

# 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. 17

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Seventeenth-Day

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The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence, Tuesday, March 7, 2023, and is called to order at 4:13 o'clock P.M., by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 71 members present and 4 members absent as follows:

**PRESENT** – 71: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Fogarty, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson and Voas.

**ABSENT** – 4: Representatives Batista, Felix, Giraldo, and Lima.

## INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents Bishop Richard G. Henning, Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Providence 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 2, 2023, is approved.

RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY



House of Representatives

**CO-SPONSORSHIP REMOVAL REQUEST**

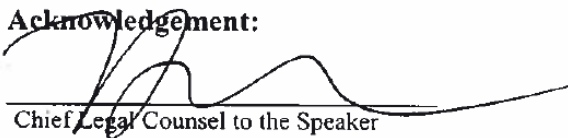
**2023**

Pursuant to House Rule 15(g)(ii), Rep. Cruz  
hereby requests the removal of their co-sponsorship of Bill # H-6072  
Entitled: Relating to Health & Safety—Commitment of Alcoholics or  
Substance Abusers  
which is currently in the House Committee on Judiciary.

Signature: Chere L Cruz

House District: 58

Date: March 6, 2023

Acknowledgement:  
  
Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker

*NOTE: This request must be submitted to the Clerk of the House, who will retain the original and a copy to be placed in the committee's original bill file*

RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY



House of Representatives

**CO-SPONSORSHIP REMOVAL REQUEST**  
**2023**

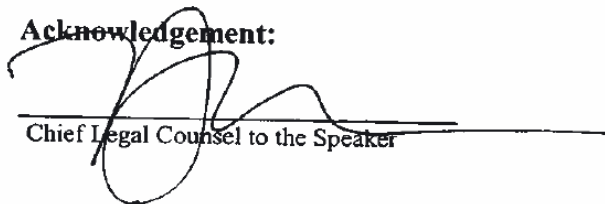
Pursuant to House Rule 15(g)(ii), Representative Jennifer Stewart hereby requests the removal of their co-sponsorship of Bill # H-6072 entitled: An Act Relating to Health and Safety - Commitment of Alcoholics or Substance Abusers which is currently in the House Committee on Judiciary

Signature: Jennifer A. Stewart

House District # 59

Date: March 6, 2023

Acknowledgement:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker

*NOTE: This request must be submitted to the Clerk of the House, who will retain the original and a copy to be placed in the committee's original bill file*

**NOMINATIONS**

March 7, 2023

Speaker Shekarchi has made the following nominations:

**Emerging Legislative Leaders Program, hosted by the State Legislative Leaders Foundation, to be held July 10-13 at the University of Virginia:**

Representative Nathan Biah  
Representative Alex Finkelman  
Representative Tina Spears

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Representative Leonela Felix is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 7, 2023.  
Representative Joshua J. Giraldo is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 7, 2023.  
Representative Jose F. Batista is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

**CALENDAR**

From the Calendar are taken:

**IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023:**

- 1. 2023-H 5169**  
**BY** McNamara  
**ENTITLED, JOINT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE OF RHODE ISLAND'S PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM**

Committee on Education recommends passage.

Chairman McNamara moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Biah, Cortvriend and Deputy Whip Ackerman.

Chairman McNamara discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 69 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 69: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Fogarty, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**2. 2023-H 5305**

**BY** Carson

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- ELECTIVE MEETINGS

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

Chairman Shanley moves passage of the act, seconded by The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi, Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Azzinaro, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casimiro, Cortvriend, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Donovan, Edwards, Finkelman, Fogarty, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, O'Brien, Phillips, Potter, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Speakman, Spears, Vella-Wilkinson, Voas.

Chairman Shanley discusses the act.

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, Azzinaro, Baginski, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Fogarty, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

### GUESTS

Representative Alzate welcomes and congratulates three female students for their academic achievements and for being Legislators for the day, they were accompanied by their mentors. Hawawou Barry and Chris Souza from Tolman High School, Catherine Nobre and Samantha Chella from Shea High School, Princess Appiah and Laura Ciano from Jacqueline M. Walsh High School. Speaker Shekarchi congratulates and welcomes them to the House Chamber.

Representative Carson welcomes to the House Chamber the Rhode Island Music Education Association, Rhode Island Art Education Association, Rhode Island Theatre Education Association, Dance Alliance of Rhode Island, Newport Contemporary Ballet, Rhode Island State Council on the Arts and Rhode Island Department of Education.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Representative Carson announces that the Newport St. Patrick's Day Parade is this Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m., and all are invited to attend.

Chairman Solomon in recognition of Rhode Island Craft Beer week welcomes to the House chamber as guests Matt Gray, Ragged Island Brewing Company, and Jeremy Duffy, The Guild.

