

# 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 Third Day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.

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Volume 150, No. 2

Thursday, January 5, 2023

Second Day

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The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence, Thursday, January 5, 2023 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 67 members present and 8 members absent as follows:

**PRESENT** – 67: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Phillips, Place, Potter, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson and Voas.

**ABSENT** – 8: Representatives Casey, Diaz, Knight, Lima, Morgan, Nardone, Perez and Quattrocchi.

## INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents Representative Joseph J. Solomon, Jr. 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 3, 2023, is approved.

COMMUNICATIONS



State of Rhode Island

Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State

Gregg M. Amore, *Secretary of State*

January 5, 2023

Francis McCabe  
House of Representatives  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

To the Clerk of the House of Representatives,

Please accept a corrected list of members elected to the House of Representatives in the General Assembly, in accordance with the certificate of election filed in this office by the Board of Elections on the twenty second day of November 2022, as provided by Chapter 3 of Title 22 of the General Laws.

The corrected list adds the name of Lauren H. Carson, which was inadvertently not included on the list provided on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Gregg M. Amore'.

Gregg M. Amore  
Secretary of State



January 4, 2023

To the Honorable House of Representatives:

I, Gregg M. Amore, Secretary of State, hereby certify the following list of members elected to the House of Representatives in the General Assembly, in accordance with the certificate of election filed in this office by the Board of Elections on the twenty-second day of November 2022, as provided by Section 22-3-13 of the General Laws of 1956;

- |                            |                           |                         |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Edith H. Ajello            | Patricia L. Morgan        | Robert D. Phillips      |
| Christopher R. Blazejewski | Patricia A. Serpa         | Alex D. Marszalkowski   |
| Nathan W. Biah             | George A. Nardone         | Brian J. Rea            |
| Rebecca M. Kislak          | Sherry L. Roberts         | William W. O'Brien      |
| Anthony J. DeSimone        | Justine A. Caldwell       | Arthur J. Corvese       |
| Raymond A. Hull            | Julie A. Casimiro         | Joshua J. Giraldo       |
| David Morales              | Robert E. Craven Sr.      | Brandon T. Voas         |
| John J. Lombardi           | Carol Hagan McEntee       | Cherie L. Cruz          |
| Enrique G. Sanchez         | Teresa A. Tanzi           | Jennifer A. Stewart     |
| Scott A. Slater            | Kathleen A. Fogarty       | Karen Alzate            |
| Grace Diaz                 | Tina L. Spears            | Leonela Felix           |
| Jose F. Batista            | Samuel A. Azzinaro        | Mary Duffy Messier      |
| Ramon A. Perez             | Brian Patrick Kennedy     | Katherine S. Kazarian   |
| Charlene Lima              | Megan L. Cotter           | Brianna E. Henries      |
| Barbara Ann Fenton Fung    | Michael W. Chippendale    | Matthew S. Dawson       |
| Brandon C. Potter          | Robert J. Quattrocchi     | Jennifer Smith Boylan   |
| Jacquelyn M. Baginski      | Edward T. Cardillo, Jr.   | Jason P. Knight         |
| Arthur Handy               | Deborah A. Fellela        | June S. Speakman        |
| Joseph McNamara            | Gregory J. Costantino     | Susan A. Donovan        |
| David A. Bennett           | Mia A. Ackerman           | John G. Edwards, IV     |
| Camille F. Vella Wilkinson | Mary Ann Shallcross Smith | Michelle E. McGaw       |
| Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.     | David J. Place            | Terri-Denise Cortvriend |
| K. Joseph Shekarchi        | Brian C. Newberry         | Marvin L. Abney         |
| Evan Patrick Shanley       | Jon D. Brien              | Alex S. Finkelman       |
| Thomas E. Noret            | Stephen M. Casey          | Lauren H. Carson        |



In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the State of Rhode Island on this fourth day of January, A.D. 2023.

Gregg M. Amore  
Secretary of State

Received and placed on file.

Representative Jason Knight is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 5, 2023.  
Representative Stephen M. Casey is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 5, 2023.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the House of Representatives, Representative Giraldo offers congratulations and best wishes to Senator Sandra Cano and General Treasurer James Diossa on the birth of their second child, a little boy Alessandro.

Representative Corvese would like to thank Representative Noret and members of the House for all of the condolences on the passing of his mother.

Representative Alzate announces that the Black and Latino Caucus will meet in room 101 at the rise. First, there will be a group photo in the House Lounge in front of the fire place.

Representative McNamara congratulates the Speaker on his re-election and looks forward to working with him. He also offers his remarks to the freshman class of Representatives.

Representative Vella-Wilkinson acknowledges Technical Sergeant Roger Richards, who is retiring after 22 years of honorable service in Rhode Island Air National Guard.

