

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 Second Day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.

Volume 151, No. 2

Thursday, January 4, 2024

Second Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence, on Thursday, January 4, 2024, 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 70 members present and 5 members absent as follows:

PRESENT – 70: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson and Voas.

ABSENT – 5: Representatives Alzate, Costantino, Lombardi, Morgan and Quattrocchi.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents Representative Teresa Ann Tanzi, 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 2, 2024, is approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Patricia L. Morgan is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 4, 2024.
Representative Karen Alzate is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 4, 2024.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

GUESTS

Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy welcomes former Rhode Island State Representative and Rhode Island House of Representatives Legal Counsel for the House Corporations Committee, Charles Knowles, to the House Chamber and congratulates him on his retirement. Speaker Shekarchi thanks him for his service to the State of Rhode Island and wishes him the best in his retirement.

Representative Tanzi welcomes Narraganset Town Council member Susan Cicilline-Buonanno, Wakefield Rotary Club, President Donna Vignali, and Margaret Johnson, Vice President of the Wakefield Rotary Club, to the House Chamber. Speaker Shekarchi welcomes them to the House.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairwoman Diaz wishes former Speaker William Murphy a Happy Birthday!

Chairwoman Fogarty offers best wishes to Miss Rhode Island Caroline Parente as she represents Rhode Island in the 2024 Miss USA pageant.

Representative Tanzi wishes her best friend, Catherine Abbate, a Happy Birthday! Speaker Shekarchi wishes her well and a Happy Birthday!

Majority Leader Blazejewski announced that the next House session will be Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday, January 10th, at 4:00 p.m. There will be no session next Thursday, January 11th. On Tuesday, January 16, 2024, the House will meet at 5:00 p.m., one hour later than usual; Governor McKee will deliver the State of the State Address at 7:00 p.m. in a joint session with the Senate in this Chamber. Today at the Rise, there will be a photographer in the House Lounge to take new official photographs, and a photographer will also be available to take photos with the Independent Man at the Smith Street entrance on the first floor. The Independent Man will be moved to the North Main Street Armory on Monday for several months of refurbishment before being placed back atop the State House Dome. Next Wednesday, January 10, 2024, Attorney Caroline Thibeault will provide Sexual Harassment Prevention Training for House members at 3:00 p.m. and at the Rise in the House Lounge. Speaker Shekarchi and Majority Leader Blazejewski encourage members to attend one of the training sessions. Wednesday, January 10, 2024, the Rhode Island Division of Taxation will host a taxpayer assistance event from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Alger Hall on the Rhode Island College campus.

Majority Leader Blazejewski congratulates Representative Shallcross Smith and her business, Dr. Day Care, for being recognized by the Rhode Island Monthly for being a business that inspires philanthropy in their employees. Speaker Shekarchi congratulates Representative Shallcross Smith and thanked her for inspiring everyone.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**House Resolution No. 7006**

BY Kennedy, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Kazarian, Ackerman, Edwards, Craven, Azzinaro

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE CHARLES KNOWLES ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS OF DEDICATED AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF RHODE ISLAND {LC3740/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy, Chairman Azzinaro, Chairman Solomon, and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy, seconded by Speaker Shekarchi and many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 7007

BY Tanzi, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Stewart, Voas, Casimiro, Solomon, Boylan, McNamara

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING AND RECOGNIZING BARBARA J. DISANTO ON THE JOYOUS OCCASION OF HER 90TH BIRTHDAY {LC3670/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Tanzi discusses the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi wishes her a Happy Birthday!

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

House Resolution No. 7008

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Shanley, Craven, McEntee, Bennett, Fogarty, Donovan, Chippendale, Fellela

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF STEPHEN NARDELLI, SR. {LC3623/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairman McNamara discusses the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi offers his condolences to the entire Nardelli family.

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

House Resolution No. 7009

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Craven, McEntee, McNamara, Vella-Wilkinson, Corvese, Azzinaro, Solomon

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF ELEANOR M. SKENYON {LC3271/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairman Craven discusses the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi offers his condolences to Leo Skenyon and his entire family.

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

House Resolution No. 7010

BY Marszalkowski, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Voas, Chippendale, Ackerman, Cortvriend, Fellela, Tanzi, Kennedy

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF JEANNETTE V. CHENEVERT {LC3272/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Marszalkowski and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi offers his condolences to David and all of the Chienevert family.

