

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 Fourth Day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.

Volume 149, No. 15

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Fifteenth-Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence, Tuesday, March 8, 2022, and is called to order at 4:18 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, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Biah, Blazejewski, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Craven, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Filippi, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima C., Lima S., Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McLaughlin, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Phillips, Place, Potter, Price, Quattrocchi, Ranglin-Vassell, Roberts, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson and Williams.

ABSENT – 6: Representatives Barros, Bennett, Caldwell, Hawkins, Perez, and Tobon.

INVOCATION

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

(For Invocation, see Appendix, this Journal.)

APPROVAL OF RECORD

By unanimous consent, the House Journal of Thursday, March 3, 2022, is approved.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

Speaker Shekarchi has nominated the following to the Emerging Legislative Leaders Program, hosted by the State Legislative Leaders Foundations in July 2022, at the University of Virginia:

Representative Jose Batista
Representative Leonela Felix
Representative Thomas Noret

Read and placed on file.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

COMMUNICATIONS

Representative David Bennett is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 8, 2022.
Representative Bernard Hawkins is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 8, 2022.
Representative Justine Caldwell is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

CALENDAR

From the Calendar are taken:

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022:

- 1. 2022-H 6644**
BY McEntee
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- SEXUAL ASSAULT

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

Chairman Craven moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Carson, Ranglin-Vassell, Speakman, Donovan, Abney, Amore, Henries, Biah Phillips, Cardillo, Morales, Williams, Vella-Wilkinson, Ruggiero, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Handy, Fogarty, Knight, Cortvriend, Corvese, Hull, McNamara, Kislak, Tanzi, Deputy Whip Ackerman, Edwards, Cassar, Casey, Solomon, Serpa, Whip Kazarian, Felix, Alzate, Fellela, McGaw, Messier, and Roberts.

Representatives Place, Knight, and McEntee discuss the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 63 members voting in the affirmative and 5 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 63: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Biah, Blazejewski, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Craven, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima C., Lima S., Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McLaughlin, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Noret, O'Brien, Phillips, Potter, Ranglin-Vassell, Roberts, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson, Williams.

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

RECUSED - 0:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Donovan would like to wish everyone a Happy International Women's Day.

Chairman Abney announces that the Committee on Finance 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 101 of the State House.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

House Resolution No. 7959

BY Noret, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Serpa, Tanzi

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF MARTHA D. QUINN {LC5442/1}

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

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Noret, seconded by Speaker Shekarchi, and several others, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

House Resolution No. 7960

BY Craven, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Filippi, Ajello, Tanzi

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF ROBERT RICCI {LC5453/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairman Craven discusses the resolution

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

House Resolution No. 7961

BY Ackerman, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, McNamara, Kazarian, Fogarty, Donovan, Cassar, Kennedy, Corvese

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MARCH AS "COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC4554/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, 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 Speaker Shekarchi, Majority Leader Blazejewski, and several others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 7962

BY Donovan, Carson, Cortvriend, Speakman, Ackerman, Filippi, Ruggiero, Roberts, Shekarchi, Blazejewski

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH 8, 2022, AS "INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC5427/1}

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Representative Ranglin-Vassell honoring International Women's Day shares a poem, "I Miss You The Most", dedicated to her mother.

Chairwoman McEntee, Representatives Ranglin-Vassell, and Nardone in honoring International Women's Day would like to recognize the Ukrainian women and their bravery.

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces the next session will be on Thursday, March 10th, at 4 p.m.

As a reminder, starting today, all committee hearings will be in-person only. There will no longer be a hybrid option of participating virtually or accepting phone calls.

Also, since the bill deadline has passed, you must now give notice under House Rule 7(d) to introduce your bills on the next legislative day. There is a limit of three bills per member using this rule. After you have reached the three-bill limit, you must obtain permission from the Speaker to introduce any further bills. This provision does not apply to city or town bills, to the reinstatement of corporate charters, solemnization of marriages, appropriations, and budget bills, or to bills to create or extend the reporting dates of study commissions.

Representative Philipps would like to congratulate a constituent Jessica Santoro, for being crowned Cherry Blossom Princess for the State of Rhode Island.

