

# State of Rhode Island

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# JOURNAL

-OF THE-

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**JANUARY SESSION of the General Assembly begun and held at the State House in the City of Providence on Tuesday, the Fourth Day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.**

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Volume 149, No. 6

Thursday, January 27, 2022

Sixth-Day

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The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence, Thursday, January 27, 2022, 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 64 members present and 11 members absent as follows:

**PRESENT** – 64: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Barros, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Craven, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Filippi, Fogarty, Giraldo, Hawkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima S., Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Phillips, Potter, Ranglin-Vassell, Roberts, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tanzi, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson and Williams.

**ABSENT** – 11: Representatives Batista, Caldwell, Cardillo, Handy, Henries, Lima C., McLaughlin, Perez, Place, Price and Quattrocchi.

## INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents Deputy Whip Mia A. Ackerman 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, January 18, 2022, and Tuesday, January 25, 2022, is approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Representative Edward Cardillo is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 27, 2022.

**CALENDAR**

From the Calendar are taken:

**IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022:****1. 2022-H 7028**

**BY** Fellela

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF JOHNSTON TO ISSUE NOT TO EXCEED \$215,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, NOTES AND OTHER EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS TO FINANCE CONSTRUCTION, ADDITIONS, RENOVATION, IMPROVEMENT, ALTERATION, REPAIR, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE TOWN, PROVIDED THAT THE AUTHORIZATION SHALL BE REDUCED BY ANY GRANT RECEIVED FROM THE SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY CAPITAL FUND

Committee on Finance recommends passage.

Chairman Abney moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Hull, Costantino, Cortvriend, Fogarty, Craven, Phillips, Amore, Fellela, Corvese, Azzinaro, McEntee, and Donovan.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 56 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 56: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Barros, Bennett, Blazejewski, Carson, Casey, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Filippi, Fogarty, Giraldo, Hawkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima S., Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Phillips, Ranglin-Vassell, Roberts, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson, Williams.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Representative Nardone, Representative Camille Vella-Wilkinson and the members of this honorable body would like to honor and wish Viola Gertrude (Knight) Sroka, on the occasion of her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Speaker Shekarchi wishes Viola Gertrude (Knight) Sroka a very Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Representative Giraldo would like to wish his daughter who celebrated her 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and he would also like to wish his Mother whose birthday is today a very Happy Birthday!

Representative Phillips announces that the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 101 of the State House.

Chairman Abney announces that the Budget at Second Glance was provided to everyone today and is available online. He also reminds everyone that the Finance Committee will begin holding committee meetings next week. Chairman Abney and Speaker Shekarchi commend the Fiscal Staff for doing an outstanding job.

Minority Leader Filippi announces and congratulates the celebration of the birth of Warren Place, son of our colleague Representative David Place and his lovely wife Erin.

Speaker Shekarchi on behalf of the House of Representatives would like to congratulate Representative Place on the birth of his son.

**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.)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces House session next week will be held on Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, and Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, both at 4:00 p.m. Committees will be meeting Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday next week.

Majority Leader Blazejewski would like to wish Chairman Sam Azzinaro a Happy Birthday this Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Speaker Shekarchi wishes Chairman Azzinaro a Happy Birthday!

**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION****House Resolution No. 7226**

**BY** Fenton-Fung, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Newberry, Filippi, Chippendale, Ajello, Shallcross Smith

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION THANKING FEMA AND THE NATIONAL DISASTER MEDICAL SYSTEM TEAM DOCTORS, NURSES, AND STAFF FOR PROVIDING CRITICAL HELP TO RHODE ISLANDS HOSPITALS AND CITIZENS {LC4274/1}

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-Fun, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

**House Resolution No. 7227**

**BY** Blazejewski, Filippi

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS {LC4328/1}

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.

**House Resolution No. 7228**

**BY** Blazejewski, Filippi

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES {LC4327/1}

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.

**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 measure, with recommendation of passage:

**House Bill No. 7017**

**BY** Azzinaro, Kennedy

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE TYLER DOCK ASSOCIATION {LC3298/1}

01/28/2022 Placed on House Calendar (02/01/2022)

**COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS**

Chairwoman McEntee, for the Committee on Small Business reports back the following measure, with recommendation of passage:

**House Bill No. 7030**

**BY** Tanzi

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES (Allows Cynthia A. Chester, Justice of the Peace in the State of Connecticut, to join Kacie Ann Chester and Cole Whitehead in marriage on or about July 3, 2022, within the Town of Narragansett, Rhode Island.) {LC3231/1}

01/28/2022 Placed on House Calendar (02/03/2022)

**House Bill No. 7098**

**BY** Barros, Baginski, Alzate, Lima S, Giraldo, Potter

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES (Allows the Honorable Mary A. Orfanello to join Marge M. Urquhart and Matthew P. Orfanello in marriage on or about April 2, 2022, within the City of Pawtucket, Rhode Island.) {LC3725/1}