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

House Resolution No. 7011

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Corvese, Chippendale, Kennedy, Fellela, Tanzi, Shallcross Smith, Fogarty, Handy

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF SHARON BAPTISTA {LC3624/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairman Corvese discusses the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi offers his condolences to the Baptista family.

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

House Resolution No. 7012

BY Azzinaro, Kennedy, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Fellela, Tanzi, Shallcross Smith, Fogarty, Ajello

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF JOSEPH J. KIRBY {LC3273/1}

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. Speaker Shekarchi offers his condolences to the Kirby family.

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

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.

NEW BUSINESS

House Bill No. 7013**BY** Fellela, Baginski, Shallcross Smith, Cardillo, Messier**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- RYAN'S LAW (Overprescribing, death resulting, would result in three (3) year license suspension.) {LC3411/1} 01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations**House Bill No. 7014****BY** Edwards, Ackerman, Newberry, Bennett, Baginski, Chippendale**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- INSPECTION OF MOTOR VEHICLES (Creates a legal process by which formerly cohabitating parties could seek a determination as to ownership of any pet from the district court.) {LC3766/1} 01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations**House Bill No. 7015****BY** Fellela, Edwards, Shallcross Smith, Messier**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- ELECTRICIANS (Clarifies the types of electrical services that require an electrical contractor's license.) {LC3852/1} 01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations**House Bill No. 7016****BY** Corvese, Noret, Brien, Phillips, DeSimone, Casey, Perez, Cardillo, Dawson, Sanchez**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- CASUALTY INSURANCE RATING (Forbids a motor vehicle liability insurance carrier from considering the zip code of where an insured lives for purposes of calculating their policy premium.) {LC3559/1} 01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations**House Bill No. 7017****BY** Morales, Handy, McNamara, Slater, McEntee, Caldwell, Stewart, Place, Kislak, Cortvriend**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (Directs PUC to extend utility termination moratorium for gas/electricity from April 15 to May 1, of each year with discretion to respond to emergency/ economic conditions/customers' needs.) {LC3437/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7018**BY** Potter, Boylan, Tanzi, Handy, Solomon, Knight, McGaw, Carson, Cotter, Cortvriend**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- NET METERING (Prohibits utility companies from limiting eligibility of net metering site based on prior consumption and requires excess energy not consumed to be credited to consumer. Also amends definition of excess renewable net-metering credit.) {LC3799/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7019**BY** Spears, McNamara, Fogarty, Speakman, Cotter, Shanley, Craven, Dawson, Finkelman, Casimiro**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM (Establishes "workplace readiness week". It requires all public high schools, including charter schools, to annually observe

that week by providing information to students on their rights as workers and specifies the topics that must be covered.) {LC3308/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7020

BY Brien, Baginski, Craven, Corvese, Casimiro, Noret, Newberry, Finkelman

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TRANSPARENCY IN ARTS EDUCATION ACCESS AND PROFICIENCY ACT (Establishes the Transparency in Arts Education Access and Proficiency Act to promote arts education.) {LC3352/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7021

BY Azzinaro, Kennedy, Blazejewski, Corvese

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.) {LC3323/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7022

BY Spears, Cortvriend, Kislak, Kazarian, Casimiro, Carson, Cotter, Speakman, Ajello, Dawson

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- ACT ON COASTS - COASTAL RESILIENCY (Requires the chief resilience officer (CRO) be charged with creation/maintenance/updating of the state's resiliency/recovery program along with climate change resiliency plan with ocean/riverine coasts resiliency advisory board.) {LC3288/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

House Bill No. 7023

BY Bennett, Morales, Speakman, Boylan, Kislak, Cortvriend, Diaz, Lima, Ajello, Carson

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR PACKAGING (Reduces equitable relationships between packaging producers and local governments and communities by establishing the Package Reduction and Recycling Program.) {LC3426/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

House Bill No. 7024

BY Slater, O'Brien, DeSimone, Hull, Potter, Spears

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- BUSINESS CORPORATION TAX (Allows cannabis establishments, as defined pursuant to § 21-28.11-3, to claim any deduction to income that would be allowable under the laws of the United States but for 26 U.S.C. § 280E.) {LC3531/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7025

BY Azzinaro, Shallcross Smith, Vella-Wilkinson, Fenton-Fung, Kennedy, Solomon, Phillips, Lombardi J, Hull, Abney

