

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

Volume 150, No. 22

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Twenty-second Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence, Tuesday, March 28, 2023, and is called to order at 4:12 o'clock P.M., by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 66 members present and 9 members absent as follows:

PRESENT – 66: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Rea, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Vella-Wilkinson and Voas.

ABSENT – 9: Representatives Baginski, Carson, Fogarty, O'Brien, Perez, Roberts, Slater, Solomon and Tanzi.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents Representative Craven 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

Minority Leader Chippendale objects to the approval of Thursday, March 23, 2023, Journal.

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi calls for a vote to approve the Journal of Thursday, March 23, 2023, as written, 55 members voting in the affirmative and 10 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 55: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Casey, Casimiro, Cortvriend, Corvese, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Noret, Phillips, Potter, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Vella-Wilkinson, Voas.

NAYS - 10: Representatives Cardillo, Chippendale, Costantino, Lima, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Place, Quattrocchi, Rea.

RECUSED - 0:

The House Journal of Thursday, March 23, 2023, is approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

March 28, 2023

Communication from Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi

I have nominated the following to the National Conference of State Legislature's 2023 Child Welfare Fellows Program:

Representative Julie Casimiro

Representative Mary Ann Shallcross Smith

I have nominated the following to the National Conference of State Legislature's 2023 Youth Homelessness Fellows Program:

Representative Jennifer Boylan

Representative Megan Cotter

Representative Anthony DeSimone

Representative Jacquelyn M. Baginski is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 28, 2023.
Representative Kathleen A. Fogarty is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 28, 2023.
Representative Lauren H. Carson is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 28, 2023.
Representative Ramon A. Perez is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

Representative William W. O'Brien is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 28, 2023.
Representative Scott Slater is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 28, 2023.
Representative Teresa Ann Tanzi is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 28, 2023.
Representative Joseph J. Solomon, Jr. is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

CALENDAR

From the Calendar are taken:

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023:

1. 2023-H 5506

BY Ackerman

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

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Chairwoman Donovan moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Blazejewski, McNamara, Representative Bennett, Ackerman, and Biah.

Chairwoman Donovan and Minority Leader Chippendale discuss the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 62 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 62: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Rea, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Speakman, Spears, Vella-Wilkinson, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

2. 2023-H 5555

BY Tanzi

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Chairwoman Donovan moves passage of the act, seconded by Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Azzinaro, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Cardillo, Casey, Cortvriend, Costantino,

Cotter, Craven, Dawson, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fenton-Fung, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Speakman, Spears, Vella-Wilkinson, Voas.

Chairwoman Donovan, Representatives Lima, Morgan, Handy, McGaw and Fenton-Fung, discuss the act.

Read and passed, 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 Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Rea, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Vella-Wilkinson, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

3. 2023-H 5443

BY Ajello

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

Chairman Craven moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Knight, Ajello, Corvese, Felix, Shallcross Smith and Cortvriend.

Chairman Craven discusses the act.

Read and passed, 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 Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Rea, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Vella-Wilkinson, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

4. 2023-H 5378

BY Casimiro

ENTITLED, AN ACT VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF NORTH KINGSTOWN

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

Chairman Casey moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Casimiro, Kazarian and Craven.

Chairman Casey discusses the act.

Read and passed, 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 Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Rea, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Vella-Wilkinson, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:



State of Rhode Island

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST PURSUANT TO RIGL § 36-14-6

I, Leonela Felix, State Representative, District 01, hereby under oath depose and say:

1. (Matter requiring action: i.e. Bill number) I expect to be called upon, in my capacity as State Representative to participate in the consideration of, and/or to vote upon: H. 5302
2. (Nature of the potential conflict) I have the following interest in the matter: I am officiating the wedding between Kayla & Michael.
3. (Please select one of the following):

☐ A. In compliance with Section 36-14-6(1) of the General Laws I hereby state that, despite the potential conflict stated above, I am able to vote and otherwise participate fairly, objectively and in the public interest regarding the matter described in paragraph 1 above for the following reason(s).

☒ B. In compliance with Section 36-14-6(1) & (2)A of the General Laws, I hereby request the Speaker of the House of Representatives to excuse me from voting on or participating in the consideration of the matter described in paragraph 1 above.

Leonela Felix
REPRESENTATIVE

State of Rhode Island
County of: Providence

Subscribed and sworn to under the penalties for perjury before me this 28 day of March, 2023

Michael R. Egan
Notary Public
State of Rhode Island
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 03-30-2026
Commission # 57679

Representative Felix is excused from voting on or participating in the consideration of the matter described in paragraph 1 above.

Michael R. Egan
SPEAKER

5. 2023-H 5302**BY Tanzi****ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES**

Committee on Special Legislation recommends passage.

Chairwoman Alzate moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski and many others.

Chairwoman Alzate and Representative Lima discuss the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 63 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 63: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Rea, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Vella-Wilkinson, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 1: Representative Felix.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

GUESTS

Representative Giraldo welcomes to the House Chamber and congratulates the Central Falls High School Basketball Lady Warriors Team: Alexsya Torres, Jumella Thornton, Joana Rodrigues, Pamela Galva, Kamila Pizarro, Jayda Argueta, Maribel Veiga, Neyi Fernandez, Jaeda Simmons, Nathaya Andrade, Coach Nick Lafreniere, Coach Manny Silva and Manager Selena Martinez on completing a perfect season with Division- IV Title.

