

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. 6

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Sixth-Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence, Thursday, January 18, 2024, 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 68 members present and 7 members absent as follows:

PRESENT—68: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, 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, and Voas.

ABSENT—7: Representatives Caldwell, Craven, Diaz, Felix, Perez, Tanzi and Vella-Wilkinson.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents Representative Stephen M. Casey, 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 16, 2024, is approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Teresa Ann Tanzi is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 18, 2024.
Representative Leonela Felix is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 18, 2024.
Representative Justine A. Caldwell is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 18, 2024.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

GUESTS

Representative Newberry welcomes and congratulates Minister Patrick Faulhabe, who was recently elected as the new Minister of the Central Congregational Church of Providence. Speaker Shekarchi also extends a cordial welcome to Minister Faulhabe on behalf of the House.

Chairman Shanley welcomes to the House Chamber New England Institute of Technology students Breanna McGibbon, Alexandra DiMauro, Antonio Lopez, and James Taubman. Accompanying them are esteemed faculty members President for Strategic Planning Alan Resnick, Department Chair Henry “Hank” Johnson, Jr., and Professor Shelby Perry. The House acknowledges the recent achievement of the New England Institute of Technology in securing a Papitto Opportunity Connection Grant for scholarships and a leadership program. Speaker Shekarchi extends heartfelt congratulations and a warm welcome to all.

Chairwoman Alzate extends sincere congratulations to Marcela Betancur on her fifth anniversary as the executive director of the Latino Policy Institute and warmly welcomes her to the House Chamber.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Corvese reminds the House members that tonight is the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Reception at Ladder 133 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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.

Chairwoman Alzate announces that the Committee on Special Legislation will meet today, at the rise, in Room 101 of the State House.

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces that the House will meet next week on Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024, and Thursday, January 25th, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Majority Leader Blazejewski wishes Representative Thomas E. Noret and Representative June S. Speakman a Happy Birthday!

Speaker Shekarchi announces that committee hearings are now available on the Rhode Island General Assembly website and asks the House members to check for their scheduled hearings.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**House Resolution No. 7226**

BY Noret, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Nardone, Costantino, Kennedy, Morgan P, Roberts, Ajello

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND THANKING THE HONORABLE ARTHUR G. CAPALDI ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS OF DEVOTED SERVICE TO THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND THE CITIZENS OF COVENTRY {LC3488/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Noret, Speaker Shekarchi and Representative Nardone 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. 7227

BY Corvese, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, McNamara, Ackerman, Shanley, Noret, Newberry, Kennedy, Ajello

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JANUARY 21-27, 2024, TO BE "CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETISTS WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC3545/1}

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.

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

House Resolution No. 7228

BY Morales, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Potter, Giraldo, Chippendale, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Kennedy, Fellela

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE EMERGENCY AND ESSENTIAL WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED TO KEEP RHODE ISLANDERS SAFE DURING THE EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS OF 2023 {LC3923/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Morales discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Morales, seconded by many others, 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.

NEW BUSINESS

House Bill No. 7210

BY Kennedy, Azzinaro, Edwards, Kazarian, Diaz

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO THE UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE (Provides amendments to the Uniform Commercial Code for emerging technologies.) {LC4083/1}

01/18/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7211

BY Alzate, Cruz, Stewart, Batista, Giraldo, Diaz, Sanchez, Kazarian, Potter, Slater

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS -- LICENSED ACTIVITIES -- LENDERS AND LOAN BROKERS -- CHECK CASHING (Repeals the provisions of the general laws allowing deferred deposit providers, also known as "payday lenders.") {LC3900/1}

01/18/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7212

BY McGaw, Potter, Boylan, Cortvriend, Ajello, Handy, Cotter, Speakman, Kazarian, Kislak

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- FUNERAL DIRECTOR/EMBALMER AND FUNERAL SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS (Provides for the operation and duties of natural organic reduction for the contained, accelerated conversion of human remains to soil. A disposition facility would be used for either cremation or natural organic reduction.) {LC3590/1}