Deputy Whip Ackerman welcomes to the House Chamber the Cancer Action Network group.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Representative Kislak announces that today is a Jewish Holiday of Purim during which people dress in costumes bring friends food, make gifts for charities and listen to the story of Queen Esther.

**GUEST**

Representative Kislak welcomes to the House Chamber the 54th Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives, Terrance Carroll. He was the only African-American to have served as Speaker of the Colorado House Representatives.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

Representative Sanchez expressed concerns and urged First Student Bus Company and the Teamsters Union Local 251 to take every measure to avoid a strike and reach a prompt contract resolution that is fair for all.

Representative Fellela would like to congratulate the Johnston High School Boy's Basketball team for winning the RIIL Division II Championship this past weekend over Middletown High School.

Representative Corvese invites all to attend the Rhode Island Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists reception that is being held at the Marriot in Providence tonight.

Representative Fogarty wishes her father David Reilly, Sr. a happy 89<sup>th</sup>, birthday. Speaker Shekarchi wishes Mr. Reilly a Happy Birthday.

Representative Fogarty thanks Dr. Nancy Meedzan, (Providence College), Dr. Linda Mendonca (Rhode Island College), and Dr. Betty Rambur (University of Rhode Island) for being speakers today at the International Women's Day event.

Representative Cortvriend announces that the Finance Subcommittee on Human Services will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 35 of the State House.

Chairwoman McEntee announces that the Committee on Small Business will meet today, at the rise of the House, in the House Lounge of the State House.

Representative Vella-Wilkinson announces tomorrow, March 8<sup>th</sup>, at 2:45 p.m. in room 101 there will be a briefing on the Seaconke Wampanoag Tribe History and its relationship with the State of Rhode Island.

Representatives Desimone, Biah and Corvese express their sympathy and offer condolences to the entire family of John DeLuca.

### GUESTS

Representative Cotter welcomes to the House Chamber as guests her husband, Christopher, and her son Charles Cotter.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deputy Whip Ackerman announces and congratulates Chairwoman Diaz on becoming a grandmother for the 7<sup>th</sup> time on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Speaker Shekarchi congratulates Chairwoman Diaz.

Representative Shallcross Smith would like to congratulate Kathryn and David Hartley, lifelong residents of Lincoln a Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces there will be four committees meeting tomorrow, Education, Finance, Corporations, and State Government & Elections. The next House session is Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, at 4 p.m.

Majority Leader Blazejewski wishes Representative Kislak and House Clerk, Francis McCabe a Happy Birthday!

### IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

#### **House Resolution No. 6130**

**BY** Spears, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Cotter, Carson, Donovan, Speakman, Henries, Morales, Kennedy

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF DISABILITY RIGHTS ACTIVIST, JUDITH ELLEN HEUMANN {LC2492/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Spears discusses the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 6131**

**BY** Ackerman, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Donovan, Phillip Slater, Bennett, Chippendale, Baginski, Spears

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MARCH AS "COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC1977/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Deputy Whip Ackerman requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Deputy Whip Ackerman discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Deputy Whip Ackerman, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

**House Resolution No. 6132**

**BY** Carson, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Donovan, Kennedy, Ajello, Fenton-Fung, Fellela, Cortvriend

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING MARCH OF 2023 AS "ARTS IN THE SCHOOLS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC1706/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Carson discusses the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 6133**

**BY** Solomon, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kazarian, Caldwell, Donovan, Voas, Brien, Azzinaro, Chippendale

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE 2ND ANNUAL "RI CRAFT BEER WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND ON MARCH 3RD THROUGH MARCH 12TH OF 2023 {LC2466/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Chairman Solomon requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Chairman Solomon discusses the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 6134**

**BY** Tanzi, Fogarty, Shallcross Smith, Ajello, Felix, Ackerman, Diaz, Serpa, Shekarchi, Blazejewski **ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH 8, 2023, AS "INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2397/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Tanzi, Chairwoman Fogarty and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 6135**

**BY** Fenton-Fung, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Corvese, Hull, Serpa, Vella-Wilkinson, Lima, Azzinaro, Chippendale **ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE MOST REVEREND RICHARD G. HENNING, D.D., S.T.D., ON BEING APPOINTED BY POPE FRANCIS TO SERVE AS COADJUTOR BISHOP OF PROVIDENCE, WITH THE RIGHT OF SUCCESSION {LC1419/1}

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 many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

**BY** Blazejewski, Chippendale

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS {LC2491/1}

Majority Leader Blazejewski requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

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

**House Resolution No. 6137****BY** Blazejewski, Chippendale**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES {LC2490/1}

Majority Leader Blazejewski requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

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

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

Representative Ackerman-An Act relating to Insurance – Drug Benefits

Representative Diaz-An Act relating to Health and Safety

Representative O'Brien-An Act relating to Education

Representative Perez-An Act relating to Car Insurance

Representative Potter-An Act relating to Insurance – Coverage for Prevention of HIV Infection

