

# 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. 21

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Twenty-first Day

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The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence, Tuesday, March 29, 2022, and is called to order at 4:05 o'clock P.M., by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 67 members present and 8 members absent as follows:

**PRESENT** – 67: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Barros, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Cardillo, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Craven, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Filippi, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hawkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima C., Lima S., Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McLaughlin, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Price, Roberts, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson and Williams.

**ABSENT** – 8: Representatives Abney, Carson, Felix, Henries, Morgan, Quattrocchi, Ranglin-Vassell and Tanzi.

## INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents Representative Justine A. Caldwell 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 24, 2022, is approved.

**GUESTS**

Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy would like to welcome to the House two members of the Council of State Governments who are here today from New York. They have met with several Representatives during their visit. In the gallery are David Biette, the director of the CSG Eastern Regional Conference, and Dr. Shirley Girouard, the CSG health policy consultant.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Representative Lauren Carson is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 29, 2022.  
Representative Teresa Tanzi is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 29, 2022.  
Representative Marvin L. Abney is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 29, 2022.  
Representative Leonela Felix is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 29, 2022.  
Representative Marcia Ranglin-Vassell is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 29, 2022.

**CALENDAR**

From the Calendar are taken:

**IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2022:**

- 1. 2022-H 7752 SUB A**  
**BY** Solomon  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- SURPLUS LINES INSURANCE

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

Chairman Solomon moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Phillips, Craven, Caldwell, Cardillo, McEntee, Vella-Wilkinson, Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy, McNamara, Casey, Bennett, Casimiro, Deputy Whip Ackerman, Noret, and Edwards.

Representatives Cassar and Solomon discuss the act.

The bill marked Substitute "A" is read and passed, and the original bill indefinitely postponed, on a roll call vote, 65 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 65: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Cardillo, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Craven, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Filippi, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hawkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima C., Lima S., Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McLaughlin, McNamara, Messier, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Price, Roberts, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson, Williams.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**2. 2022-H 7093**

**BY** Ruggiero

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

Chairman Hull moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Cortvriend, and McGaw.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 66 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**3. 2022-H 7094**

**BY** Ruggiero

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SIZE, WEIGHT, AND LOAD LIMITS -- COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

Chairman Hull moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski and Representative Cortvriend.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 63 members voting in the affirmative and 1 member voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 63: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Cardillo, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Craven, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Filippi, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hawkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima C., Lima S., Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McLaughlin, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Price, Roberts, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson.

NAYS - 1: Representative Fenton-Fung.

RECUSED - 0:

**4. 2022-S 2342**

**BY DiPalma**

**ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES**

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage in concurrence.

Chairman Hull moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski.

Read and passed, in concurrence, on a roll call vote, 65 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 65: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Cardillo, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Craven, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Filippi, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hawkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima C., Lima S., Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McLaughlin, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Price, Roberts, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson, Williams.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**5. 2022-S 2085**

**BY DiPalma**

**ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SIZE, WEIGHT, AND LOAD LIMITS -- COMMERCIAL VEHICLES**

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage in concurrence.

Chairman Hull moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski.

Read and passed, in concurrence, on a roll call vote, 64 members voting in the affirmative and 1 member voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 64: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Cardillo, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Craven, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Filippi, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hawkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima C., Lima S., Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McLaughlin, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Price, Roberts, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson.

NAYS - 1: Representative Fenton-Fung.

RECUSED - 0:

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaker Shekarchi would like to take a moment to join many of his colleagues who have offered tributes in honor of our extension of Black History Month.

We have a true hero in our midst.

He was an 18-year-old Lance Corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1983, fresh out of high school. On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Marine Barracks where he was stationed in Beirut was blown up in a terrorist bombing. There were 241 casualties, including nine of his fellow Marines from Rhode Island.