01/18/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7213

BY McGaw, Potter, Cortvriend, Boylan, Handy, Ajello, Cotter, Speakman, Kazarian, Kislak
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- RHODE ISLAND PHYSICAL THERAPIST LICENSURE COMPACT ACT (Allows the state to become a member of the physical therapist licensure compact adopted by twenty-five (25) states in order to facilitate the interstate practice of physical therapy with the goal of improving public access to physical therapy services.) {LC3592/1}

01/18/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7214

BY Fogarty, Spears, Cortvriend, Hull, Shallcross Smith, Donovan, Handy, Messier, Alzate
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS-- SEIZURE SAFE SCHOOLS ACT (Requires the departments of elementary and secondary education and health to adopt policies/rules/regulations for the administration of seizure rescue medications for children who have been medically identified as having epilepsy/seizure disorder.) {LC4078/1}

01/18/2024 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7215

BY McGaw, Potter, Boylan, Cortvriend, Handy, Ajello, Cotter, Speakman, Donovan, Kazarian
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS (Mandates that food service establishments only provide single-use foodware accessories and standard condiments to a customer upon request.) {LC3593/1}

01/18/2024 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

House Bill No. 7216

BY Boylan, Knight, Tanzi, Caldwell, Kazarian, Fogarty, Craven, McEntee, Dawson, Batista
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS (Defines "crime gun" and requires law enforcement to submit crime gun or 2 fired cartridge cases seized to state crime laboratory or the BATF for testing and tracing and also requires 2 test-fired cartridge cases to be entered into NIBIN.) {LC3492/1}

01/18/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7217

BY Knight, Caldwell, Boylan, Dawson, Speakman, Craven, Batista, Felix, McEntee, Ajello
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- ASSAULT WEAPONS (Bans the possession, sale, and transfer of assault weapons. Possession of assault weapons owned on the effective date of this act to be "grandfathered". Violations are punishable by a fine or imprisonment.) {LC3374/1}

01/18/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7218

BY Batista, Potter, Shanley, Casimiro, Felix, Giraldo, Lombardi J, Alzate, Dawson, Kislak
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO DELINQUENT AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN -- PROCEEDINGS IN FAMILY COURT (Removes the requirement that individual of sixteen (16) years of age or older and found delinquent of two (2) offenses would be automatically certified and afforded a jury trial.) {LC3911/1}

01/18/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7219

BY Ajello, Craven, Tanzi, Cruz, Shallcross Smith, Potter, McGaw, Handy, Sanchez, Kislak
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES -- HIV/AIDS (Repeals the required HIV testing for an individual convicted under chapter 34.1 of title 11 and allows the option for HIV testing for any person convicted under this chapter.) {LC3632/1}
01/18/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7220

BY Kazarian, McEntee, Finkelman, Dawson, Boylan
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- MANUFACTURING AND WHOLESALE LICENSES (Allows manufacturer-wineries to sell up to three (3) drinks of wine for on-site consumption or three (3) bottles of wine for off-site consumption or three (3) bottles of wine for off-site consumption.) {LC4242/1}
01/18/2024 Introduced, referred to House Small Business

House Bill No. 7221

BY Shanley, Shekarchi, Blazejewski
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- PERMANENT JOINT COMMITTEE ON NAMING ALL NEW BUILDINGS, BRIDGES, EDIFICES AND OTHER STATE CONSTRUCTIONS-BILL REYNOLDS MEDIA WORK ROOM (Designates the media room at the Amica Mutual Pavilion as the "Bill Reynolds Media Work Room.") {LC4233/1}
01/18/2024 Introduced, referred to House Special Legislation

House Bill No. 7222

BY Baginski, Brien
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- LOCAL CANVASSING AUTHORITIES - - REGISTRATION OF VOTERS (Permits the municipality to post on a website voter designation of voter registration deadline on the website for ten (10) consecutive days prior to deadline instead of a newspaper.) {LC3919/1}
01/18/2024 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7223