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- STATE LOTTERY (Designates a special account for veterans' causes to be funded by Keno sales, less prizes and commissions, generated on Memorial Day and Veterans Day with disbursement pursuant to appropriation by the general assembly.) {LC3324/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7026

BY Serpa, Lima, McEntee, Ackerman, Shanley, Solomon, Azzinaro, Fogarty, Bennett, O'Brien
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT (Requires all public school teachers hired on or after July 1, 2024, to participate in the retirement system social security pursuant to chapter 7 of title 36.) {LC3635/1}
01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7027

BY Nardone, Tanzi, Shanley, Vella-Wilkinson, Potter, Cortvriend, Cardillo, Perez, Noret, Messier
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- INSPECTOR GENERAL (Establishes the office of inspector general as an independent administrative agency charged with the responsibility to investigate, detect, and prevent fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement in the expenditure of public funds.) {LC3844/1}
01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7028

BY Potter, Tanzi, Morales, Nardone, Giraldo, Kislak, Donovan, Cruz, Sanchez
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- HEALTH CARE FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED RESIDENTS ACT (Increases the income limits for disabled individuals to one hundred eighty percent of the federal poverty level to qualify for medical assistance coverage.) {LC3800/1}
01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7029

BY McEntee, Fogarty, Serpa, O'Brien, Dawson, Morales, Caldwell, Craven, Noret, Phillips
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- RETIREMENT SYSTEM -- CONTRIBUTION AND BENEFITS (Increases the maximum post retirement employment earnings from eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000) to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) a year for certain retired educators.) {LC3430/1}
01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7030

BY Azzinaro, Solomon, Abney, Vella-Wilkinson, Corvese, Donovan
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- RHODE ISLAND VETERANS' HOME (Reduces the assessment by the Rhode Island Veterans Home against a resident's net income from eighty percent (80%) to fifty percent (50%).) {LC3326/1}
01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7031

BY Shallcross Smith, Casimiro, Tanzi, Speakman, Bennett, Morales, DeSimone, Ajello, Fellela, Dawson
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- CERTIFICATION OF CHILDCARE AND YOUTH-SERVING WORKERS AND OPERATORS (Repeals the provision that requires new applicants for employment under this section to pay the expense for their background checks.) {LC3612/1}
01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7032

BY Edwards, Newberry, Kennedy, Diaz, Bennett, Baginski, Potter, Shanley, Abney, Corvese
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- AWARD OF MUNICIPAL CONTRACTS (Increases the maximum state and municipal small purchase limits from \$10,000 to \$25,000 for construction projects and from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for all other state and municipal purchases.) {LC3769/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7033

BY Spears, Cotter, Shanley, Craven, Dawson, Kazarian, Casimiro, Slater, Cortvriend, O'Brien
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE -- LONG-TERM CARE SERVICE AND FINANCE REFORM -- CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES RATES (Provides the executive office of health and human services would submit to the US Department of Health and Human Services a state plan to set rates for chiropractic services.) {LC3305/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7034

BY Diaz, Morales, Slater, Felix, Cruz, Edwards, Potter, O'Brien, DeSimone, Biah
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT (Increases the hourly wages paid to prisoners, for work performed by prisoners, with the consent of the director of corrections.) {LC3845/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7035

BY Shallcross Smith, Casimiro, Tanzi, Speakman, Bennett, Morales, DeSimone, Ajello, Fellela, Dawson
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS -- COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (Appropriates \$1,875,000 for the creation of a 9-8-8 suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline within the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals (BHDDH).) {LC3827/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7036

BY Speakman, Donovan, Biah, Carson, Henries, Cotter, Cortvriend, Kislak, Boylan
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT (Establishes a new categorical funding category for civics education.) {LC3464/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7037