NOW PRESIDING

At 4:46 o'clock P.M., the Honorable Speaker Shekarchi yields the rostrum to the Honorable Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

GUESTS

Representative Alzate welcomes to the House Chamber St. Andrews School Veronica Alexis Dawson, and recognizes her hard work as a student-athlete and for establishing a basketball clinic for her community in Pawtucket. She is accompanied by Shelley Peterson, Maria Isaza, Drew Lagace and Lamel Moore

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Potter congratulates Representative Morales on becoming a Professional Wrestling Champion (Renegade Wrestling Alliance Hype Champion).

GUESTS

Representative Felix welcomes to the House Chamber, Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Director of Governor's Overdose Taskforce Cathy Schultz, and recognizes her work in memory of Cathy Tipping who passed away of an overdose, Dennis Bailer, Peer Support Specialist at Project Weber/Renew and member of the Harm Reduction Advisory Committee, and recognizes his work in memory of Richard Smith, Jessica Jones-Supple a Certified Peer Recovery Coach at Community Care Alliance in Woonsocket, and recognizes her work in memory of her sister, April and Haley McKee Co-Chair of the Substance Use Policy, Education, and Recovery (SUPER) PAC, for her amazing work to address the substance use disorders in Rhode Island communities.

Representative Cruz welcomes to the House Chamber Ashley Perry and Alexis Morales from Project Weber/Renew in Pawtucket and thanks them for their hard work and the hope that they bring to their community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-Chairman Noret announces that the Committee on Education will meet tomorrow, at the rise of the House, in Room 101 of the State House.

Representative Vella-Wilkinson wishes her beloved husband Kenny a Happy 42nd Anniversary! Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy wishes Representative Vella-Wilkinson and her Husband a Happy Anniversary!

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces next House session will be tomorrow, Wednesday, March 29, at 4 p.m. Three committees will be meeting on Thursday, March 30th.

There will be a sexual harassment prevention training session for House members tomorrow at 3 p.m., in the House Lounge. There will be a second training session offered next Thursday, April 6th, at 3 p.m., in the House Lounge. Speaker Shekarchi and Majority Leader Blazejewski encourage all members to attend.

Majority Leader Blazejewski wishes Deputy Whip Ackerman a Happy Birthday!

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**House Resolution No. 6212**

BY Azzinaro, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kennedy, Spears, Vella-Wilkinson, Casey, Casimiro, Solomon, Place

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING JOHN STELLITANO ON BEING INDUCTED INTO THE AVIATION HALL OF FAME AND CELEBRATING THE JOYOUS OCCASION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY {LC2632/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairman Azzinaro discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 6213

BY Azzinaro, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Abney, Kennedy, Chippendale, Vella-Wilkinson, McEntee, Costantino, Shallcross Smith

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING "MEDAL OF HONOR DAY" ON MARCH 25, 2023, IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2713/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairman Azzinaro discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 6214

BY McEntee, Craven, Caldwell, McGaw, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Abney, Spears, Cotter, Chippendale

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING "URI DAY" AT THE RHODE ISLAND STATEHOUSE ON MARCH 28, 2023 {LC2744/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairwoman McEntee discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 6215

BY Giraldo, Voas, Alzate, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Kennedy, Diaz, Shallcross Smith, Edwards

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE CENTRAL FALLS LADY WARRIORS ON WINNING THE RHODE ISLAND DIVISION IV GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP {LC2709/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Giraldo discusses the resolution.

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

RULE 7D

The following bills were received pursuant to Rule 7D:

Representative Ackerman-An Act relating to Residential Landlord and Tenant Act
Representative Azzinaro-An Act relating to Insurance-Accident and Sickness Insurance Policies
Representative Corvese-An Act relating to Insurance
Representative Henries-An Act relating to Offenses Pertaining to Schools
Representative Hull-An Act relating to Criminal Offenses-Weapons
Representative Kislak-An Act relating to Education
Representative Vella-Wilkinson-An Act relating to Veterans Programs

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 measure:

Senate Bill No. 683

BY DiMario

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

(Extends the moratorium on penalties related to COVID-19 modifications to food business or food service establishments to February 15, 2024.) {LC2630/1}

03/28/2023 Placed on House Calendar (03/29/2023)

NEW BUSINESS**House Bill No. 6216**

BY Edwards, Brien, Bennett, Casey

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES (Allows Thomas P. Morgan, to join Hayley Marie Patton and Corey Francis Marte in marriage on or about May 6, 2023, within the Town of Narragansett, Rhode Island.) {LC2703/1}

03/28/2023 Introduced, referred to House Special Legislation

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:05 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Serpa, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Ret. Batt. Chief Frank Parente (WWFD) seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Chippendale the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX**INVOCATION****REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT E. CRAVEN, SR.**

Holy God: We ask you this day to help those victims and their loved ones who are suffering unimaginable grief as a result of the school shooting in Nashville. We beg your help and pray that some solution is found to stop these horrific, senseless tragedies. Amen

**APPENDIX
CALENDAR**

IN ORDER FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023:

- 1. 2023-H 5769**
BY Corvese
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- PARKING FACILITIES AND PRIVILEGES

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.
- 2. 2023-H 5607**
BY Edwards
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.
- 3. 2023-H 5348**
BY Ackerman
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- RESTROOM ACCESS ACT

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.
- 4. 2023-H 5687**
BY Kislak
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS -- MENTAL HEALTH LAW

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.
- 5. 2023-H 5597**
BY McEntee
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HIGHWAYS -- ABANDONMENT BY TOWNS

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.
- 6. 2023-S 683**
BY DiMario
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

Ordered to be placed on the Calendar for passage in concurrence.

Francis McCabe
Clerk of the House

Friday, March 24, 2023

Updated: Tuesday, March 28, 2023