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Hull, McNamara, Kislak, Edwards, Giraldo, Tanzi, Bennett, McEntee, Solomon, Whip Kazarian, Alzate, Potter, Barros, McGaw, Messier, and Williams.

Representatives Corvese and Morales discuss the act.

By unanimous consent, Representative Place, seconded by Representatives Fenton-Fung, Minority Leader Filippi, and Nardone offers a written motion to amend.

FLOOR AMENDMENT
TO
2021 -- H 5130 SUBSTITUTE A

AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MINIMUM WAGES

Mr. Speaker:

I hereby move to amend 2021 -- H 5130 SUBSTITUTE A, entitled "AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MINIMUM WAGES", as follows:

1. On page 2, between lines 10 and 11, by inserting the following language:
"SECTION 2. Section 40-8-19 of the General Laws in Chapter 40-8 entitled "Medical Assistance" is hereby amended to read as follows:
40-8-19. Rates of payment to nursing facilities.

(a) Rate reform.

(1) The rates to be paid by the state to nursing facilities licensed pursuant to chapter 17 of title 23, and certified to participate in Title XIX of the Social Security Act for services rendered to Medicaid-eligible residents, shall be reasonable and adequate to meet the costs that must be incurred by efficiently and economically operated facilities in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(13). The executive office of health and human services ("executive office") shall promulgate or modify the principles of reimbursement for nursing facilities in effect as of July 1, 2011, to be consistent with the provisions of this section and Title XIX, 42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq., of the Social Security Act.

(2) The executive office shall review the current methodology for providing Medicaid payments to nursing facilities, including other long-term-care services providers, and is authorized to modify the principles of reimbursement to replace the current cost-based methodology rates with rates based on a price-based methodology to be paid to all facilities with recognition of the acuity of patients and the relative Medicaid occupancy, and to include the following elements to be developed by the executive office:

(i) A direct-care rate adjusted for resident acuity;

(ii) An indirect-care rate comprised of a base per diem for all facilities;

(iii) A rearray of costs for all facilities every three (3) years beginning October, 2015, that may or may not result in automatic per diem revisions;

(iv) Application of a fair-rental-value system;

(v) Application of a pass-through system; and

(vi) Adjustment of rates by the change in a recognized national nursing home inflation index to be applied on October 1 of each year, beginning October 1, 2012. This adjustment will not occur on October 1, 2013, October 1, 2014, or October 1, 2015, but will occur on April 1, 2015. The adjustment of rates will also not occur on October 1, 2017, October 1, 2018, and October 1, 2019. Effective July 1, 2018, rates paid to nursing facilities from the rates approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and in effect on October 1, 2017, both fee-for-service and managed care, will be increased by one and one-half percent (1.5%) and further increased by one percent (1%) on October 1, 2018, and further increased by one percent (1%) on October 1, 2019. The inflation index shall be applied without regard for the transition factors in subsections (b)(1) and (b)(2). For purposes of October 1, 2016, adjustment only, any rate increase that results from application of the inflation index to subsections (a)(2)(i) and (a)(2)(ii) shall be dedicated to increase compensation for direct-care workers in the following manner: Not less than 85% of this aggregate amount shall be expended to fund an increase in wages, benefits, or related employer costs of direct-care staff of nursing homes. For purposes of this section, direct-care staff shall include registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), certified nursing assistants (CNAs), certified medical technicians, housekeeping staff, laundry staff, dietary staff, or other similar employees providing direct-care services; provided, however, that this definition of direct-care staff shall not include: (i) RNs and LPNs who are classified as "exempt employees" under the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq.); or (ii) CNAs, certified medical technicians, RNs, or LPNs who are contracted, or subcontracted, through a third-party vendor or staffing agency. By July 31, 2017, nursing facilities shall submit to the secretary, or designee, a certification that they have complied with the provisions of this subsection (a)(2)(vi) with respect to the inflation index applied on October 1, 2016. Any facility that does not comply with terms of such certification shall be subjected to a clawback, paid by the nursing facility to the state, in the amount of increased reimbursement subject to this provision that was not expended in compliance with that certification.

