

# 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. 17

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Seventeenth-Day

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The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence, Tuesday, March 15, 2022, and is called to order at 4:08 o'clock P.M., by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 68 members present and 7 members absent as follows:

**PRESENT** – 68: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, 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, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima C., Lima S., Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McLaughlin, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Noret, Phillips, Place, Potter, Price, Quattrocchi, Roberts, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson and Williams.

**ABSENT** – 7: Representatives Barros, Kazarian, Newberry, O'Brien, Perez, Ranglin-Vassell and Tanzi.

## INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents Representative Gregory J. Costantino 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 10, 2022, is approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Representative Marcia Ranglin-Vassell is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES****COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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

**House Bill No. 7785**

(Dept. of Environmental Management)

**BY** Potter

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- ANIMAL DISEASES IN GENERAL (Authorizes the director of the department of environmental management to establish quarantine zones for animals and would permit the examination of any quarantined animal therein.) {LC5252/1}  
03/15/2022 Placed on House Calendar (03/17/2022)

**CALENDAR**

From the Calendar are taken:

**IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022:****1. 2022-H 7393**

**BY** McNamara

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- TREATMENT FOR PATIENTS WITH TERMINAL ILLNESS -- THE NEIL FACHON TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS' RIGHT TO TRY ACT OF 2022

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Chairman Casey moves passage of the act, seconded by Representatives Solomon, Casimiro, Tobon, Deputy Whip Ackerman, Cassar, Cortvriend, Majority Leader Blazejewski, Corvese, Azzinaro, Ajello, McEntee, Morales, Ruggiero, Speakman, Donovan, Phillips, Minority Leader Filippi, McGaw, and Whip Chippendale.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 64 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 64: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Craven, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Filippi, Giraldo, Handy, Hawkins, Henries, Hull, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima C., Lima S., Lombardi, McEntee, McGaw, McLaughlin,

McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Noret, Phillips, Place, Potter, Price, Roberts, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson, Williams.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**2. 2022-H 7429 SUB A**

**BY** Baginski

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- VOTING DISTRICTS AND OFFICIALS -- POLLING PLACE CAP

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

Chairman Corvese moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Abney, Carson, Speakman, Donovan, Phillips, Noret, Ruggiero, Ajello, Costantino, Deputy Whip Ackerman, Tobon, Casimiro, McLaughlin, McGaw, Fenton-Fung, and Hull.

Representative Baginski recognizes the Director of Canvassing, the city of Cranston, Nick Lima, and all of his hard work on this bill.

Representative Ajello and Chairman Corvese continue the discussion on the act.

The bill marked Substitute "A" is read and passed, and the original bill indefinitely postponed, 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, 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, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima C., Lima S., Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McLaughlin, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Noret, Phillips, Place, Potter, Price, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson, Williams.

NAYS - 5: Representatives Chippendale, Filippi, Nardone, Quattrocchi, Roberts.

RECUSED - 0:

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

**GUESTS**

Chairman Solomon welcomes to the House Dr. Francine Newth-Professor, Author, Global Advisor. Jake Birdwell-History and Politics, Oxford University, Thomas Morris-Philosophy, Politics and Economics, Oxford University, Louis Inglesfeld- Philosophy, Oxford University, Lars Petersen-Law and Finance, Oxford University, Iris Fu-Systems and History, Stanford University, Kelvin Yu-Computer Science, Princeton University, Joanna Kesicka-Law, Heidelberg University, Joshua Steib-Politics and Philosophy, Munich University, Chendan Luo-Engineering, Cornell and Oxford, John E. Migliaccio, JD as guests.

Deputy Speaker Lima also welcomes the Oxford University students to the House.

**NOW PRESIDING**

At 4:24 o'clock P.M. the Honorable Speaker Shekarchi yields the rostrum to the Honorable Deputy Speaker Lima.

**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.

Chairman McNamara announces that tonight at 6:30 at the Warwick Public Library, a community meeting will be held presenting the 6-year study of the search for the HMS Gaspee at Gaspee Point will be held.

Whip Chippendale extends his congratulations to the Ponaganset Girls Basketball Team on winning the RI State Championship and to his good friend Coach Gary Martinelli, his coaching staff, and all of the Chieftain community.

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

Representative Bennett would like to thank his wife, Anne, for putting up with him for the last 37 years.

Chairwoman Fogarty congratulates and extends best wishes to the URI Lady Rams Basketball Team for the first appearance in the WNIT.

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces next session day will be held this Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, and there will be two resolutions in honor of St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's Day.

