

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. 5

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Fifth-Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence, Tuesday, January 16, 2024, and is called to order at 5:04 o'clock P.M., by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 59 members present and 16 members absent as follows:

PRESENT – 59: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Batista, Bennett, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Cardillo, Carson, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, McEntee, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, and Voas.

ABSENT – 16: Representatives Baginski, Biah, Caldwell, Casey, Craven, Edwards, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McGaw, Morgan, Newberry, Quattrocchi, Slater, Tanzi and Vella-Wilkinson.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents Representative Joseph M. McNamara, 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 Wednesday, January 10, 2024, is approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Teresa Ann Tanzi is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, January 16, 2024.
Representative Stephen M. Casey is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

GUESTS

Representative Noret welcomes Sean Carey, who, on the morning of December 18, 2023, observed a large tree limb that fell and struck a vehicle; the vehicle contained an adult female driver and two small children. The female driver was facing a critical situation with a 2-inch branch impaled in her upper left thigh and severe bleeding. She was fortunate to have Sean Carey, a Good Samaritan, on the scene and apply a ratchet strap above the wound, effectively functioning as a tourniquet. His decisive and timely actions were instrumental in saving the woman's life, showcasing exceptional courage and readiness in an emergency.

Representative Giraldo wishes his daughter Valentina a Happy 5th Birthday! Speaker Shekarchi wishes Valentina a Happy Birthday!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Corvese invites the House members to attend the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Reception this Thursday, January 18, 2024, at Ladder 133 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

GUESTS

Chairwoman Diaz welcomes to the House Chamber Dexter Vincent, a senior at Classical High School and a daily commuter on RIPTA. In a letter to the Speaker of the House, K. Joseph Shekarchi, he expresses his unwavering support for public transportation, particularly emphasizing the significance of preserving the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA). Speaker Shekarchi thanks him for his advocacy for his community and welcomes him to the House.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces that the House will stand at Recess. Members must return to their seats no later than 6:30 p.m. to greet dignitaries, the Senators, Governor McKee, and guests for the State of the State address, which will begin promptly at 7 p.m. The next House session will be held this Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**House Resolution No. 7188**

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Dawson, Chippendale, Noret, O'Brien, Ajello, Fogarty, Fenton-Fung, Shallcross Smith

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING AND JOYOUSLY CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND {LC3274/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Dawson and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 7189

BY Roberts, Casimiro, Rea, Nardone, Place, Chippendale, Blazejewski, Ackerman, Ajello, Fogarty
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING JANUARY OF 2024, AS "RHODE ISLAND SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC3602/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Roberts discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 7190

BY Phillips, Casey, Brien, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Ajello, Fogarty, Fenton-Fung, Shallcross Smith

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF ELIZABETH POITRAS {LC4067/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Phillips discusses the resolution. Speaker Shekarchi offers his condolences to the Poitras family.

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

House Resolution No. 7191

BY Casimiro, Casey, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Spears, Shanley, Noret, Serpa, Solomon
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JANUARY OF 2024, TO BE
"FIREFIGHTER CANCER AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
{LC4010/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Casimiro discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 7192

BY Noret, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Corvese, Casimiro, Solomon, DeSimone, Giraldo, Bennett
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND THANKING SEAN CAREY FOR HIS HEROIC EFFORTS IN SAVING A YOUNG WOMAN'S LIFE {LC3957/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Noret and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 7193

BY Blazejewski, Chippendale
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES {LC4130/1}

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.

House Resolution No. 7194**BY** Blazejewski, Chippendale**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS {LC4129/1}

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.

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.

RECESS

At 5:21 o'clock P.M., the Honorable Speaker Shekarchi declares the House to be in recess.

ORDER

At 6:38 o'clock P.M., the Honorable Speaker Shekarchi calls the House to order.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT – 63: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, and Voas.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

APPOINTMENTS

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi appoints the following members: Representatives Julie Casimiro, Thomas Noret, Leonela Felix, William O'Brien, Deborah Fellela, Sherry Roberts, Joshua Giraldo, June Speakman and Deputy Speaker Raymond Hull to escort the Honorable President of the Senate, and the members of the Honorable Senate, to the House Chamber to meet with the House of Representatives in a Joint Session to hear Governor Daniel J. McKee's 2024 State of the State Address of the Governor.