BY Spears, Cotter, Shanley, Craven, Dawson, Finkelman, Kazarian, Casimiro, Slater, Cortvriend
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (Exempts from the sales tax scalp hair prosthesis or wigs that are necessary due to hair loss from a medical condition.) {LC3332/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7038**BY** Azzinaro, Kennedy, Corvese**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (Grants a tax credit for any tax placed upon the sale of automobile parts which have a core charge.) {LC3330/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7039**BY** McEntee, Tanzi, Fogarty, Spears**ENTITLED**, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN TO ISSUE NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENT, RENOVATION, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF A NEW HIGH SCHOOL, ATHLETIC FACILITY, AND OTHER SCHOOL FACILITIES IN THE TOWN AND ALL EXPENSES INCIDENT THERETO INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, COSTS OF DESIGN, DEMOLITION, ATHLETIC FIELDS, LANDSCAPING AND PARKING AND ALL ATTENDANT EXPENSES, INCLUDING ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL AND OTHER PROJECT-RELATED CONSULTING COSTS (Authorizes town of South Kingstown to issue not more than \$150,000,000 bonds and notes to finance the acquisition/construction/improvement/renovation/furnishing/equipping of a new high school/athletic facility/other school facilities in the town.) {LC3523/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7040**BY** Azzinaro, Kennedy, Corvese, Fenton-Fung, Spears, Serpa**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' AND CHAUFFEURS' LICENSES (Requires DMV to make, for persons with autism, a operator's license that is clearly marked "autism", decals that are clearly marked "autism" to be affixed to the vehicle, and blue envelopes that provide written information.) {LC3325/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7041**BY** Potter, Morales, Tanzi, Giraldo, Kislak, Donovan, Cruz**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG SALES REPRESENTATIVE DISCLOSURE ACT (Requires prescription drug manufacturers to file a detailed, updated list of each pharmaceutical sales representative engaged by the manufacturer and to pay an annual fee for each name on list.) {LC3801/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7042**BY** Potter, Cruz, Morales, Kislak, Donovan**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE RHODE ISLAND HEALTH CARE REFORM ACT OF 2004 -- HEALTH INSURANCE OVERSIGHT (Regulates price increases for prescription drugs.) {LC3796/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7043**BY** Edwards, Diaz, Bennett, Potter**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- BENEFIT DETERMINATION AND UTILIZATION REVIEW ACT (Prohibits health benefit plans reviewing prescriptions for opioid addiction treatment.) {LC3768/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7044**BY** Corvese, Noret, Brien, Azzinaro, Phillips, DeSimone, Voas, Finkelman, Casey, Craven**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS REQUIRED AT PUBLIC PLACES AND HEALTH CARE FACILITIES (Requires all health care facilities to provide functional automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and least one person who is properly trained in the operation and use of an AED. Effective 9/1/2024.) {LC3558/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7045**BY** Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Baginski, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Messier**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS REQUIRED AT PUBLIC PLACES (Requires golfing facilities to have an automated external defibrillator on the premises.) {LC3607/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7046**BY** Speakman, Cortvriend, Carson, Kislak, Potter, Boylan, Ajello, Tanzi, Henries**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- STUDENT COMPUTER DEVICE PRIVACY (Prohibits an educational institution or school district from accessing or using location data for tracking a student's institutional device or personal device, except in limited circumstances.) {LC3795/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Innovation, Internet, & Technology

House Bill No. 7047**BY** Potter, Speakman, McNamara, Slater, Cruz, Batista, Bennett, Craven, Sanchez, Handy**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT (Amends the current law on controlled substances to permit a person to be in possession of less than one ounce of psilocybin and permits psilocybin to be securely cultivated within a person's residence for personal use.) {LC3805/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7048**BY** Cruz, Ajello, Morales, Stewart, Batista, Henries, Cotter, Sanchez, Felix, Solomon**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- SENTENCE AND EXECUTION (Requires sentencing court to consider whether defendant is parent of child, or caregiver of elderly, disabled or terminally ill person whose well-being would be adversely affected by the person's incarceration and if so, shall impose a non-jail sentence.) {LC3746/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7049

BY Potter, Morales, Cruz, Stewart, Batista, Sanchez, Henries, Ajello, Biah, Giraldo
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT (Limits rent increases to no more than 4% annually and provides tenants with a civil action to recover damages for any violations.) {LC3804/1}
01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7050

BY Roberts, Casimiro, Chippendale, Craven, Diaz, Edwards, Hull, O'Brien, McNamara, Ackerman
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- SEXUAL ASSAULT – SHERRY’S LAW (Increases minimum sentence for first degree sexual assault and provides first 10 years of a sentence for first degree sexual assault not be subject to a suspension or deferment of sentence.) {LC3600/1}
01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7051

BY Potter, Boylan, Tanzi, Batista, Donovan, Caldwell, Cruz, Fogarty, McGaw, Ajello
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS (Prohibits the operation of an outdoor gun range within one mile or closer of any kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) schools.) {LC3798/1}
01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7052