RULE 7D

The following bills were received pursuant to Rule 7D:

Representative Handy-An Act relating to Public Utilities and Carrier
Representative Serpa-An Act relating to State Purchases
Representative Baginski-An Act relating to Public Finance
Representative Casey-An Act relating to Office of State Fire Marshal
Representative Biah-An Act relating to College and Career Success for all Students

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

Chairman McNamara, for the Committee on Education, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of transfer to the Committee on Finance:

House Bill No. 7609

BY Craven, Caldwell

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- FOUNDATION LEVEL SCHOOL SUPPORT (Provides for a five percent increase in the school housing aid ratio for school building projects that award or utilize Rhode Island based architectural firms.) {LC5060/1}
03/09/2022 Committee transferred to House Finance

Chairman Shanley, for the Committee on State Government and Elections, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of transfer to the Committee on Finance:

House Bill No. 7745

BY Williams, Henries, Hull, Biah, Abney, Cassar, Alzate, Morales, Giraldo, Diaz
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LIBRARIES -- HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARIES (Requires the general assembly appropriate funds to the state librarian for the purpose of caring for, preserving and cataloguing property in the state in the keeping of the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society.) {LC5352/1}

03/09/2022 Committee transferred to House Finance

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

House Bill No. 7816

BY Casey, Kazarian, Vella-Wilkinson, Knight, Azzinaro
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY TAX RELIEF (Defines as "disabled," persons receiving veterans' affairs disability benefits paid by the federal government for purposes of property tax relief.) {LC3875/1}

03/09/2022 Committee transferred to House Finance

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Honorable Senate transmits with announcement of passage, of the following measures:

Senate Bill No. 2106

BY DiPalma

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES (Allows Anne Marie Hartwell to join Lindsay Barrow and Sean Hackbarth in marriage on or about June 4, 2022, within the Town of Narragansett, Rhode Island.) {LC3342/1}

03/09/2022 Referred to House Special Legislation

Senate Bill No. 2132

BY Murray, Raptakis, Seveney, DiMario, Lawson, Kallman

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES (Requires Class B licensees to offer to the public the opportunity to purchase and consume food in conjunction with the sale of alcoholic beverages, at all times while alcohol is consumed on the premises.) {LC4069/1}

03/09/2022 Referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

Senate Bill No. 2228

BY Coyne, Miller, Sosnowski, Euer, Quezada, Burke, Raptakis, DiMario

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.)

{LC3881/1}

03/09/2022 Referred to House Judiciary

Senate Resolution No. 2355**BY** McCaffrey, Goodwin, Archambault, Coyne, Lombardi F, Euer**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE -- PROCEDURE TO FILL VACANCY IN OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, ATTORNEY GENERAL OR GENERAL TREASURER {LC4336/1}

03/09/2022 Referred to House State Government & Elections

Senate Bill No. 2356**BY** McCaffrey, Goodwin, Lombardi F, Coyne, Archambault, Euer**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- GENERAL STATE OFFICES

(Requires a special election to fill a vacancy in the office of secretary of state, attorney general or general treasurer if more than one year is left in the term of office.) {LC4337/1}

03/09/2022 Referred to House State Government & Elections

Senate Bill No. 2372**BY** Sosnowski, Ruggerio, McCaffrey, Picard, Raptakis, Archambault, Lombardi F, Ciccone, Miller**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OPEN

MEETINGS -- REMOTE PARTICIPANTS (Allows University of Rhode Island trustee members to remotely participate in meetings, without excuse, and to have them considered as the meeting quorum.) {LC4629/1}

03/09/2022 Referred to House State Government & Elections

Senate Bill No. 2400**BY** DiPalma, Sosnowski, Burke, Euer, Archambault**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- CONSERVATION AND

PRESERVATION RESTRICTIONS ON REAL PROPERTY (Requires conservation and preservation restrictions to be liberally interpreted in favor of the grants awarded.) {LC3920/1}

03/09/2022 Referred to House Judiciary

Senate Bill No. 2419**BY** Felag**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES

(Exempts any proposed retailers' Class B license to be located at 4 Market Street, Plat 3, Lot 74 in the town of Warren from the two hundred feet (200') requirement from the premises of schools or places of worship.) {LC4730/1}

03/09/2022 Referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

Senate Bill No. 2500**BY** Sosnowski**ENTITLED**, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER OF GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION, INC. {LC5388/1}

03/09/2022 Referred to House Corporations

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:43 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Fenton-Fung, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Venerable Phra Ajahn Bounthanh Prasavath; on motion of Representative Craven, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Robert Ricci; on motion of Representative Noret, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Martha D. Quinn seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Filippi the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX**INVOCATION****REPRESENTATIVE SUSAN R. DONOVAN**

Dear Lord: On this International Women's Day we celebrate and give thanks for the achievements of women. We give special thanks and honor to all the women in our lives who have nurtured us, inspired us, loved us, and sacrificed themselves for us. We ask forgiveness for past inequality, disenfranchisement, and opportunities lost by so many women. We pray now that all women will be respected, included, and given all of life's rewards that are deserved, and long overdue. Amen

APPENDIX

CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022:

- 1. 2022-H 7244**
BY Kennedy
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT
INSURANCE POLICIES

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Francis McCabe
Clerk of the House

Friday, March 4, 2022