### APPOINTMENTS

Announcement from Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi:

The following members have been appointed to the House Rules Committee:

Representative Kathleen Fogarty, Chair  
Representative William O'Brien, First Vice Chair  
Representative Patricia Serpa, Second Vice Chair  
Representative Samuel Azzinaro  
Representative Arthur Corvese  
Representative Grace Diaz  
Representative Katherine Kazarian  
Representative Brian Kennedy  
Representative Alex Marszalkowski  
Representative Joseph McNamara  
Representative Brian Newberry  
Representative Robert Phillips  
Representative David Place  
Representative Evan Shanley  
Representative Scott Slater

**Read and placed on file.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces, the Rules Committee has been formed. We anticipate that the Rules Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, January 18. If any member has a bill that they would like heard by the Rules Committee, it should be submitted by next week.

Also, the current rules from the 2021-2022 term are available on the General Assembly website. If any member would like a hard copy, please inform the Speaker's Office.

The House will be meeting in session next Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, at 4 p.m. The House will not be meeting in session next Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>.

All members should have received a new Seating Chart that will be effective next Tuesday.

A photographer will be available in the House Lounge at the rise to take photos for the legislative website and for official purposes.

Representative Sanchez would like to recognize and thank the Rhode Island National Guard and members of the Amos House, for their hard work at the Cranston Armory shelter.

**AT EASE**

At 4:44 o'clock P.M. the Honorable Speaker Shekarchi declares the House to be at ease.

**ORDER**

At 4:45 o'clock P.M. the Honorable Speaker Shekarchi calls the House to order.

**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION****House Resolution No. 5000**

**BY** Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Place, Roberts, Newberry, Rea, Fenton-Fung, McEntee, McNamara

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE LINCOLN CARTER ALMOND {LC406/1}

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

There is no objection.

Minority Leader Chippendale discusses the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi offers his condolences to the Almond family.

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

**House Resolution No. 5001**

**BY** Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Noret, Brien, McNamara, Chippendale, Azzinaro, O'Brien, Shanley, Craven

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SENTITE CONDOGLIANZE ON THE PASSING OF ROSA FABIANO {LC28/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Noret discusses the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi offers his condolences.

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

**House Resolution No. 5002**

**BY** Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Donovan, Fogarty, Chippendale, Cortvriend, O'Brien, Costantino, Spears, Fellela

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF VALRIE V. RANGLIN {LC302/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, on behalf of Speaker Shekarchi, Representative Donovan requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Representative Donovan discusses the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi offers his condolences to former Representative Ranglin-Vassell.

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

**House Resolution No. 5003**

**BY** Shekarchi, Corvese, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Ajello, Noret, Phillips, Kennedy, Costantino, Ackerman

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE CATHERINE E. GRAZIANO, RN, PHD. {LC29/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Corvese discusses the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi offers his condolences.

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

**House Resolution No. 5004**

**BY** Caldwell, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Marszalkowski, Chippendale, Craven, Cortvriend, O'Brien, Costantino, Fogarty

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF ROBERT A. WALSH {LC314/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Caldwell discusses the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi offers his condolences to Bob Walsh his sister and the extended Walsh family.

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

**House Resolution No. 5005**

**BY** Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Ajello, Kazarian, Speakman, Shallcross Smith, Kislak, Cortvriend, Carson, Corvese

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF JANICE DIPRETE {LC296/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Ajello discusses the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi offers his condolences to Representative Handy.

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

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

**DESK HELD OPEN**

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi announces that the desk will be held open.

## NEW BUSINESS

**House Bill No. 5006**

**BY** Kazarian, Felix, Ajello, Alzate, Blazejewski, Fogarty, McEntee, Knight, Giraldo, Carson  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN -- EQUALITY IN ABORTION COVERAGE (Provides for abortion coverage in the Medicaid program and repeal the abortion coverage exclusion for state employee insurance plans.) {LC149/1}  
01/06/2023 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 5007**

**BY** O'Brien, Slater, Abney, Serpa, Bennett, Potter, Corvese, Baginski, Shanley, Solomon  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- LEAD POISONING PREVENTION ACT (Establishes a lead water supply replacement program for public and private service lines and requires disclosure to tenants and buyers of real property of the presence of lead service lines.) {LC62/1}  
01/06/2023 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5008**

**BY** Noret, Casimiro, Hull, Corvese, Solomon, Vella-Wilkinson, Baginski, Dawson, Shallcross Smith, Shanley  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES - RETIREMENT OF MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES - REEMPLOYMENT OF POLICE OFFICERS (Exempts retired police officers from the seventy-five (75) day rule which restricts employment for retirement purposes, when they work private details for a nongovernmental entity.) {LC130/1}  
01/06/2023 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 5009**

**BY** McNamara, Shallcross Smith, Ackerman, Noret, Donovan, Roberts  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - PUPIL TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES ("Pupil Transportation Vehicle" to be and constructed to seat not more than ten (10) passengers including the operator, rather than the existing limit of eight (8) passengers.) {LC52/1}  
01/06/2023 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Bill No. 5010**

**BY** McNamara, Shallcross Smith, Fenton-Fung, Noret, Donovan  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE -- THE PROMOTING ACCESS TO INCREASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT (Requires that services provided by school social workers and certified school psychologists be included as health care related services eligible for federal Medicaid reimbursement.) {LC41/1}  
01/06/2023 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Bill No. 5011****BY** Azzinaro, Blazejewski, Kennedy, McNamara, Edwards, Bennett**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