(vii) Commencing January 1, 2022, any increase in the required minimum wage pursuant to § 28-12-3 or any successor statute payable by a nonprofit nursing facility, including group homes providing services as a nursing facility, shall result in the increase of the direct and indirect care components of the Medicare rates to be paid by the state to the nonprofit nursing facility, including

group homes providing services as a nursing facility. The amount of Medicaid reimbursement payable as a result of the increase of the required minimum wage incurred by a nonprofit nursing facility, including group homes providing services as a nursing facility, shall be determined by increasing the Medicaid reimbursement rate by the same percentage by which the minimum wage is increased. The effective date of any such adjusted Medicaid reimbursement rate shall be the date upon which the minimum wage increase becomes effective and shall take place irrespective of and in addition to any inflation index applied to Medicaid reimbursement rates payable by the state.

(b) Transition to full implementation of rate reform. For no less than four (4) years after the initial application of the price-based methodology described in subsection (a)(2) to payment rates, the executive office of health and human services shall implement a transition plan to moderate the impact of the rate reform on individual nursing facilities. Said transition shall include the following components:

(1) No nursing facility shall receive reimbursement for direct-care costs that is less than the rate of reimbursement for direct-care costs received under the methodology in effect at the time of passage of this act; for the year beginning October 1, 2017, the reimbursement for direct-care costs under this provision will be phased out in twenty-five-percent (25%) increments each year until October 1, 2021, when the reimbursement will no longer be in effect, except for direct care costs increased as a result of increased minimum wage costs incurred pursuant to § 28-12-3, which shall be reimbursed pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a)(4)(vii) of this section; and

(2) No facility shall lose or gain more than five dollars (\$5.00) in its total, per diem rate the first year of the transition. An adjustment to the per diem loss or gain may be phased out by twenty-five percent (25%) each year; except, however, for the years beginning October 1, 2015, there shall be no adjustment to the per diem gain or loss, but the phase out shall resume thereafter; and

(3) The transition plan and/or period may be modified upon full implementation of facility per diem rate increases for quality of care-related measures. Said modifications shall be submitted in a report to the general assembly at least six (6) months prior to implementation.

(4) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, for the twelve-month (12) period beginning July 1, 2015, Medicaid payment rates for nursing facilities established pursuant to this section shall not exceed ninety-eight percent (98%) of the rates in effect on April 1, 2015. Consistent with the other provisions of this chapter, nothing in this provision shall require the executive office to restore the rates to those in effect on April 1, 2015, at the end of this twelve-month (12) period."

2. On page 2, line 11, by deleting the numeral "2", and by inserting in place thereof the numeral "3".

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Place

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LC000625/4
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Representative Place discusses the amendment.

Majority Leader Blazejewski rises on the objection that the amendment is non-germane to the act.

The Honorable Speaker rules that the amendment is not germane to the act.

Representative Place rises and appeals the Ruling of the Chair.

RULING OF THE CHAIR

The Honorable Speaker calls for a vote on The Ruling of the Chair, on a roll call vote, 51 members voting in the affirmative and 5 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 51: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Barros, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Cardillo, Casimiro, Cassar, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Craven, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Giraldo, Handy, Hawkins, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima S., McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Perez, Phillips, Potter, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tanzi, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson, Williams.

NAYS - 5: Representatives Fenton-Fung, Filippi, Nardone, Place, Price.

RECUSED - 0:

The Ruling of the Chair is upheld.

By unanimous consent, Representative Nardone, seconded by Minority Leader Filippi, Representatives Fenton-Fung, Place, and Whip Chippendale offers a written motion to amend.

**FLOOR AMENDMENT
TO
2021 -- H 5130 SUBSTITUTE A**

AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MINIMUM WAGES

Mr. Speaker:

I hereby move to amend 2021 -- H 5130 SUBSTITUTE A, entitled "AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MINIMUM WAGES", as follows:

1. On page 2, between lines 10 and 11, by inserting the following language:

"(p) Prior to the commencement date of any increase in the minimum wage, the governor may delay, by regulation, the implementation of the scheduled increase if the governor determines that it is in the best economic interest of the state. The delay shall be effective until the governor determines that the economic conditions of the state have improved to warrant the implementation of the scheduled increase."

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Nardone

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LC000625/2
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Representative Nardone, Majority Leader Blazejewski, and Minority Leader Filippi discuss the amendment.

The motion to amend fails, on a roll call vote 9 members voting in the affirmative and 49 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 9: Representatives Chippendale, Costantino, Fenton-Fung, Filippi, Messier, Nardone, Place, Price, Quattrocchi.