He was on the third floor of the barracks and was blown completely out the window to the ground, but somehow miraculously survived. He was flown to Italy and later Germany, where he recuperated from his extensive injuries. He was awarded a Purple Heart for his heroism.

This hero went on to an 18-year career with the Providence Police Department, rising to the rank of Sergeant. The Police Department awarded him a Medal of Valor.

Since 2008, Mike has worked for the House of Representatives.

Last year, he married Jennifer Freitas, the owner of The District, who he continues to send flowers to every month. A lifelong Woonsocket resident, he has served for several years as the chairman of the Woonsocket Democratic City Committee and he has been very active in the minority communities in the cities of Woonsocket and Providence.

While devoting his life to public service, he is most proud of his efforts to recognize his nine Rhode Island fellow Marines who perished in that bombing attack in Beirut.

He served as a member of the commission, chaired by Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Sam Azzinaro, who oversaw the creation of the State Memorial and Remembrance Park along the Providence River. Mike was so proud in September 2020 when the lasting tribute to the “Rhode Island Nine” was dedicated.

Their courage, bravery and dedication to our nation will never be forgotten, and fortunately, Michael Harris is still here to help us pay tribute to them!

Please thank Michael Harris – whose story is an important part of Black History Month. He is a true hero to this nation, to this state, and to this House!

**GUESTS**

Representative Baginski welcomes to the House Jennifer Freitas the wife of our in house hero Michael Harris.

Representative McLaughlin welcomes to the House as guests his constituent Anthony Phillips and Valerie Larochelle from the Seven Hills Rhode Island.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Representative Noret would like to remind everyone of the firearm simulator training this weekend which will be held at the West Warwick Youth Center.

**GUESTS**

Representative McEntee welcomes to the House a guest Wayne Smith from the Viet Nam Memorial Commission, he is an Army combat veteran.

**NOW PRESIDING**

At 4:44 o'clock P.M. the Honorable Speaker Shekarchi yields the rostrum to the Honorable Deputy Speaker Lima.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces the next session will be held this Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, at 4 p.m.

Representative Alzate would like to congratulate Representative Tobon for becoming the Secretary for the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators.

Chairman Casey announces that the Committee on Health & Human Services will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 101 of the State House.

Chairman Casey would like to thank the entire House of Representatives who had reached out in support during the passing of his mother.

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

Chairwoman Ruggiero announces that the Committee on Innovation, Internet, & Technology will meet Thursday at 3:30 o'clock P.M., in room 101 of the State House.

**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION****House Resolution No. 8059**

**BY** Price, Fenton-Fung, Filippi, Newberry, Nardone, Roberts, Chippendale, Place, Shallcross Smith, Cortvriend

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE FRANCIS MAHER JR. {LC5658/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Price discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Price, seconded by Representatives Fenton-Fung, Caldwell, Minority Leader Filippi, Newberry, Roberts, Whip Chippendale and Place, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

**House Resolution No. 8060**

**BY** Speakman, McGaw, Donovan, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Filippi, Shallcross Smith, Cortvriend, Bennett, Fogarty

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF MARK M. SAWOSKI, PH.D. {LC5595/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Speakman discusses the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 8061**

**BY** Azzinaro, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Vella-Wilkinson, Place, Casey, Fellela, McLaughlin, Lombardi J, Casimiro

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION THANKING AND HONORING AMERICA'S AND RHODE ISLAND'S VIETNAM WAR VETERANS AND ASKING THAT ALL RHODE ISLAND RESIDENTS REMEMBER THEIR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE ON BEHALF OF OUR NATION ON "VIETNAM VETERANS DAY" {LC5635/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Azzinaro discusses the resolution.