BY Baginski, Brien, Corvese
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- CONDUCT OF ELECTION AND VOTING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES (Requires a write-in candidate to file a declaration of intent with the same office at which the declaration of candidacy would be filed, and require similar residency requirements for write-in candidates that exists for declared candidates.) {LC3918/1}
01/18/2024 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7224

(Governor)
BY Abney
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MAKING REVISED APPROPRIATIONS IN SUPPORT OF FY 2024 {LC4144/1}
01/18/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7225

(Governor)

BY Abney

ENTITLED, AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE STATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025 {LC4143/1}

01/18/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7229

BY Shallcross Smith, Batista, Biah, Corvese, Chippendale, Ackerman, Ajello, Marszalkowski

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT RIGHT TO REPAIR ACT (Provides that original equipment manufacturers, implemented by/with surrogate distributors, of agricultural equipment, provide to independent service providers repair information and tools to maintain and repair electronics-enabled agricultural equipment.) {LC3648/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7230

BY Cotter, McGaw, Carson, Speakman, Kazarian, Donovan, Spears, Casimiro, Kislak, Morales

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- GROCERY STORES (Requires grocery stores to specifically limit the number of self-service checkout units to six (6) units per location. The consumer protection unit of the department of attorney general would have authority to enforce these restrictions.) {LC4324/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7231

BY Edwards, Kennedy, Solomon

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- KRATOM CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT (Authorizes and regulates the distribution of the product known as "kratom.") {LC4239/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7232

BY McNamara, Potter, Alzate, Lombardi J, Voas, Ackerman, Corvese

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (Incorporates the department of elementary and secondary education's SurveyWorks school climate indicators for evaluating the performance of LEAs and individual public schools.) {LC3609/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7233

BY Donovan, Speakman, Spears, Carson, Cardillo, Potter, Fogarty, Noret, Messier, McEntee

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- HEALTHY KIDS ACT

(Establishes the Healthy Kids Act whereby restaurants would be required to offer at least two (2) healthy versions of children's meals, or twenty-five percent (25%) of the children's meals on its menu, whichever is greater.) {LC4225/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7234

BY Serpa, Phillips, Brien, Solomon, Fellela, O'Brien, McEntee, Lima, Costantino

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- ANIMAL CARE (Prohibits a medical training program from using a live animal while teaching medical procedures if any other accredited training program does not use animals or there is an alternate method that teaches the lesson without the use of an animal.) {LC3926/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7235

BY McEntee, Kazarian, Casimiro, Fogarty, Craven, Caldwell, Carson, Dawson, Spears, Ajello

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- CAUSES OF ACTION (Makes all sexual abuse or exploitation of a child causes of action not subject to statute of limitations whether lapsed or time-barred.) {LC4185/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7236

BY O'Brien, Voas, Baginski, DeSimone, Finkelman, Dawson, Lima, Costantino, Serpa, Phillips

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT (Includes animal cruelty offenses to the domestic violence crimes committed by a family or household members against another.) {LC4366/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7237

BY Knight, Speakman, Serpa, Phillips, McEntee, Batista, Boylan, Hull, Shallcross Smith, Azzinaro

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE - PROCEDURE GENERALLY - JURY LISTS (Makes persons seventy (70) years of age or older eligible for exemption from jury service.) {LC3439/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7238

BY Hull, O'Brien, Perez, Cardillo, Messier, Noret

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- SELF-SERVICE STORAGE FACILITIES (Amends notice requirements for self-storage facility before perfecting lien, to wit; 7 consecutive days of publication on a publicly accessible website or subsequent written notice to lessee, or publication once time in newspaper of general circulation.) {LC4175/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7239

BY Cortvriend, Spears, Carson, Bennett, Knight, Ajello, Caldwell, McGaw, Kislak, Boylan

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PROBATE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE -- LIMITED GUARDIANSHIP AND GUARDIANSHIP OF ADULTS (Provides that supported decision-making pursuant to chapter 66.13 of title 42 be added to the Limited Guardianship and Guardianship of Adults forms section as one of the less restrictive alternatives to guardianship that have been explored.) {LC3762/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7240