**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION****House Resolution No. 7977****BY** Filippi, Blazejewski, McGaw**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE EVERETT R. LITTLEFIELD SR. {LC5513/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Minority Leader Filippi requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Minority Leader Filippi, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

**House Resolution No. 7978****BY** Fenton-Fung, Cardillo, Potter, Lima C, Handy, McNamara, Slater, Diaz, Shekarchi, Blazejewski**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF LEON M. KAYARIAN {LC5519/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Fenton-Fung discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Fenton-Fung, seconded by Representative Lima S., Cardillo, Potter, and many others, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

**House Resolution No. 7979****BY** Speakman, Donovan, Ajello, Cortvriend, Filippi, Carson, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, McGaw**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF CHERYL ANN SKUBA {LC5542/1}

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

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Speakman, seconded by Speaker Shekarchi, Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Donovan, Ajello, Minority Leader Filippi, and Cortvriend, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

**House Resolution No. 7980**

**BY** Slater, Hawkins, Costantino, Edwards, Giraldo, Solomon, Messier, Phillips, Shekarchi, Blazejewski

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE BRYANT UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 2022 NORTHEAST CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP AND WISHING THEM CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE 2022 NCAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT {LC5530/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Slater and Deputy Speaker Lima discuss the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Slater, seconded by Speaker Shekarchi, Majority Leader Blazejewski, Minority Leader Filippi, and many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

**House Resolution No. 7981**

**BY** Fogarty, Amore, Solomon, Casimiro, Biah, Hawkins, Hull, Slater, Shekarchi, Blazejewski  
**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE PROVIDENCE COLLEGE BASKETBALL TEAM FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING 2021-2022 SEASON, AND WISHING THEM CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE 2022 NCAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT {LC5531/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairwoman Fogarty discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Chairwoman Fogarty, seconded by Speaker Shekarchi, Majority Leader Blazejewski, Minority Leader Filippi, and many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

**RULE 7D****The following bills were received pursuant to Rule 7D:**

Representative Lima C. - An Act relating to Nursing Homes

Representative Felix - An Act relating to Criminal Procedure-Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights

An Act relating to Courts and Civil Procedures-Extreme Risk Protection Order

Representative Williams -An Act relating to Workers Cooperative

Representative Amore -An Act relating to Labor Relations  
An Act relating to Domestic Violence Victims  
Representative McEntee -An Act relating to Tourism and Development  
Representative Messier -An Act relating to Rhode Island Equity Program Act  
Representative Slater -An Act relating to Uniform Controlled Substances Act  
Representative McLaughlin -An Act relating to Suspension of Gas Tax  
Deputy Whip Ackerman-An Act relating to Health and Safety  
Representative Carson -An Act relating to Commercial Law and Registration of Business  
Representative Biah -An Act relating to Rhode Island Public Health Foundation  
Representative Alzate -An Act relating to Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals

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.)

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE SENATE

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

#### **Senate Bill No. 2087**

**BY** Euer, Quezada, Cano, McCaffrey, Sosnowski, Mack, Acosta, Murray, Kallman, Anderson  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACT (Requires the department of environmental management to create environmental justice areas.) {LC3434/1}  
03/16/2022 Referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

#### **Senate Resolution No. 2095**

**BY** Picard, Quezada, Lawson, Burke, Zurier  
**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE, PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION -- RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE EDUCATION (Amends the constitution to guarantee Rhode Island residents with equal opportunity to receive an education that is adequate, equitable and meaningful and provides judicial enforcement of this provision.) {LC3670/1}  
03/16/2022 Referred to House State Government & Elections

**Senate Bill No. 2236**

**BY** Cano, Kallman, Quezada, Murray, DiMario, Euer, Lawson, Anderson, Seveney, Pearson  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT --  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION (Requires office of diversity, equity and opportunity  
to create material for annual government employee training.) {LC4251/1}  
03/16/2022 Referred to House State Government & Elections

**Senate Bill No. 2328**

**BY** Gallo, Valverde, Pearson, Goodwin, Lombardo  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHYSICAL  
THERAPISTS (Authorizes a licensed physical therapist to perform physical therapy services to a  
student while in school without a prescription or referral, in accordance with the student's IEP or  
IFSP.) {LC4356/1}  
03/16/2022 Referred to House Health & Human Services

**Senate Bill No. 2493**

**BY** Felag  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- PERMANENT JOINT  
COMMITTEE ON NAMING ALL NEW BUILDINGS, BRIDGES, EDIFICES AND OTHER  
STATE CONSTRUCTIONS (Provides that the corner of 496 Main Street and Joyce Street along  
state route 114 in the town of Warren, Rhode Island, would be known as Delekta's Corner.)  
{LC4829/1}  
03/16/2022 Referred to House Special Legislation

**NEW BUSINESS****House Bill No. 7982**

**BY** Corvese, O'Brien, Vella-Wilkinson, Azzinaro, Noret, Solomon  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS (Decreases the  
number of OSHA training hours from three (3) hours to one hour.) {LC5486/1}  
03/16/2022 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7983**

**BY** Price, Chippendale, Place, Quattrocchi, Roberts, Nardone, Filippi, Morgan P, McLaughlin,  
Hull  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MOTOR FUEL  
TAX (Imposes a moratorium on the payment of the fuel tax until June 30, 2023.) {LC5468/1}  
03/16/2022 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7984**