NAYS - 49: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Barros, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Cardillo, Casimiro, Cassar, Cortvriend, Corvese, Craven, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima S., McEntee, McNamara, Morales, Noret, Perez, Phillips, Potter, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tanzi, Tobon, Williams.

RECUSED - 0:

Representatives Place, Williams, Morgan, Ajello, Whip Chippendale, McNamara, Quattrocchi, Cassar, Majority Leader Blazejewski, and Minority Leader Filippi discuss the act.

PROXY VOTES

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces pursuant to rule 47B authorizing Proxy Votes he has 7 to be recorded in the affirmative: Deputy Whip Ackerman, Representatives Carson, Diaz, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, Ranglin-Vassell, and Deputy Speaker Lima.

Minority Leader Filippi announces pursuant to rule 47B authorizing Proxy Votes he has 1 to be recorded in the negative: Representative Roberts.

The bill marked Substitute "A" is read and passed, and the original bill indefinitely postponed, on a roll call vote, 58 members voting in the affirmative and 16 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 58: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Barros, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Craven, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima C., Lima S., Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Noret, Perez, Potter, Ranglin-Vassell, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tanzi, Williams.

NAYS - 16: Representatives Corvese, Costantino, Fenton-Fung, Filippi, Hawkins, McLaughlin, Morgan, Nardone, O'Brien, Phillips, Place, Price, Quattrocchi, Roberts, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson.

RECUSED - 0:

2. **2021-H 5851**
BY Shekarchi
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MINIMUM WAGES

Committee on Labor recommends passage.

Chairwoman Williams moves passage of the act, seconded by Representatives Henries, Caldwell, Noret, O'Brien, Craven, Amore, Speakman, Donovan, Biah, Hawkins, Morales, McEntee, Majority Leader Blazejewski, Abney, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Fogarty, Handy, Cortvriend, Cassar, Williams, Ruggiero, Azzinaro, Bennett, Edwards, Slater, Corvese, McNamara, Tanzi, Hull, Fellela, McGaw, Messier, Potter, Alzate, Whip Kazarian, Casimiro, Barros, Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy, Constantino, and Cardillo.

PROXY VOTES

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces pursuant to rule 47B authorizing Proxy Votes he has 7 to be recorded in the affirmative: Deputy Whip Ackerman, Representatives Carson, Diaz, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, Ranglin-Vassell, and Deputy Speaker Lima.

Minority Leader Filippi announces pursuant to rule 47B authorizing Proxy Votes he has 1 to be recorded in the negative: Representative Roberts.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 66 members voting in the affirmative and 6 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 66: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Barros, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Craven, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hawkins, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima C., Lima S., Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McLaughlin, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Potter, Ranglin-Vassell, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tanzi, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson, Williams.

NAYS - 6: Representatives Filippi, Nardone, Place, Price, Quattrocchi, Roberts.

RECUSED - 0:

3. 2021-H 5224 SUB A
BY Shekarchi
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION

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

Chairman Abney moves passage of the act, seconded by Representatives Craven, Caldwell, Amore, Biah, Hawkins, Speakman, Donovan, Morales, Majority Leader Blazejewski, McEntee, Ruggiero, Williams, Azzinaro, Costantino, Cassar, Cortvriend, Fogarty, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Corvese, Bennett, Edwards, Slater, McNamara, McLaughlin, Hull, Giraldo, Casey, Whip Kazarian, Casimiro, Lima S., Alzate, Baginski, McGaw, Messier, Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy, and O'Brien.

Representatives Fenton-Fung, Abney, Amore, McNamara, Place, Morgan, Alzate, O'Brien, and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the act.

PROXY VOTES

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces pursuant to rule 47B authorizing Proxy Votes he has 7 to be recorded in the affirmative: Deputy Whip Ackerman, Representatives Carson, Diaz, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, Ranglin-Vassell, and Deputy Speaker Lima.

Minority Leader Filippi announces pursuant to rule 47B authorizing Proxy Votes he has 1 to be recorded in the negative: Representative Roberts.

The bill marked Substitute "A" is read and passed, and the original bill indefinitely postponed, on a roll call vote, 68 members voting in the affirmative and 5 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 68: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Barros, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Craven, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hawkins, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima C., Lima S., Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McLaughlin, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Potter, Ranglin-Vassell, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tanzi, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson, Williams.

NAYS - 5: Representatives Filippi, Morgan, Place, Price, Quattrocchi.

