

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. 28

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Twenty-eighth Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence, Wednesday, April 27, 2022, and is called to order at 4:09 o'clock P.M., by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 73 members present and 2 members absent as follows:

PRESENT – 73: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Barros, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, 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, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Price, Quattrocchi, Ranglin-Vassell, Roberts, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tanzi, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson and Williams.

ABSENT – 2: Representatives Baginski and Costantino.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents Representative Rebecca M. Kislak 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, April 26, 2022, is approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Jacquelyn M. Baginski is unable to attend session today, Wednesday, April 27, 2022.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SENATE

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

Senate Bill No. 2007 SUB A

BY Euer, Coyne, Quezada, McCaffrey, Goodwin, Sosnowski, Miller, Archambault, Pearson, Gallo
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- SECRETARY OF STATE -- LET RI
VOTE ACT (Allows voting by mail without needing an excuse/improves voter roll cleanup/allows
applying for mail ballots through online system/allows nursing home residents to receive mail ballot
applications automatically/codifies mail ballot drop box requirements.) {LC3182/A/1}
04/27/2022 Referred to House State Government & Elections

Senate Bill No. 2119 SUB A

BY Coyne, Euer, McCaffrey, Lombardi F, Ciccone, Burke, Kallman, Archambault, Miller,
Goodwin
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS (Allows the board of
elections to begin the certification of mail ballots twenty (20) days prior to election day. It also
establishes a new and more comprehensive mail ballot voter signature verification process.)
{LC3243/A/1}
04/27/2022 Referred to House State Government & Elections

Senate Bill No. 2187

BY Cano, Quezada, DiMario, Euer, Miller, Kallman, Murray, McCaffrey, Goodwin, Pearson
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- HEALTH
CARE FOR CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN (Expands the Rite Track Program to
provide health care coverage to children up to age nineteen (19) funded by federal funds, if
available, or if not available, by state funds.) {LC4263/1}
04/27/2022 Referred to House Finance

Senate Bill No. 2202

BY Goodwin, Cano, DiMario, Pearson, Miller, Coyne, Kallman, Euer, Quezada, Murray
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- HEALTH
CARE FOR CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN (Extends the benefits given to eligible
women under title XIX state plan through the last day of the month in which their twelve-month
post-partum period ends.) {LC4432/1}
04/27/2022 Referred to House Finance

Senate Bill No. 2413**BY** Ruggerio, McCaffrey, Goodwin, Pearson**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT (Amends "Former Spouse Divorced" to include married for ten or more years and required by court order to support post divorce.) {LC3213/1}

04/27/2022 Referred to House Finance

Senate Bill No. 2706**BY** Coyne**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- INTERCEPTION OF WIRE AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Adds felony violations of Uniform Act on Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking as a designated offense for an application for an order under the Interception of Wire and Oral Communications statute.) {LC5059/1}

04/27/2022 Referred to House Judiciary

Senate Bill No. 2815**BY** Ruggerio, McCaffrey, Goodwin, Ciccone, Lombardo, Pearson, Lawson, DiPalma**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- REAL JOBS RHODE ISLAND ACT (Establishes a real job Rhode Island program, which is an industry-led system to advance the skills of the state's workforce to grow the state's economy and increase sustainable employment for middle-class families.) {LC4674/1}

04/27/2022 Referred to House Finance

Senate Bill No. 2862**BY** Ciccone, Lombardo, Lombardi F, McCaffrey, Goodwin**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCE -- STATE FUNDS (Adds the Workers' Compensation Administrative Fund, Rhode Island Uninsured Employers Fund and the Rhode Island Uninsured Protection Fund to those restricted receipt accounts not subject to indirect cost recoveries.) {LC5735/1}

04/27/2022 Referred to House Finance

NEW BUSINESS**House Bill No. 8164****BY** Hawkins, Cardillo, Phillips, Biah**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- ELECTRICIANS (Expands the types of electrical services that require an electrical contractor's license.) {LC5709/1}

04/27/2022 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 8165**BY** Blazejewski**ENTITLED**, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER OF SISTERS, INC. {LC5862/1}

04/27/2022 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 8166**BY** Lombardi J, Hull**ENTITLED**, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER OF RHODE ISLAND REAL ESTATE REHABILITATION CORPORATION {LC5839/1}

04/27/2022 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 8167**BY** Morgan P**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND SUPERINTENDENTS (Disruptive students to serve suspension in school.) {LC5803/1}