BY O'Brien, Baginski, Voas, Slater, Bennett, Giraldo, Diaz, Noret, Phillips, Corvese

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- OPTIONAL RETIREMENT FOR MEMBERS OF POLICE FORCE AND FIREFIGHTERS (Authorizes an annual two and one-half

percent (2.5%) escalation for all active and retired police and firefighter's retirement pension allowance, compounded each year on January 1 following the year of retirement and continuing yearly, on that date.) {LC3931/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7241

BY Edwards, Kennedy, Cortvriend, Messier, Fellela, Solomon, Finkelman, Ackerman, Bennett
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- OPTIONAL RETIREMENT FOR MEMBERS OF POLICE FORCE AND FIREFIGHTERS (Amends definition for final compensation, relative to police officers and firefighters, provides them life annuity regardless of age or years of service, upon retirement and further provides additional benefits upon retirement.)

{LC4080/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7242

BY McNamara

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Exempts the Center for Mediation and Collaboration Rhode Island from taxation of the real property and tangible personal property located at 831 Bald Hill Road in the city of Warwick.) {LC3344/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7243

BY Finkelman

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION -- TAX EXEMPTIONS -- JAMESTOWN (Grants the town of Jamestown the legal authority to grant a tax dollar reduction to gold star parents and to visually impaired persons.) {LC4308/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7244

BY Ackerman, Voas, Phillips, Marszalkowski

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- GENERAL POWERS (Authorizes the town of Cumberland to require the registration of wholesale, retail, commercial, professional service or manufacturing businesses situated in Cumberland.) {LC4086/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7245

BY Ackerman, Voas, Phillips, Marszalkowski

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- DOGS (Increases the fines for dog ordinance violations in the town of Cumberland.) {LC4085/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7246

BY Boylan, Cortvriend, Carson, Spears, Bennett, Kislak, Shanley, Fogarty, McGaw, Alzate

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- LONG-TERM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Adds climate change, sea-level rise and coastal resiliency to the analysis of data of the strategic plan for economic development policy.) {LC3816/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7247**BY** Brien, Corvese, Shanley, Chippendale, Noret, Baginski**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS (Requires verification of applicant's date of birth and either a Rhode Island driver's license or state identification number with all mail ballot, mail ballot applications and emergency mail ballots.) {LC4267/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7248**BY** Baginski, Brien**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- VOTING DISTRICTS AND OFFICIALS - - POLLING PLACE CAP (Increases the maximum number of voters that a polling place can accommodate from three thousand (3,000) to three thousand five hundred (3,500).) {LC3921/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7249**BY** Corvese, Azzinaro, Kennedy, Hull, Bennett, Costantino, Diaz, Ackerman, McNamara**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION (Restores longevity payments of five percent (5%) of base salary for employees after ten (10) years of service and increase to ten percent (10%) of base salary after twenty (20) years of service, beginning July 1, 2024.) {LC3547/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7250**BY** O'Brien, Cortvriend, Shanley, Voas, Slater, Bennett, Caldwell, Giraldo, Diaz, Noret**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT (Amends the term "extraordinary costs" for the purposes of excess costs associated with special education students. The new definition of extraordinary costs would be educational costs that are over 3 times the average statewide special education cost.) {LC3932/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7251**BY** Donovan, Fogarty, Speakman, Spears, Caldwell, Handy, Diaz, McNamara, Potter, Cotter**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- RHODE ISLAND EARLY EDUCATOR COMPENSATION STABILIZATION ACT (Directs the departments of human services and education to work together to sustain and strengthen existing workforce development and compensation programs for educators working in licensed child care and early learning programs statewide.) {LC4056/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7252**BY** Donovan, Cotter, Speakman, Spears, Potter, Fogarty, Messier, Knight, McEntee**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT (Amend the calculation of state funding provided to local education agencies for special education services.) {LC4244/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7253

BY Cortvriend, Carson, Bennett, Spears, Knight, Kislak, Speakman, Caldwell, Handy, McNamara
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HIGHER EDUCATION
OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (Establishes the Higher Education
Opportunities for Students with Disabilities Act.) {LC3761/1}
01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7254