RECUSED - 0:

4. **2021-H 5763**
BY Kazarian
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS
INSURANCE POLICIES

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Chairman Casey moves passage of the act, seconded by Whip Kazarian, Representatives Casimiro, Solomon, Giraldo, Potter, Messier, Alzate, Lima S., McGaw, Edwards, Kislak, McNamara, Tanzi, Hull, McLaughlin, Cassar, Fogarty, Shallcross Smith, Ajello, Cortvriend, Ruggiero, Abney, Donovan, Biah, Cardillo, Morales, McEntee, Vella-Wilkinson, Shanley, O'Brien, Caldwell, Craven, Phillips, Henries, Amore, Speakman, Casey, Noret and Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy.

PROXY VOTES

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces pursuant to rule 47B authorizing Proxy Votes he has 7 to be recorded in the affirmative: Deputy Whip Ackerman, Representatives Carson, Diaz, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, Ranglin-Vassell, and Deputy Speaker Lima.

Minority Leader Filippi announces pursuant to rule 47B authorizing Proxy Votes he has 0 to be recorded.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 72 members voting in the affirmative and 1 member voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 72: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Barros, Batista, 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, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Potter, Price, Quattrocchi, Ranglin-Vassell, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tanzi, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson, Williams.

NAYS - 1: Representative Place.

RECUSED - 0:

5. **2021-H 5491**
BY Ackerman
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- FINANCIAL LITERACY

Committee on Education recommends passage.

Read, and by unanimous consent, ordered to be placed on the Calendar for Tuesday, May 11, 2021.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative McLaughlin would like to thank the entire House of Representatives for their thoughts and prayers. He will also like to wish all the women in the House a Happy Mother's Day.

Speaker Shekarchi welcomes McLaughlin back to the House.

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces the next House session will be meeting on Tuesday, May 11th, at 4:00, o'clock p.m. at the Vets. Please note that the House will be meeting next week on **Tuesday and Wednesday**, both at 4:00, o'clock p.m. at the Vets.

Majority Leader Blazejewski welcomes Representative McLaughlin back to the House. He also wishes Chairwoman Williams a Happy Birthday!

Speaker Shekarchi wishes Chairwoman Williams a Happy Birthday!

Representative Alzate wishes her Dad a Happy Birthday! Speaker Shekarchi also wishes Representative Alzate's dad a Happy Birthday!

Representative Williams and Speaker Shekarchi wish Representative McEntee a Happy Birthday tomorrow, May 7, 2021.

Representative Solomon wishes his mother a Happy Birthday on Monday, May 10, 2021. Speaker Shekarchi also wishes Representative Solomon's mother Cindy a Happy Birthday!

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

House Resolution No. 6304

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Fenton-Fung, Casimiro, McGaw, Chippendale, Filippi, Shallcross Smith, Giraldo, Batista

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING "NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK" ON MAY 9TH THROUGH MAY 15TH IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2782/1}

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

There is no objection.

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

House Resolution No. 6305

BY Casimiro, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Noret, Bennett, Shanley, Chippendale, Fenton-Fung, Place, Filippi

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE WEEK OF MAY 6TH THROUGH MAY 12TH AS "NATIONAL NURSES WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2670/1}

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

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Casimiro, seconded by Speaker Shekarchi, Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Noret, Shanley, Bennett, Whip Chippendale, Fenton-Fung, Place, and Minority Leader Filippi, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 6306

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, McNamara, Amore, Donovan, Speakman, Henries, Kennedy, Cortvriend, Ajello

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF MAY 3RD THROUGH MAY 7TH OF 2021, TO BE "TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2827/1}

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

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative McNamara, seconded by Speaker Shekarchi, Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Amore, Donovan, Speakman, and Henries, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 6307

BY Blazejewski, Filippi

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES {LC2790/1}

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 Filippi, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

House Resolution No. 6308

BY Blazejewski, Filippi

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS {LC2791/1}

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 Filippi, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

RULE 7D

The following bills were received pursuant to Rule 7D:

Representative Baginski - An Act relating to Reimbursement for Physicians

Representative O'Brien - An Act relating to Insurance
-An Act relating to Insurance

Representative Casey-An Act relating to Motor Vehicles – Accident and Accident Reports

Representative Craven-An Act relating to Commercial Law - Receivership

Representative Edwards - An Act relating to Uniform Controlled Substance Act –
Offenses and Penalties