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

### **RULE 7D**

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

Representative Hawkins-An Act relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Size, Weights, and Load Limits

Representative Fogarty-An Act relating to Retention of X-Rays by Health Care Providers

Representative Shallcross Smith-An Act relating to Criminal Records Review

Representative Hull-An Act relating to Elections- Conduct of Election and Voting Equipment and Supplies

Representative McLaughlin -An Act relating to Medical Marijuana  
An Act relating to Recreational Marijuana

Majority Leader Blazejewski-An Act relating to Naming of State Buildings

Representative Serpa-An Act relating to State Purchases

Representative McNamara -An Act relating to Teachers Retirement

Representative Lima, S.-An Act relating to Taxation – Business Corporation Tax  
An Act relating to Insurance- Casualty Insurance

Representative Diaz -An Act relating to Property, Residential, Landlord, and Tenant Act

Representative Solomon -An Act relating to Public Utilities and Carriers – Labor Standard and Renewable Energy Projects

Representative Tobon -An Act relating to Health and Safety Refuse Disposal

Representative Barros -An Act relating to Education Equity and Property Tax Relief

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.)

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **House Bill No. 8062**

**BY** Amore, Biah, Barros

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (Extends the due date for the district action plan each and every year from September 1 to December 1, and further require that there are no fewer than five (5) school district education reviews annually beginning in academic year 2025-2026.) {LC5608/1}

03/30/2022 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Bill No. 8063**

**BY** Lima C, Serpa, Costantino, Chippendale, Fenton-Fung, Shallcross Smith, Cardillo, Phillips, Hawkins, Newberry

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- RIGHTS OF NURSING HOME PATIENTS (Due to the COVID-19 health crises, suspend the provisions of § 23-17.5-33, relating to nursing home staffing.) {LC5656/1}

03/30/2022 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**(For Co-sponsorship removals request, see Journal of 3-31-2022, page 4, Journal 4-5-2022, page 2, Journal 4-7-2022, page 2.)**

**(Added to Co-sponsorship are Representatives Phillips, Hawkins, Newberry)**

**House Bill No. 8064**

**BY** Ajello, Carson

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SNOWMOBILES AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLES (Creates misdemeanor penalties for any person driving or operating any recreational vehicle on any local highway unless specifically permitted by ordinance or exempted as a permitted crossing.) {LC5610/1}

03/30/2022 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 8065**

**BY** Filippi

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- GENERAL POWERS (Permits the town of Charlestown to impose permit requirements and to promulgate regulations on excavation activity within the town.) {LC5641/1}

03/30/2022 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

**House Bill No. 8066**

**BY** Vella-Wilkinson, Perez, Shanley, Williams, Casimiro, Fenton-Fung, Kazarian, Alzate, Bennett, Edwards

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENTS OF STATE GOVERNMENT (State websites to comply with WCAG 2.1 standards by July 1, 2027.) {LC5637/1}

03/30/2022 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:41 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Azzinaro, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Lawrence DeSantos; on motion of Representative Speakman, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Mark Sawoski; on motion of Representative Price, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Hon. Francis Maher Jr.; on motion of Representative McLaughlin, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Capt. Robert O'Brien; on motion of Representative Corvese, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Kevin J. O'Brien; seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Filippi the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

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

**APPENDIX**

**INVOCATION**

**REPRESENTATIVE JUSTINE A. CALDWELL**

Dear Lord: Black history has too long been ignored in our schools. Once a year we have an opportunity to try to correct the history books and redress that by educating all our citizens about the true sacrifices and accomplishments of African Americans. We pray that each year through Black History Month, we take this opportunity to make sure future generations are taught the full and real American history. Amen

## APPENDIX

## CALENDAR

## IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022:

1. **2022-H 7781 SUB A**  
**BY** Solomon  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS -- CREATION AND EXPANSION

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

2. **2022-H 7204**  
**BY** Amore  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

3. **2022-H 7205**  
**BY** Amore  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

4. **2022-S 2346**  
**BY** Lawson  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage in concurrence.

5. **2022-S 2348**  
**BY** Lawson  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage in concurrence.

**Francis McCabe**  
Clerk of the House

**Friday, March 25, 2022**