

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. 11

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Eleventh-Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence on Tuesday, February 6, 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 72 members present and 3 members absent as follows:

PRESENT – 72: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, 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, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson and Voas.

ABSENT – 3: Representatives Costantino, Serpa and Stewart.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents Representative Jacquelyn M. Baginski who delivers the Invocation and leads the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

(For Invocation, see Appendix, this Journal.)

APPROVAL OF RECORD

By unanimous consent, the House Journal of Thursday, February 1, 2024, is approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Jennifer Stewart is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, February 6, 2024.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

February 7, 2023

Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi announces the following appointments:

Appointment to the House Innovation, Internet and Technology Committee:
Representative Tina Spears

Appointment to the House State Government and Elections Committee:
Representative Patricia Morgan

Nominations to the State Legislative Leaders Foundation's Emerging Legislative Leaders Program:
Representative Jennifer Boylan
Representative Anthony DeSimone
Representative Brandon Voas

Read and placed on file.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

CALENDAR

From the Calendar are taken:

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024:

- 1. 2024-H 7064 SUB A**
BY McEntee
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- OUTDOOR DINING
ACT

Committee on Small Business recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A.

Chairwoman McEntee moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Henries, Carson, Spears, Speakman, Abney, Craven, Diaz, Cardillo, Caldwell, Morales, O'Brien, Dawson, Vella-Wilkinson, Shallcross Smith, Ajello, Fogarty, Cortvriend, Phillips, Azzinaro, Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy, Representatives Tanzi, Felix, Majority Deputy Whip Ackerman, Representatives McNamara, Alzate, Corvese, Bennett, Potter, Voas, Cruz, Giraldo, Majority Whip Kazarian, Representative Donovan and Deputy Speaker Hull.

Chairwoman McEntee and Representative Phillips discuss the act.

The bill marked Substitute "A" is read and passed, and the original bill indefinitely postponed, on a roll call vote, 70 members voting in the affirmative and 1 member voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 70: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, 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, Quattrocchi, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson, Voas.

NAYS - 1: Representative Lombardi.

RECUSED - 0:

2. 2024-S 2099

BY Raptakis

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

Committee on Special Legislation recommends passage in concurrence.

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

Chairwoman Alzate discusses the act.

Read and passed, in concurrence, on a roll call vote, 71 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 71: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, 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, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

GUESTS

Chairman Shanley extends a warm welcome to Daniel Trafford, accompanied by his wife Renee and son William, to the House Chamber. He expresses his heartfelt sympathies to Daniel and his family on the passing of his father, Harold. Speaker Shekarchi also sends his sincerest condolences to Daniel's family on behalf of the entire House of Representatives.

Representative Morales extends a warm welcome to the talented cast members of the play "La Broa" by Trinity Repertory Company (Trinity Rep), including Alexander Crespo-Rosario II, Alina Alcántara, Arturo Puentes, Jen Anaya, Marina Tejada, and Ramon Hernández. He also acknowledges the invaluable contributions of the costume technicians Dustin Thomas and Luke Morrison and the artistic management intern Shanel LaShay Smith. A special recognition goes to the Founder and Executive Director of the Rhode Island Latino Arts, Marta Martínez. Speaker Shekarchi joins in on extending a heartfelt welcome to them all.

NOW PRESIDING

At 4:25 o'clock P.M., the Honorable Speaker Shekarchi yields the rostrum to the Honorable Deputy Speaker Hull.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Carson invites all members to attend the AARP Rhode Island 2024 annual Legislative Reception this Thursday, February 8, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., in Room 101 of the State House.

Chairman Abney announces that the Committee on Finance will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 35 of the State House.

Chairwoman Donovan announces that the Committee on Health & Human Services will meet on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at the rise of the House, in Room 135 of the State House.

Representative Noret invites all members to attend the 12th Annual Clean Water Legislative Summit this Thursday, February 8, 2024, in the House Lounge from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Phillips announces that the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 101 of the State House.

Chairman Casey announces that the Committee on Municipal Government & Housing will meet on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 3:45 p.m., in the House Lounge of the State House.

Chairman Solomon announces that the Committee on Corporations will meet today, at the rise of the House, in the House Lounge of the State House.

Chairwoman Alzate invites all members to attend the predatory lending policy briefing this Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., in Room 135 of the State House

Representative Casimiro wishes former page Ryan Lukowicz a Happy 18th Birthday!

Vice-Chairman Corvese announces that the Committee on State Government & Elections will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 135 of the State House.