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 CORPORATIONS**

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

House Bill No. 6051

BY Kennedy, Abney, Azzinaro, Edwards, Solomon, Shanley, Vella-Wilkinson

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO AERONAUTICS -- RHODE ISLAND T.F. GREEN

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (Renames the state airport in Warwick from "T.F. Green state airport" to "Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport.") {LC2212/1}

05/07/2021 Placed on House Calendar (05/11/2021)

House Bill No. 6266

BY Solomon

ENTITLED, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER OF M.E. O'BRIEN & SONS, INC. {LC2735/1}

05/07/2021 Placed on House Calendar (05/11/2021)

Senate Bill No. 142

BY Gallo, Ciccone, Pearson, Sosnowski

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- REGULATION OF SALES

(Allows the sale of alcoholic beverages on New Year's Day by retail Class A licensees.) {LC984/1}

05/07/2021 Placed on House Calendar (05/12/2021)

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Chairman Abney, for the Committee on Finance, reports back the following measures, with recommendation of passage:

House Bill No. 5223 SUB A

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Abney, Ackerman, Shallcross Smith, Kennedy, Corvese

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ENABLING THE STATE LOTTERY DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TO CONTRACT WITH IGT GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

CORPORATION AND TWIN RIVER (Enables the state lottery division of the department of revenue

to enter into a contract extension with IGT Global Solutions Corporation and contract extensions with Twin River and affiliates of Twin River.) {LC1065/A/2}
05/07/2021 Placed on House Calendar (05/11/2021)

House Bill No. 6249 SUB A

BY McEntee, Carson, Felix, Cortvriend, Phillips, Costantino, Giraldo, Fogarty, Caldwell, Kazarian
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- EMPLOYMENT SECURITY -- GENERAL PROVISIONS (Increases partial unemployment benefits by disregarding an amount of earnings when calculating weekly benefit rate with expiration date of 6/30/22.) {LC2693/A/1}
05/11/2021 Placed on House Calendar (05/12/2021)

COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING

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

House Bill No. 5586 SUB A

BY Hull, Cardillo, Perez, Hawkins, Ackerman, Fogarty, McLaughlin, Costantino, Slater, Corvese
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION -- EXEMPTIONS (Includes the real and tangible personal property of St. John Baptist De La Salle Institute, d/b/a La Salle Academy, a Rhode Island domestic nonprofit corporation, located in Providence, Rhode Island, on the list of properties exempt from taxation.) {LC1095/A/1}
05/07/2021 Placed on House Calendar (05/12/2021)

House Bill No. 5016

BY Slater

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION -- EXEMPTIONS (Includes the real and tangible personal property of The Providence Community Health Centers, a Rhode Island domestic nonprofit corporation, located in Providence, Rhode Island, on the list of properties exempt from taxation.) {LC309/1}
05/07/2021 Placed on House Calendar (05/11/2021)

Senate Bill No. 708

BY Lawson

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO A TAX AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE AND EXXONMOBIL OIL CORPORATION (Provides for a tax treaty between the city of East Providence and ExxonMobil Oil Corporation subject to the ratification of the East Providence city council.) {LC2562/1}
05/07/2021 Placed on House Calendar (05/11/2021)

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. 5890 SUB A

(Board of Elections)

BY Shanley, Ruggiero, Craven, Barros, Amore

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS (Allows the board of elections to begin the certification of mail ballots 20 days prior to election day and requires notice of such certification sessions and establishes a new and more comprehensive mail ballot voter signature verification process.) {LC1973/A/3}

05/07/2021 Placed on House Calendar (05/12/2021)

NEW BUSINESS**House Bill No. 6309**

(University of Rhode Island)

BY Fogarty, Tanzi, McEntee

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- ELECTRICIANS (Creates Certificate PC for public institutions of higher learning to employ CB journey person electricians for minor electrical work on their premises.) {LC1891/1}

05/07/2021 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 6310

BY Cortvriend, Fogarty, Batista, Morales, Alzate, Felix, Caldwell, Bennett, Kislak, Handy

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY – TRANSPORTATION

EMISSIONS AND MOBILE (TEAM) COMMUNITY ACT (Establishes the Transportation Emission and Mobile (Team) Community Act intended to limit and reduce indirect carbon dioxide emissions throughout the state while promoting the purposes of the transportation climate initiative program.) {LC2785/1}