BY Finkelman, Noret, Dawson
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES --
RETIREMENT SYSTEM--MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICE CREDITS (Allows members of
retirement systems who also served in the national guard or reserves to purchase retirement services
credits.) {LC3849/1}
01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7255

BY Alzate, Ajello, Cruz, McEntee, Cortvriend, Donovan, Kazarian, Morales, Carson, Cotter
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS
INSURANCE POLICIES (Requires every individual or group health insurance contract effective on
or after January 1, 2025, to provide coverage to the insured and the insured's spouse and dependents
for all FDA-approved contraceptive drugs, devices and other products.) {LC3905/1}
01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7256

BY Baginski
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY
AND COMPUTATION (Exempts machinery and equipment used to provide broadband
communications service the from the sales and use tax.) {LC4183/1}
01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7257

BY Cotter, Speakman, McGaw, Kazarian, Donovan, Spears, Potter, Alzate, Kislak, Morales
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- REAL ESTATE CONVEYANCE TAX
(Increases conveyance tax for residential properties sold above \$2,000,000 to a rate of \$3.30 per
\$500, to be collected for RI housing for elderly affordable housing development. Provides and
exemption to any entity developing elderly affordable housing.) {LC4234/1}
01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7258

BY Cotter, McGaw, Carson, Speakman, Chippendale, Kazarian, Donovan, Spears, Casimiro,
Kennedy
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY -- STATE FORESTS
AND FORESTRY PROJECTS (Directs the general assembly to fund ten full time equivalent
positions in FY 2025 to support DEM's efforts in the areas of forestry and forestry projects.)
{LC4280/1}
01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Resolution No. 7259

BY Donovan, Speakman, Noret, Potter, Cotter, Fogarty, Shallcross Smith

ENTITLED, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,000,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING TO ENCOURAGE MEMBERS OF THE STATE, CITY, AND TOWN POLICE DEPARTMENTS TO SEEK A COLLEGE DEGREE (This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$1,000,000 to the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training.) {LC3837/1}

01/19/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SENATE

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

Senate Bill No. 2033

BY Sosnowski, DiMario, Valverde, Felag, Gu

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.") {LC3949/1}

01/19/2024 Referred to House Special Legislation

Senate Bill No. 2034

BY Lombardi F, Ruggerio, Ciccone, Britto, Acosta, Zurier, LaMountain, Burke, McKenney, Picard

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- PERMANENT JOINT COMMITTEE ON NAMING ALL NEW BUILDINGS, BRIDGES, EDIFICES AND OTHER STATE CONSTRUCTIONS-BILL REYNOLDS MEDIA WORK ROOM (Designates the media room at the Amica Mutual Pavilion as the "Bill Reynolds Media Work Room.") {LC4033/1}

01/19/2024 Referred to House Special Legislation

Senate Bill No. 2130

BY Rogers, de la Cruz

ENTITLED, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER OF LINE BAPTIST CHURCH OF FOSTER, RHODE ISLAND {LC4044/1}

01/19/2024 Referred to House Corporations

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL LEGISLATION**

Chairwoman Alzate, for the Committee on Special Legislation, reports back the following measures, with recommendation of passage:

House Bill No. 7177

BY McEntee

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES (Allows Michael Cervullo, Jr., to join Jillian Cervullo and Tyler Shemick in marriage on or about June 8, 2024, within the Town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island.) {LC3986/1}

01/19/2024 Placed on House Calendar (01/23/2024)

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:32 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Casimiro, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Cloe Rose Silva seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Chippendale the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

**Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk**

APPENDIX

INVOCATION

REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN M. CASEY

Dear Lord: We ask you to help prepare ourselves for the work ahead. Please provide us the strength to stand tirelessly in the face of challenges, stand steadfast in our search for truth, and have the courage always to do what's best for our communities and our country. Amen

APPENDIX

CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024:

1. **2024-H 7177**
BY McEntee
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

Committee on Special Legislation recommends passage.

Francis McCabe
Clerk of the House

Friday, January 19, 2024