BY O'Brien, Serpa, Lima, McEntee, Cardillo, Finkelman, Kennedy, DeSimone, Spears, Dawson
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (Prohibits the declawing of cats by any surgical procedure to amputate or modify a portion of a cat's paw in order to remove the cat's claws. Does not apply to any procedure performed for a therapeutic purpose.) {LC3854/1}
01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7053

BY Knight, Speakman, Dawson, Batista, Craven, McEntee, Ajello, Felix, Cruz, Caldwell
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- EXPUNGEMENT OF CRIMINAL RECORDS (Permits those persons with felony convictions to have up to six misdemeanor offenses expunged from their criminal record.) {LC3370/1}
01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7054

BY Morales, Potter, Batista, McNamara, Felix, Tanzi, Cruz, Craven, Stewart, Bennett
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- PAYMENT OF WAGES (Provides employees with civil administrative remedies against contractors, subcontractors involved in the contract with joint/severable liability imposed on contractors or subcontractors. Effective 9/1/2024.) {LC3745/1}
01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Resolution No. 7055

BY Newberry, Ackerman, Noret, Chippendale, Finkelman, Baginski, Solomon, Fenton-Fung, Perez, Azzinaro

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL AFTER THE OCTOBER 7, 2023, TERRORIST ATTACKS BY HAMAS {LC3534/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7056

BY Potter, Speakman, Serpa, Bennett, Craven

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- FORCE-FED POULTRY PRODUCTS (Prohibits force-feeding to create a force-fed poultry product nor hire another to engage in force feeding of a poultry product. Violations would be subject to a civil penalty of \$500.) {LC3797/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7057

BY Cruz, Morales, Stewart, Batista, Henriess, Cotter, Abney, Diaz, Sanchez, Giraldo

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- CONTRACTORS BONDS (Provides that upon application, and good cause, the state may waive the bonding requirement for certified minority business enterprises or women owned businesses.) {LC3752/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Labor

House Bill No. 7058

BY Azzinaro, Shallcross Smith, Vella-Wilkinson, Fenton-Fung, Kennedy, Solomon, Phillips, Lombardi J, Hull, Abney

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- POSTING OF VETERANS' BENEFITS AND SERVICES (Requires employers in the state with more than 50 employees to display a poster containing basic information on veterans' benefits and services be created and distributed by the DLT in consultation with the office of veterans services.) {LC3329/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Labor

House Bill No. 7059

BY Edwards, Newberry, Diaz, Bennett, Baginski, Potter, Shanley

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- LABOR AND PAYMENT OF DEBTS BY CONTRACTORS (Amends the definition of public works so that it would include any public works projects performed for any city or town or quasi-municipal entity and the state and any quasi-state entity.) {LC3765/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Labor

House Bill No. 7060

BY Edwards, Kennedy, Bennett, Cortvriend, Abney

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS -- GENERAL PROVISIONS (Designates Sapowet Marsh Management Area, comprised of two hundred ninety-six (296) acres, more or less, located within the town of Tiverton and Sapowet Cove as open space to be utilized for passive outdoor recreation.) {LC3898/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7061**BY** Tanzi, Fogarty, McEntee, Spears**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

(Exempts from taxation the real and tangible personal property of the Johnnycake Center Realty Corporation, a domestic nonprofit corporation, located in South Kingstown.) {LC3812/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7062**BY** Speakman, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Tanzi, Cotter, Henries, Donovan, Carson, McGaw, Cortvriend**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

(Amends several sections of law relating to zoning ordinances to provide uniform zoning standards for accessory dwelling units.) {LC3794/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7063**BY** Spears, Cotter, Craven, Finkelman, Dawson, Kazarian, Casimiro, Slater, Cortvriend, O'Brien**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE

ISLAND HOUSING AND RESOURCES ACT OF 1998 (Incorporates universal design principals into new construction of low- and moderate-income housing to provide greater accessibility for persons with disabilities.) {LC3303/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7064**BY** McEntee, Cortvriend, Carson, Diaz, Phillips, Costantino, Shallcross Smith, Vella-Wilkinson, Craven, Caldwell**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- OUTDOOR DINING ACT

(Establishes standards governing the municipal regulation of outdoor dining at food service establishments.) {LC3431/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Small Business

House Bill No. 7065**BY** Bennett, DeSimone, Finkelman, McEntee, McNamara, Fogarty, Serpa, Boylan, Cortvriend, Edwards**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- HOTELS (Requires online posting of hotel rules and expand the authority of the innkeeper to eject a person for being verbally abusive or physically threatening to an employee or hotel guest.) {LC3755/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Small Business