05/07/2021 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 6311

BY Fellela, Hull, Messier, Serpa

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT (For purposes of teachers' retirement benefits, amends the definition of "former spouse divorced" to include someone who was married to a deceased member for 10+ years and the deceased member was required by court order to contribute support post-divorce.) {LC2811/1}

05/07/2021 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 6312

BY Tobon, Baginski, Giraldo, Edwards, Amore

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE COLLEGE CRUSADE

SCHOLARSHIP (Provides that scholarships received directly from the College Crusade Scholarship Program would not be considered financial aid pursuant to the Rhode Island Promise Scholarships, and provides the program with access to certain student data.) {LC2812/1}

05/07/2021 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 6313**BY** Henries, Amore, Kazarian**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PERSONAL INCOME TAX (Grants an exemption from the personal income tax to writers, composers and artists residing within the East Providence arts zone.) {LC2767/1}

05/07/2021 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 6314**BY** Slater**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT (Replaces the convention authority of the city of Providence with the city department of art, culture and tourism as the administrator of the Providence tourism district.) {LC2818/1}

05/07/2021 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 6315**BY** O'Brien, Noret, Corvese, Costantino, Hawkins, Craven, Phillips, Amore, Caldwell, Williams**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- RHODE ISLAND CERTIFICATION

STANDARDS BOARD--RIGHT TO READ ACT (Extends the dates for the creation of a program to prepare teachers to teach reading with scientific reading instruction and structured literacy instruction.) {LC2802/1}

05/07/2021 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 6316**BY** Fenton-Fung, Chippendale, Place, Filippi, McLaughlin**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS (Requires the secretary of state to include on all mail ballots it provides, an easily discernable watermark for verification purposes that is also approved by the board of elections.) {LC2789/1}

05/07/2021 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Resolution No. 6317**BY** Tanzi, Shekarchi, Amore, Cassar, Kislak, Fogarty, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Craven, Batista**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (EOHHS) TO CREATE A COVID-19 SURGE PLAN FOR HANDLING THE INCREASING NEED FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENTS {LC2764/1}

05/07/2021 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Resolution No. 6318**BY** Cortvriend, Carson, Tanzi, Fogarty, Shallcross Smith, McEntee, McGaw, Cassar**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON CHANGES TO THE PARKING AREAS UNDER THE GOVERNANCE OF THE DEM {LC2797/1}

05/07/2021 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:45 o'clock P.M. on motion of Majority Leader Shekarchi seconded by Minority Leader Filippi the House adjourns, on a voice vote.

Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX

INVOCATION

REPRESENTATIVE SUSAN R. DONOVAN

Dear God: Help us to always keep the vows we have made to our constituents, to our State, and our country. May we always give of ourselves, without expecting anything in return. And may we always be faithful and honest with each other, and all whom we are here to serve. Amen

APPENDIX**CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021:**

- 1. 2021-H 5491**
BY Ackerman
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- FINANCIAL LITERACY

Committee on Education recommends passage.
- 2. 2021-H 6051**
BY Kennedy
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO AERONAUTICS -- RHODE ISLAND T.F. GREEN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Committee on Corporations recommends passage.
- 3. 2021-H 5223 SUB A**
BY Shekarchi
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ENABLING THE STATE LOTTERY DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TO CONTRACT WITH IGT GLOBAL SOLUTIONS CORPORATION AND TWIN RIVER

Committee on Finance recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A.
- 4. 2021-H 5016**
BY Slater
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION -- EXEMPTIONS

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.
- 5. 2021-H 6266**
BY Solomon
ENTITLED, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER OF M.E. O'BRIEN & SONS, INC.

Committee on Corporations recommends passage.

6. **2021-S 708**
BY Lawson
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO A TAX AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE AND EXXONMOBIL OIL CORPORATION

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage in concurrence.

IN ORDER FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021:

1. **2021-H 6249 SUB A**
BY McEntee
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- EMPLOYMENT SECURITY -- GENERAL PROVISIONS

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

2. **2021-H 5890 SUB A**
BY Shanley
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.

3. **2021-H 5586 SUB A**
BY Hull
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION -- EXEMPTIONS

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

4. **2021-S 142**
BY Gallo
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- REGULATION OF SALES

Committee on Corporations recommends passage in concurrence.

Francis McCabe
Clerk of the House

Friday, May 7, 2021

Updated: Tuesday, May 11, 2021