01/28/2022 Placed on House Calendar (02/03/2022)

**NEW BUSINESS****House Bill No. 7229**

**BY** Solomon, Kazarian

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (Requires an electric utility company to bury power lines for all residential customers who have experienced ninety-six (96) or more consecutive hours of power outage, unless the outage was caused by the resident.) {LC3531/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7230****BY** McNamara, Felix, Alzate, Potter, Kislak**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION (Prohibits the use of certain information sources, and algorithms and predictive models that use external data, to unfairly discriminate based on race and other matters in regard to any insurance practice.) {LC3596/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7231****BY** Place, Roberts**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- FREEDOM TO TRAVEL AND WORK ACT (Establishes an occupational regulatory framework by authorizing the issuance of occupational licenses and government certifications by recognition, for qualified worker applicants from other states.) {LC4228/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7232**

(By Request)

**BY** Cortvriend**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- CIGARETTE AND OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS TAX (Includes an automobile or truck as a place of business to sell tobacco products, including mobile tobacco sales.) {LC3399/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7233****BY** Speakman, Cortvriend, Carson, Bennett, McGaw, Tanzi, Kislak, Morales, McEntee, Knight**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- PFAS IN DRINKING WATER, GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATERS (Provides for the department of health to take action to establish maximum contaminant levels for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water and set interim standards.) {LC4239/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

**House Bill No. 7234****BY** Speakman, Cortvriend, Carson, Bennett, McGaw, Tanzi, Kislak, Morales, McEntee, Knight**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY REMEDIATION AND REUSE ACT (Defines and provides that "per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances" (PFAS) be included within the definition of "hazardous substances" for purposes of industrial property remediation and reuse.) {LC4281/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

**House Bill No. 7235****BY** Casimiro, Noret, Alzate, Vella-Wilkinson, McEntee, Solomon, Amore, Baginski, Craven, Kazarian**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES (Sets pharmacist renewal license fee at \$250 biennially and annual nonresident pharmacy location license fee at \$625. Validates pharmacy technician licenses for 2 years. Validates pharmacy intern licenses for 5 years.) {LC3396/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7236**

**BY** Casimiro, McEntee, Noret, Alzate, Vella-Wilkinson, Baginski, Craven, Kazarian  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PRECEPTORS TAX CREDIT ACT  
(Allows for a tax credit of \$500 for certain nurse practitioners or physicians.) {LC3906/1}  
01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7237**

**BY** Potter, Tanzi, Amore, Ruggiero, Edwards, Cassar, Slater, Barros, Kislak, Morales  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- HEALTH CARE FOR  
ELDERLY AND DISABLED RESIDENTS ACT (Increases the income limits for disabled  
individuals to one hundred eighty percent (180%) of the federal poverty level to qualify for  
medical assistance coverage.) {LC4087/1}  
01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7238**

**BY** McNamara  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION - PERSONAL INCOME TAX  
{LC4218/1}  
01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7239**

**BY** McEntee, O'Brien, Serpa, Donovan, Ranglin-Vassell, Messier  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT (SEE  
TITLE 16 CHAPTER 97-THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT) (Effective  
January 1, 2023, the current COLA suspension schedule would be replaced with a fractional  
annual COLA of twenty-five percent (25%) of the COLA declared for that plan year, as it  
pertains to retired teachers, state and municipal employees.) {LC3992/1}  
01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7240**

**BY** Speakman, Carson, Cortvriend, Bennett, McGaw, Tanzi, Morales, McEntee, Cassar  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES --  
LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (Exempts reusable bags not including paper or plastic bags  
from the state sales tax.) {LC4238/1}  
01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Resolution No. 7241**

**BY** Place, Roberts, Fenton-Fung, Nardone  
**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE  
ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE  
STATE-LINE ITEM VETO {LC4132/1}  
01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7242****BY** McNamara**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- ESTABLISHING THE RHODE ISLAND RARE DISEASE MEDICATION ACCESSIBILITY, AFFORDABILITY, AND REINSURANCE ACT (Provides for establishment of the rare disease medication reinsurance program to be funded by insurer contributions that would be administered by the secretary of health and human services based on recommendations from a 15 member advisory council.) {LC4216/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Health &amp; Human Services

**House Bill No. 7243****BY** McNamara, Alzate, Felix, Ackerman**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES -- ACCESSIBLE RESIDENCE MODIFICATIONS (Allows health insurance plans to provide coverage for accessible residence modifications determined to be medically necessary.) {LC4214/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Health &amp; Human Services

**House Bill No. 7244****BY** Kennedy, Azzinaro, Potter, Edwards, Bennett, Ackerman, Morales, Diaz, Casimiro, Messier**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT INSURANCE POLICIES (Medicare eligible disabled individuals under age 65 eligible for Medicare supplemental policies. Health insurance commissioner may adopt reasonable regulations and standards for Medicare supplemental policies.) {LC4310/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Health &amp; Human Services