House Bill No. 7066**BY** Tanzi**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES (Authorizes the division of motor vehicles to issue special license plates in recognition of The Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation.) {LC3301/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Special Legislation

House Bill No. 7067**BY** Donovan, Chippendale, Fenton-Fung, Speakman**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES (Authorizes the division of motor vehicles to issue special license plates in recognition of The Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation.) {LC3338/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Special Legislation

House Bill No. 7068**BY** Fogarty, Tanzi, McEntee, Carson, Phillips, Serpa, Dawson, Caldwell, Spears, Craven**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- PERMANENT JOINT COMMITTEE ON NAMING ALL NEW BUILDINGS, BRIDGES, EDIFICES AND OTHER STATE CONSTRUCTIONS (Provides that the center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences building at the University of Rhode Island be named as "Joseph '56 Ruby DeChristofaro Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences.") {LC3914/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Special Legislation

House Bill No. 7069**BY** McNamara, Bennett, Solomon, Vella-Wilkinson, Shanley, Shekarchi**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND COMMERCE CORPORATION (Requires one of the seven (7) directors of the Rhode Island airport corporation be appointed by the mayor of the city of Warwick.) {LC3614/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7070**BY** Cruz, Ajello, Morales, Stewart, Batista, Henriess, Cotter, Sanchez, Felix, Slater**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- RESIDENCE OF INDIVIDUALS IN GOVERNMENT CUSTODY ACT (Requires state use actual residences of persons in government custody for redistricting purposes. Information would be collected by the department of corrections and forwarded to the secretary of state to be utilized for redistricting.) {LC3748/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7071**BY** Brien, Corvese, Chippendale, Azzinaro, Noret, Newberry, Roberts, Shanley**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS (Authorizes early voting for the fourteen (14) calendar days immediately preceding election day, while requiring, as is practicable, that all the election day protections and procedures be afforded to early voters.) {LC3354/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Resolution No. 7072**BY** Bennett, Casimiro, Solomon, Finkelman, DeSimone, Morales, Shallcross Smith, Craven, Corvese, Shanley**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE, PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE -- FOUR YEAR TERMS FOR REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS (Proposes an amendment to the State Constitution, Article IV, Section 1, that would allow four (4) year terms for general assembly members, commencing with the 2026 election.) {LC3404/1}

01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7073

BY Azzinaro, Solomon, Abney, Vella-Wilkinson, Corvese, Donovan

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- RHODE ISLAND VETERANS' HOME (Changes the service requirement for admissions to RI Veterans' Home from 90 days to 2 years, and gives priority to veterans defined as war veterans.) {LC3327/1}
01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Veterans Affairs

House Resolution No. 7074

BY Fenton-Fung, Kennedy, Azzinaro, Lombardi J, Hull, Chippendale

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION STRONGLY SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF THE 118TH CONGRESS H.R.6121 -- THE FILIPINO VETERANS FAIRNESS ACT OF 2023 {LC3829/1}
01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Veterans Affairs

House Bill No. 7075

BY Edwards, Diaz, Bennett, Serpa, Potter, Chippendale

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (Provides that the trapping and subsequent release of any unowned feral or free roaming cat for the purpose of spaying or neutering of the cat would not be considered abandonment.) {LC3767/1}
01/05/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:51 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative O'Brien, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Raymond Degan; on motion of Representative Vella-Wilkinson, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Delores Bergeron; on motion of Representative Shallcross Smith, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Kenneth Shorten; on motion of Representative Edwards, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Cecil Leonard; on motion of Representative Kazarian, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Sarah Arzoomanian; on motion of Representative McNamara, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Steve Nardelli; on motion of Representative Craven, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Eleanor M. Skenyon; on motion of Representative Corvese, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Sharon Baptista; on motion of Representative Marszalkowski, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Jeannette V. Chenevert; on motion of Representative Azzinaro, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Joseph Kirby; on motion of Representative Fogarty, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Robert "Bobby" Cavallaro and Daniel Allen seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Chippendale the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX

INVOCATION

REPRESENTATIVE TERESA ANN TANZI

Almighty God: We come to you asking for your blessing as we gather together. We pray for guidance in the matters at hand as we strive to make our State a great place for all our citizens. Amen