04/27/2022 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 8168**BY** Tobon, Casey, Barros, Vella-Wilkinson, Edwards, O'Brien, Craven, Corvese, Hull, Lombardi J**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION (Requires the contracting department of the department of human services or the department of administration to pilot at least one contract for professional or technical services using automatic verification software to verify hours billed under contract.) {LC4911/1}

04/27/2022 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 8169**BY** Casey, Edwards, Filippi, Chippendale, Cassar**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE {LC5759/1}

04/27/2022 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 8170**BY** Quattrocchi**ENTITLED**, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF SCITUATE TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$750,000 TO FINANCE EQUIPMENT, REPAIRS AND/OR IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SCITUATE PUBLIC SCHOOLS (Town of Scituate to issue not more than \$750,000 bonds and notes to finance various improvements at the town of Scituate's schools and constitutes an enabling act of the general assembly that is required pursuant to § 16-7-44.) {LC5811/1}

04/27/2022 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Resolution No. 8171**BY** Nardone, Morgan P**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$3,000,000 FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS TO THE CENTRAL COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED DELIVERY OF FIRE SUPPRESSION AND EMS SERVICES AND TO TRANSFORM THE DISTRICT FROM ITS EXISTING 3-PLATOON STAFFING MODEL TO A 4-PLATOON MODEL {LC5817/1}

04/27/2022 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 8172**BY** Nardone, Noret

ENTITLED, AN ACT IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 492 OF THE PUBLIC LAWS OF 2006 AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE CENTRAL COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT (Amends the Central Coventry Fire District Charter to provide for purchasing, installing, operating and maintaining street lighting and the funding for its debt. Provides for the appointment of an Assistant Treasurer.) {LC5816/1}

04/27/2022 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 8173**BY** Quattrocchi

ENTITLED, AN ACT IN AMENDMENT OF SECTION 4 OF CHAPTER 1321 OF THE PUBLIC LAWS, 1915, ENTITLED "AN ACT FIXING THE TIME FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS IN THE TOWN OF SCITUATE" AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED BY CHAPTER 3777 OF THE PUBLIC LAWS OF 1956 AND AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF SCITUATE TO CHANGE THE DATE OF ITS FISCAL YEAR AND ALLOWING THE TAX LEVY FOR A TRANSITIONAL FISCAL YEAR TO EXCEED THE MAXIMUM SET FORTH IN § 44-5-2. (Changes the annual financial town meeting date for Town of Scituate to the first Tuesday in the month of June starting in the calendar year 2024.) {LC5813/1}

04/27/2022 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 8174**BY** Filippi

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES -- TOWN OF NEW SHOREHAM -- REVALUATION (Grants the town of New Shoreham a one-year extension to complete the revaluation due in 2022. The revaluation would be based on valuations as of December 31, 2022.) {LC5825/1}

04/27/2022 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

ADDRESS

Representative Kislak addresses the members in recognition of Holocaust Remembrance Day.

GUESTS

Representative Kislak welcomes to the House Chamber for Holocaust Remembrance Day: Wendy Joering: Executive Director of The Sandra Borenstein Holocaust Center, Audrey Weinreich: Board member her father, who passed away 6 months ago, escaped and had family who perished.

CALENDAR

From the Calendar are taken:

IN ORDER FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022:**1. 2022-H 7559 SUB A**

BY Speakman

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- LICENSING OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

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

Chairman Casey moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Donovan, Speakman, Carson, Amore, Morales, Ruggiero, McEntee, Ajello, Cortvriend, Fogarty, Knight, Cassar, Slater, Potter, Felix, and Whip Kazarian.

Deputy Speaker Lima, Representatives Speakman, Casey, and Corvese discuss the act.

The bill marked Substitute "A" is read and passed, and the original bill indefinitely postponed, 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, Barros, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, 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, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Price, Quattrocchi, Ranglin-Vassell, Roberts, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tanzi, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson, Williams.

NAYS - 1: Representative Morgan.

RECUSED - 0:

2. 2022-H 7879

BY Serpa

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Chairman Casey moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Carson, Serpa, Cassar, Donovan, Speakman, and McEntee.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 71 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 71: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Barros, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, 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, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Price, Quattrocchi, Ranglin-Vassell, Roberts, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tanzi, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson, Williams.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

3. 2022-H 6674

BY Solomon

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

Chairman Craven moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Carson, Phillips, Cardillo, Hawkins, Noret, McEntee, Azzinaro, Deputy Speaker Lima, Bennett, Diaz, Whip Kazarian, Felix, Barros, McGaw, Morgan, Deputy Whip Ackerman, Ajello, Ruggiero, and Casey.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 73 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 73: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Barros, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, 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, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Price, Quattrocchi, Ranglin-Vassell, Roberts, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tanzi, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson, Williams.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairwoman Diaz recognizes and thanks all Administrative Assistants including her own Roberta DiMezza and Christopher O'Brien clerk of the House Finance Committee, for all their hard work.