**House Bill No. 7245****BY** Ackerman, McNamara, Kazarian, McGaw, Bennett, Filippi, Cassar, Kennedy**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- THE DRUG COST TRANSPARENCY ACT (Allows drug cost transparency by requiring reports be submitted by drug manufacturers, pharmacy benefit managers and health benefit plan insurers for analysis to the director of the department of business regulation regarding prescription drugs.) {LC4232/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Health &amp; Human Services

**House Bill No. 7246****BY** Knight, Cassar**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- EXPLOITATION OF ELDERS (Changes the definition of "elder person" for purposes of exploitation of elders from a person sixty-five (65) years of age or older to a person sixty (60) years of age or older.) {LC4113/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7247**

**BY** Knight, Cassar, Craven, Caldwell, McEntee, Kazarian, Kislak, Noret, Felix, Cortvriend  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES - HARASSMENT (Creates a new criminal offense of harassment and allow victims to file for a protective order in district court.) {LC3403/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7248**

**BY** Lombardi J

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES (Increases the penalties for driving so as to endanger, death resulting, by increasing the maximum term of imprisonment from ten (10) years to twenty (20) years, and the maximum term of license suspension from five (5) years to ten (10) years.) {LC3743/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7249**

**BY** Morales, Alzate, McGaw, Giraldo, Batista, Henries, Williams, Biah, Kislak, Felix  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND SANCTUARY STATE ACT (Requires a judicial warrant before federal immigration authorities are granted access to certain designated locations. Limit the state and local law enforcement agencies in assisting federal immigration authorities.) {LC3391/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7250**

**BY** Kazarian, Alzate, Kislak, Amore

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- MANUFACTURING AND WHOLESALE LICENSES (Allows manufacturer-wineries to sell up to three (3) drinks of wine for on-site consumption or three (3) bottles of wine for off-site consumption or three (3) bottles of wine for off-site consumption.) {LC4367/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Small Business

**House Bill No. 7251**

**BY** Place, Nardone, Roberts, Chippendale, Newberry

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- MANUFACTURING AND WHOLESALE LICENSES (Increases the amount of malt beverages that a manufacturer can sell for offsite consumption from forty-eight (48) twelve-ounce (12 oz.) bottles and cans to fifty-five (55) bottles or cans.) {LC3837/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Small Business

**House Resolution No. 7252**

**BY** Solomon

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 57TH ANNUAL GASPEE DAYS CELEBRATION {LC4221/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House Special Legislation

**House Bill No. 7253****BY** McGaw, Morales, Cassar, Henries, Felix**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS - PRIMARY ELECTIONS {LC3897/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**House Bill No. 7254****BY** Place, Filippi, Chippendale, Fenton-Fung, Newberry, Roberts, Price**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND ECONOMIC GROWTH BLOCKCHAIN ACT (Establishes an economic growth blockchain act, set regulations for the sale of hemp, regulate virtual and digital assets, and establish depository banks for these purposes.) {LC3310/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**(Added to Co-sponsorship is Representative Price)****House Bill No. 7255****BY** Lombardi J, Morales, Henries**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT --

EMERGENCY SHELTERS (Establishes rules and procedures for licensing emergency shelters, including setting minimum standards and prohibiting the charging of fees to the residents.) {LC3748/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**House Concurrent Resolution No. 7256****BY** Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kazarian, Ackerman, Edwards, Abney**ENTITLED**, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING POWER CONFERRED UPON THE GOVERNOR {LC4398/1}

01/28/2022 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:20 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Ackerman, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of all victims of the Holocaust; on motion of Representative Giraldo, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Fernan Garcia; on motion of Representative Vella-Wilkinson, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Susan Maloney seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Filippi the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

**Diane M. DePina**  
**Recording Clerk**

**APPENDIX****INVOCATION****REPRESENTATIVE MIA A. ACKERMAN**

Today, January 27, marks the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. Designated by the UN in 2005 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. As we see a rise in anti-Semitism and Holocaust denials around the world, it is more important than ever to publically acknowledge and remember the 6 million Jews and millions of others killed during the Holocaust. Let us pray for their souls and promise that never again will such horror be tolerated. Amen.

**APPENDIX**

**CALENDAR**

**IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022:**

- 1. 2022-H 7017**  
**BY** Azzinaro  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE TYLER DOCK ASSOCIATION

Committee on Corporations recommends passage.

**IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2022:**

- 1. 2022-H 7030**  
**BY** Tanzi  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

Committee on Special Legislation recommends passage.

- 2. 2022-H 7098**  
**BY** Barros  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

Committee on Special Legislation recommends passage.

**Francis McCabe**  
Clerk of the House

**Friday, January 28, 2022**