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.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES****TRANSFER OF BILLS**

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

**House Bill No. 6083****BY** Batista, Shekarchi, Hull, Shallcross Smith, Noret, McNamara**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- LOW AND MODERATE

INCOME HOUSING (Amends several sections of law relating to low-and moderate-income housing and the application, appeal, and judicial review process.) {LC1448/1}

03/07/2023 Committee transferred to House Judiciary

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE SENATE**

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

**House Bill No. 5040 SUB A**

**BY** O'Brien, Biah, Slater, Serpa, Carson, Corvese, Azzinaro, Kazarian, Spears, DeSimone  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT (Permits retired teachers to substitute teach in a school for up to one hundred twenty (120) days in a school year, without any loss, forfeiture, or reduction in retirement benefits, through June 30, 2025.) {LC448/A/1}

03/08/2023 Referred to House Finance

**Senate Bill No. 20 SUB A**

**BY** Valverde, Pearson, DiMario, Acosta, Zurier, DiPalma, Gu, Britto  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT (Adds a section which allows substitute teachers and post-retirement employees to exceed the ninety-day (90) cap on post-retirement employment if certain conditions are met.) {LC672/A/1}

03/08/2023 Referred to House Finance

**Senate Bill No. 38**

**BY** Lawson, Lauria, Britto  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES (Authorizes the city of East Providence to grant a retailer's Class B license to property located at 136 Taunton Avenue, Map 106, Block 6, Parcel 15 of the applicable city of East Providence tax assessment map.) {LC90/1}

03/08/2023 Referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

**Senate Bill No. 239**

**BY** Pearson, Picard  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Authorizes the town of Cumberland to exempt or stabilizes tax payments for real/personal property related to environmental remediation, historic preservation, affordable housing, manufacturing, commercial, residential, or mixed-use purposes.) {LC801/1}

03/08/2023 Referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

**NEW BUSINESS****House Bill No. 6138**

**BY** Cotter, Casimiro, Carson, Donovan, Cruz, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Sanchez, Morales  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND (Provides that degrees from the Community College of Rhode Island be awarded by the board of education, with the approval of the president and the faculty senate.) {LC2301/1}

03/08/2023 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Bill No. 6139**

**BY** Casimiro, Cotter, Donovan, Ajello, Kazarian, Shallcross Smith, Spears, Cruz, Tanzi, Knight  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – SECOND LOOK SENTENCING ACT (Establishes the second look act and would permit incarcerated individuals to petition the sentencing court to consider a motion to reduce a sentence after the defendant has served at least 10 years of the sentence.) {LC2310/1}  
03/08/2023 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 6140**

**BY** Ajello, Knight, Kazarian, Handy, Cortvriend, Cruz, Speakman  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- COMMERCIAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY (Under certain circumstances, provides immunity from arrest and prosecution for prostitution, procurement of sexual conduct for a fee, loitering for prostitution and soliciting from motor vehicles for indecent purposes.) {LC2489/1}  
03/08/2023 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 6141**

**BY** Alzate, Corvese, Cruz, Morales, Shanley, Henries  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HOLIDAYS AND DAYS OF SPECIAL OBSERVANCE – WORK ON HOLIDAYS AND SUNDAYS (All laborers, mechanics, and workers who are required to work on Sundays and/or holidays would be paid by their employers at least one and one-half (1½) times the normal rate of pay.) {LC1660/1}  
03/08/2023 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**House Bill No. 6142**

**BY** Alzate, Diaz, Stewart, Cruz, Morales, Shanley, Speakman, Henries  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- DOMESTIC WORKERS' BILL OF RIGHTS (Establishes a bill of rights for domestic workers and provides for a minimum set of benefits relating to working conditions, hours worked and time off from work.) {LC2222/1}  
03/08/2023 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:53 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Edwards, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of John Moran; on motion of Representative Spears, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Judith Heumann; on motion of Representatives DeSimone and Biah, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of John DeLuca seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Chippendale the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

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

**APPENDIX****INVOCATION****REPRESENTATIVE BISHOP RICHARD G. HENNING**

Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation, for through Your goodness we have received the gift of life and the bounty of creation to sustain life. We invoke your blessing upon this body, established for the good order and flourishing of the people of this state. Lord, deepen our wisdom and strengthen our compassion. Protect our leaders from physical threats and preserve their honesty and integrity. May we all acknowledge your authority and the sacred dignity of every human life. We ask this by the power of Your Holy Name. Amen.

APPENDIX

CALENDAR

**IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023:**

**1. 2023-H 5034**

**BY** Edwards

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES --  
INSPECTION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Committee on Corporations recommends passage.

**2. 2023-H 5147**

**BY** McNamara

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- ASSISTED LIVING  
RESIDENCE LICENSING ACT

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

**Francis McCabe**  
Clerk of the House

**Friday, March 3, 2023**