(Provides that parents and guardians of children with disabilities in private school have the same rights and remedies as parents/guardians of children in public school.) {LC375/1}

01/06/2023 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Bill No. 5012****BY** Bennett, Baginski, McGaw, Fenton-Fung, Corvese, Solomon**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS

INSURANCE POLICIES -- PHYSICAL THERAPY COPAY (Limits copays, coinsurance or office deductibles for services of a physical therapist to the amount authorized for the services of a primary care physician or osteopath.) {LC322/1}

01/06/2023 Introduced, referred to House Health &amp; Human Services

**House Bill No. 5013****BY** Bennett, Baginski, McGaw, Fenton-Fung, McNamara, Corvese, Solomon**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHYSICAL

THERAPISTS (Prohibits physical therapists from ordering diagnostic imaging as an authorized practice of physical therapy after December 31, 2025.) {LC442/1}

01/06/2023 Introduced, referred to House Health &amp; Human Services

**House Bill No. 5014****BY** Bennett, McGaw, McEntee, Cardillo, Costantino, Serpa, Hull, Fogarty, Cortvriend, Edwards**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- CERTIFIED

SURGICAL FIRST ASSISTANTS (Allows for the licensing of surgical assistants to assist doctors in performing surgeries.) {LC77/1}

01/06/2023 Introduced, referred to House Health &amp; Human Services

**House Bill No. 5015****BY** Morales, Speakman, Bennett, Cruz, McEntee, Henries, Vella-Wilkinson, Stewart, Tanzi, Sanchez**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MINIMUM

WAGES (Repeals the law that prevented municipalities from establishing their own minimum wage for their employees.) {LC107/1}

01/06/2023 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**(For co-sponsorship removals request, see Journal of 1-17-2023, page 2 and Journal of 1-19-2023, page 2.)****House Bill No. 5016****BY** Edwards, McGaw**ENTITLED**, AN ACT VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE HOME

RULE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF TIVERTON (Validates and ratifies amendments to the Home Rule Charter of the town of Tiverton, adopted and approved on November 8, 2022.)

{LC156/1}

01/06/2023 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing

**House Bill No. 5017**

**BY** Azzinaro, Kennedy, Vella-Wilkinson, Casimiro, Donovan, Roberts, Place, Noret, Serpa, Abney  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES (Unifies the weight limit of vehicles with special plates, including P.O.W. plates, National Guard plates, and disabled veteran plates, to 12,000 pounds.) {LC80/1}  
01/06/2023 Introduced, referred to House Special Legislation

**House Bill No. 5018**

**BY** Solomon, DeSimone, Potter, Casimiro, Kazarian, Giraldo, Shanley, O'Brien, Noret, Phillips  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES (Allows Diane Louise Ricciardi to join Vanessa Rose DiPilato and Nicholas Landmark Nybo in marriage on or about June 24, 2023, within the City of Providence, Rhode Island.) {LC378/1}  
01/06/2023 Introduced, referred to House Special Legislation

**House Concurrent Resolution No. 5019**

**BY** Newberry, Chippendale, Roberts, Place, Rea  
**ENTITLED**, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TERMINATING THE CURRENT DECLARATION OF STATE EMERGENCY AND ALL EXECUTIVE ORDERS COMMENCING ON DECEMBER 12, 2022, THROUGH JANUARY 10, 2023 {LC356/1}  
01/06/2023 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 5020**

**BY** Vella-Wilkinson, Noret, Morales, Casimiro, Bennett, Sanchez, Solomon, Kazarian, Lombardi J  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RECOGNITION OF NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES (Provides a procedure for a Native American tribe to petition the state for recognition.) {LC219/1}  
01/06/2023 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 5021**

**BY** Vella-Wilkinson, Noret, Morales, Casimiro, Bennett, Sanchez, Kazarian, Lombardi J  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RECOGNITION OF NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES (Recognizes the Seaconke Wampanoag tribe as a Native American Indian tribe.) {LC218/1}  
01/06/2023 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 5022**

**BY** Edwards, McGaw, Cortvriend  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OPEN MEETINGS (Allows school committees to add item(s) not appearing in published notice to their agendas for purposes of discussion only if the revised agenda is filed with the secretary of state and posted on district website at least 48 hrs in advance of the meeting.) {LC393/1}  
01/06/2023 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:47 o'clock P.M. on motion of Leader Chippendale, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Hon. Lincoln Almond; on motion of Representative Noret, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Rosa Fabiano; on motion of Representative Donovan, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Valrie V. Ranglin; on motion of Representative Corvese, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Hon. Catherine E. Graziano; on motion of Representative Caldwell, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Robert A. Walsh; on motion of Representative Carson, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Ronald I. Becker; on motion of Representative Ajello, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Janice DiPrete; on motion of Representative Solomon, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Hon. Quentin Williams seconded by Leader Blazewski and Minority Whip Place the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

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

**APPENDIX**

**INVOCATION**

**REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH J. SOLOMON, JR.**

Dear Lord: As we begin this legislative term, we ask that you guide us with your wisdom throughout the entire session. Let us always be mindful that as public servants, we carry the hopes and dreams of all those we serve. Amen.