NEW BUSINESS**House Bill No. 7195**

BY McNamara, Noret, Giraldo, Batista, Rea, Kislak, Ackerman, Felix, Donovan, Voas
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS
(Establishes a one-year pilot outreach and tracking program at two public high and middle schools to address issues of asthma and attendance among students.) {LC3649/1}
01/17/2024 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7196

BY Casimiro, Bennett, McEntee, Spears, Carson, Knight, Noret
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE NATHAN BRUNO AND JASON FLATT ACT (Requires public school districts to adopt a policy for responding to the death of a student or staff member. Also amends the title of chapter 16-21.7 to "The Nathan Bruno, Jason Flatt, and Alicia Biros Bereavement Act.") {LC3336/1}
01/17/2024 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7197

BY McEntee, Noret, Azzinaro, Corvese, Bennett, Kazarian, Hull, Dawson, O'Brien, Morales
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS
INSURANCE POLICIES (Increases insurance coverage for hearing aids from one thousand five hundred dollars to two thousand dollars, per ear, every three years for all people regardless of age.) {LC4172/1}
01/17/2024 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7198

BY Stewart, Potter, Cruz, Morales, Sanchez, Ajello, Kislak, Lombardi J, Henries
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' BILL OF RIGHTS (Repeals the law enforcement officers' bill of rights, chapter 42-28.6 of the general laws, in its entirety.) {LC3744/1}
01/17/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7199

BY Perez, Costantino, Azzinaro, Batista, Hull, Diaz, Corvese, Bennett, Shanley, Serpa
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- DIVORCE AND SEPARATION (Permits family court to make orders of support and education of a child from ages eighteen (18) to twenty-one (21).) {LC4099/1}
01/17/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7200

BY Bennett, Casimiro, McEntee, Solomon, DeSimone, Noret, Cardillo, McNamara, Cortvriend, Diaz
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' ARBITRATION (Recognizes that municipal employees have the opportunity to utilize interest arbitration and would establish new factors for the arbitrators to consider. These factors include comparisons of wages/hourly conditions of employment in similarly skilled jobs.) {LC3541/1}

01/17/2024 Introduced, referred to House Labor

House Bill No. 7201

BY Bennett, Casimiro, McEntee, Solomon, DeSimone, Noret, Cardillo, McNamara, Azzinaro, Cortvriend
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MUNICIPAL POLICE ARBITRATION (Extends provisions of an existing collective bargaining agreement for municipal police arbitration purposes until a successor agreement is reached or an interest arbitration award is rendered.) {LC3543/1}

01/17/2024 Introduced, referred to House Labor

House Bill No. 7202

BY Bennett, Casimiro, McEntee, Solomon, DeSimone, Noret, Cardillo, McNamara, Azzinaro, Cortvriend
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- FIREFIGHTERS' ARBITRATION (Provides that all contractual provisions in a firefighters collective bargaining agreement continue until a successor agreement has been reached or an interest arbitration award has been rendered.) {LC3542/1}

01/17/2024 Introduced, referred to House Labor

House Bill No. 7203

BY O'Brien, Corvese, Shanley, Craven, Knight, Dawson, Finkelman, Noret, Serpa, Azzinaro
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES (Adds the month of August to the dates a Class A retail alcoholic beverage establishment can offer unlimited free samples of wine, beer and distilled spirits products.) {LC4073/1}

01/17/2024 Introduced, referred to House Small Business

House Bill No. 7204

BY Shallcross Smith, Ajello, McEntee, Cortvriend, Fenton-Fung, Fogarty
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE HEALTHCARE SERVICES FUNDING PLAN ACT (Amends RI's existing Healthcare Services Funding Plan Act by adding an account relating to a new Psychiatry Resource Network to fund RI's present PediPRN and MomsPRN, as well as similar programs which may be added by regulation in the future.) {LC4248/1}

01/17/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7205

BY McEntee, Noret, Batista, Bennett, Kazarian, Hull, Dawson, O'Brien, Morales, Knight
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE
MEDICAID REENTRY ACT (Requires that Medicaid enrollment be maintained or provided to all
inmates in the first 30 days of incarceration at the adult correctional institutions within the department
of corrections and the last 30 days of incarceration.) {LC4189/1}
01/17/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7206

BY Cotter, Spears, Casimiro, Speakman, Cortvriend, Donovan, Kennedy, Chippendale
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND
PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT (Ensures that transportation categorical funds between the state and
regional school districts would be fully funded.) {LC4246/1}
01/17/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7207

BY Cotter, Spears, Casimiro, Speakman, Donovan, Kennedy, Chippendale
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND
PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT (Increases the state's regionalization bonus to six percent (6%) of
the state's fiscal year share of foundation education aid and would be ongoing and continuing so long
as the district remains a regional school district.) {LC4237/1}
01/17/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7208

BY Cotter, Spears, Cortvriend, Speakman, Morales, Batista, Carson, Shanley, McGaw, Handy
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY TAX RELIEF (Increases the
income range up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) and tax credit up to eight hundred fifty dollars
(\$850), for elderly and disabled persons who own or rent their homes.) {LC4179/1}
01/17/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Resolution No. 7209

BY Kazarian
ENTITLED, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$200,000 TO THE
BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF RHODE ISLAND (BIARI) (This joint resolution would
authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$200,000 in the Brain Injury Association of Rhode Island
(BIARI).) {LC4243/1}
01/17/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:42 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Phillips, and as a further mark of respect to the
memory of Elizabeth Poitras seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Chippendale the House adjourns,
on a unanimous rising vote.

Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX

INVOCATION

REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH M. MCNAMARA

Dear Lord: We pray that you bless this House of Representatives. Guide us with your wisdom and help us resolve our conflicts with compassion, understanding, and patience. Amen