**BY** Baginski  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES--  
LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION--BEER AND MALT BEVERAGE EXEMPTION  
(Exempts beer and malt beverage from sales tax.) {LC5493/1}  
03/16/2022 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7985**

**BY** Potter, Alzate, Slater, Diaz, Bennett, Lombardi J, Amore, Henries, Morales, O'Brien  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT --  
REBUILD RHODE ISLAND TAX CREDIT (Requires that all entities receiving tax credits from  
the state pay their workers the prevailing wage or other payments pursuant to § 37-13. This act  
would also allow the revocation of the tax credits for violation of this act.) {LC5481/1}  
03/16/2022 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7986**

**BY** Serpa, Vella-Wilkinson, Shanley, Bennett, Solomon, McNamara  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ALLOCATING \$8,000,000 TO WOMEN AND  
INFANTS HOSPITAL (Authorizes and allocates the sum of \$8,000,000 to the Women and  
Infants Hospital of Rhode Island, to be used towards the Hospital's renovation of its Labor and  
Delivery Unit. The allocation comes from American Rescue Plan Act funds.) {LC5474/1}  
03/16/2022 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7987**

**BY** Fenton-Fung, Williams  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT --  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (Authorizes and requires the department of human  
services to hire an administrator for the refugee assistance program on a full-time basis.)  
{LC5446/1}  
03/16/2022 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Resolution No. 7988**

**BY** Ruggiero, Diaz, Caldwell, McEntee, Morales, Kislak, Casimiro, Cassar, Williams, Vella-  
Wilkinson  
**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE  
ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO USE ITS REGULATORY  
AUTHORITY TO IMMEDIATELY REDUCE FAMILY COPAYMENTS FOR THE CHILD  
CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM {LC5499/1}  
03/16/2022 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Resolution No. 7989**

**BY** Chippendale  
**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,300,000 FROM  
THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS TO THE TOWN OF FOSTER TO  
RESOLVE COVID-INFLATED COSTS INCURRED DURING CONSTRUCTION  
ADDRESSING PUBLIC SAFETY, BUILDING CODE AND ADA COMPLIANCE ISSUES  
WITH THE TOWN'S POLICE STATION (This resolution would authorize the appropriation of  
the sum of \$1,300,000 to the Town of Foster for relief in combating elevated COVID-related  
construction costs to the Town's Police Station.) {LC5537/1}  
03/16/2022 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7990****BY** Quattrocchi, Roberts, Nardone**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES (Authorizes pharmacists to dispense ivermectin for the treatment of COVID-19 pursuant to a standing order issued by licensed health care providers.) {LC5464/1}  
03/16/2022 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services**House Bill No. 7991****BY** Alzate, Casimiro, Felix, Shallcross Smith, Tobon, Messier**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Exempts from taxation the real and tangible personal property of Foster Forward, a domestic nonprofit corporation, located in Pawtucket.) {LC5524/1}  
03/16/2022 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing**House Bill No. 7992****BY** Filippi**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION - LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (Allows the town council of New Shoreham to adopt a tax classification plan in accordance with the provisions of this section, to be applicable to taxes on or after the assessment date of December 31, 2022.) {LC5501/1}  
03/16/2022 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing**House Bill No. 7993****BY** Carson, Abney, Filippi, Azzinaro, Kennedy**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES (Allows the Honorable Judge Judith Sheindlin to join Barbara Collins and Casey Barber in marriage on or about June 11, 2022, within the Town of Westerly, Rhode Island.) {LC5448/1}  
03/16/2022 Introduced, referred to House Special Legislation**House Bill No. 7994****BY** Serpa**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (Establishes privacy and security protections for closed-loop referral systems.) {LC5470/1}  
03/16/2022 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections**House Bill No. 7995****BY** McNamara**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- RHODE ISLAND CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES REPORTING (Authorizes the reopening of a dissolved campaign account and fund upon notice to the board of elections.) {LC5455/1}  
03/16/2022 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:41 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Speakman, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Cheryl Skuba; on motion of Representative Fenton-Fung, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Leon Kayarian; on motion of Representative Filippi, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Everett Littlefield Jr., seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski and Whip Chippendale the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

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

**APPENDIX****INVOCATION****REPRESENTATIVE GREGORY J. COSTANTINO**

Dear Lord: American history is not complete until we acknowledge the contributions of all our citizens. Every color and creed has contributed to our wealth as a nation. Let this be the time in our history when we fully acknowledge the great contributions of African Americans to our country. Amen

**APPENDIX**

**CALENDAR**

**IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022:**

- 1. 2022-H 7346 SUB A**  
**BY** Vella-Wilkinson  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS --  
PHARMACIES

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A.

- 2. 2022-H 7785**  
**BY** Potter  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY --  
ANIMAL DISEASES IN GENERAL

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources recommends passage.

**Francis McCabe**  
Clerk of the House

**Friday, March 11, 2022**  
**Updated: Tuesday, March 15, 2022**