Speaker Shekarchi would like to thank all of the Administrative Assistants and his own Lynn DiPetrillo.

Chairman Abney announces that the Committee on Finance will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 35 of the State House.

GUESTS

Representative Henries would like to welcome to the House as guests two seniors from East Providence High School Mason Monig and Kathrine Whitaker who are in a program called “ The Pathway Program.” Speaker Shekarchi welcomes both Mason and Kathrine to the House.

Chairman Alzate announces that the Committee on Municipal Government and Housing will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 101 of the State House.

Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy invites the members of the House to celebrate Taiwan Day on Thursday, April 28th, 2022, at 4:00 p.m., in the House Lounge.

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces that tomorrow, all members are invited early to attend a Taiwan Day celebration in the House Lounge from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. House session will begin at 4 p.m.

Majority Leader Blazejewski would also like to recognize and thank his Administrative Assistant Jennifer Amerantes for all that she does.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

House Resolution No. 8175

BY Diaz, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Filippi, Slater, Craven, McNamara, Abney, Donovan, Williams
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING "ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS' DAY" APRIL 27, 2022, AND THANKING ALL THE DEDICATED STAFF WHO WORK TIRELESSLY IN SUPPORT OF THE RHODE ISLAND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES {LC5819/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairwoman Diaz discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Chairwoman Diaz, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 8176

BY Ackerman, Kislak, Knight, Kazarian, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Filippi, Tanzi, Shallcross Smith, Fogarty

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING "HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY" ON APRIL 28, 2022 {LC4403/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, on behalf of Deputy Whip Ackerman and Representative Knight, Representative Kislak requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Representative Kislak discusses the resolution.

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

RULE 7D

The following bills were received pursuant to Rule 7D:

Representative Speakman-An Act relating to Property–Rhode Island Fair Housing Practices Act
Representative Casimiro-An Act relating to State Affairs and Government
An Act relating to Motor and Other Vehicles

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.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:38 o'clock P.M. on motion of Majority Leader Blazejewski seconded by Minority Leader Filippi the House adjourns, on a voice vote.

Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX

INVOCATION

REPRESENTATIVE REBECCA M. KISLAK

Holy One of Blessing, we have gathered here this morning encompassing different traditions and backgrounds, preparing to work on behalf of the citizens of this State. We want to do this work thoughtfully and well. Guide us in our choices, so that we make decisions based on our highest values and inspired by our dreams of what is possible.

On this, Yom Hashoah, this Day of Remembrance, on which we mourn the 6 million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, who were brutalized and murdered simply for being Jews, and millions of others who were murdered for who they were – Roma, Russian and Polish civilians, people with disabilities, homosexuals and others - we confront the truth that human beings have a terrifying capacity to hate, and to dehumanize others. Let us pray, therefore, that we may be ever vigilant so as not to allow such dehumanizing destructiveness to take root in our own hearts, in this House, in our communities, our land.

Help us contribute toward making the world in which we live a better place, and help us feel that we can do the work that needs to be done. The ancient sage Rabbi Tarfon taught “*lo alecha hamelacha ligmor...*” “It is not for you to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from it.” We are not expected to solve all the problems, but we are not free to ignore them either.

Therefore, Dear God, guide us toward knowing in what ways we each might participate in the betterment of our state, and our world. Help us avoid feeling so overwhelmed by the enormity of the needs around us, and help us know that each good bill we pass, each good deed that we do, each act of righteousness, matters. Amen.

APPENDIX

CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022:

1. **2022-H 6663**
BY Potter
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- FORCE-FED POULTRY PRODUCTS

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

2. **2022-H 7361**
BY Kazarian
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- TRADE IN ANIMAL FUR PRODUCTS ACT

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

3. **2022-H 7140**
BY Donovan
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY-FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCT DONATIONS ACT

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

4. **2022-H 7700**
BY McEntee
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- INTERCEPTION OF WIRE AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

5. **2022-H 7438 SUB A**
BY Cortvriend
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- TOXIC PACKAGING REDUCTION ACT

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A.

6. **2022-H 7316**
 BY Craven
 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- TAX SALES

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

Francis McCabe
Clerk of the House

Friday, April 22, 2022