Majority Leader Blazewski announces that the next House session will be this Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Majority Leader Blazewski and Speaker Shekarchi invite all members to learn about Skills for Rhode Island Future this Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 101. This should be an informative session about this non-profit organization's role in creating employment opportunities and preparing future talent to strengthen the state's economy.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

House Resolution No. 7501

BY Morales, Shekarchi, Blazewski, Diaz, Chippendale, Batista, Shallcross Smith, Tanzi, McNamara, Fellela

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION JOYOUSLY CELEBRATING TRINITY REPERTORY COMPANY'S PREMIERE OF "LA BROA' (BROAD STREET)", A PLAY INSPIRED BY THE LATINO HISTORY OF RHODE ISLAND {LC4855/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representatives Morales, Batista and Deputy Speaker Hull discuss the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 7502

BY Spears, Shekarchi, Blazewski, Chippendale, Shallcross Smith, Tanzi, McNamara, Ajello, Potter, Cortvriend

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE GRACE FRANCES KLINGER {LC4697/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Spears discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 7503

BY Alzate, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Cruz, Henries, Hull, Giraldo, Voas, Felix
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE TRAGIC AND UNTIMELY PASSING OF JOCELYN AZEVEDO DOCOUTO {LC4854/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairwoman Alzate discusses the resolution.

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

House Resolution No. 7504

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Shanley, McNamara, Roberts, Chippendale, Solomon, Serpa, Batista, Vella-Wilkinson
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE HAROLD L. TRAFFORD, JR. {LC4656/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairman Shanley and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Chairman Shanley, 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 Deputy Speaker Hull announces that the desk will be held open.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL LEGISLATION**

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

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}
02/06/2024 Placed on House Calendar (02/08/2024)

COMMITTEE ON CORPORATIONS

Chairman Solomon, for the Committee on Corporations, reports back the following measures, with recommendation of passage:

House Bill No. 7090

BY Phillips, Serpa, Costantino, Lima, Corvese, Casey, Brien, Morales, Cardillo, Fenton-Fung
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- UNFAIR SALES PRACTICES (Providers of a club, facility, or services to a consumer must stop automatic deductions from the consumer's account or credit card within 30 calendar days of receiving a notice to stop from the consumer.) {LC3562/1}
02/06/2024 Placed on House Calendar (02/08/2024)

House Bill No. 7013 SUB A

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/A/1}
02/06/2024 Placed on House Calendar (02/08/2024)

NEW BUSINESS

House Bill No. 7505

BY Slater, Hull, DeSimone, Voas, Shanley

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- THE RHODE ISLAND CANNABIS ACT (Permits hybrid cannabis cultivators to advertise regarding cannabis products during the transitional period.) {LC4798/1}
02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7506

BY Dawson, Shanley, Craven

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- LIABILITY INSURANCE (Provides for mandatory uninsured motorist coverage.) {LC4816/1}
02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7507**BY** Solomon**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- UNFAIR CLAIMS SETTLEMENT PRACTICES ACT (Provides that any insurer refusing to honor a "direction to pay" executed by an insured for payment on a property damage benefit would constitute an unfair claims practice.) {LC4076/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7508**BY** Carson, Solomon, Baginski**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- UNFAIR SALES PRACTICES (Provides for the legal governance of licensed electronic literacy materials.) {LC4772/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7509**BY** Finkelman, Shanley, Batista, Vella-Wilkinson, Perez, Noret, Dawson, O'Brien, Morales, Cotter**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW--GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- UNFAIR SALES PRACTICES (Provides that gift certificates issued by state-chartered institutions of higher education would be exempt from the provisions of the gift certificate statute relating to expiration, escheatment, reissuance and refund.) {LC4378/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7510**BY** Vella-Wilkinson, Batista, Baginski, Lima, Diaz, DeSimone, Fellela, Biah, Morales, Fenton-Fung**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- TAXICABS AND LIMITED PUBLIC MOTOR VEHICLES (Amends requirements regarding how taxicabs can be placed in service.) {LC4794/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7511**BY** Nardone, Quattrocchi**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- WATER SUPPLY (Provides that water utility companies be responsible for all costs associated with maintenance, operation and delivery of water pumping stations to individual parcels of land and schools with no pumping stations on the property.) {LC4760/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 7512

(Dept. of Education (RIDE))

BY McNamara, Shallcross Smith, Noret, Roberts, Phillips, Donovan**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- PUPIL TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES ("Pupil Transportation Vehicle" to be and constructed to seat not more than ten (10) passengers including the operator, rather than the existing limit of eight (8) passengers.) {LC4374/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7513

(Dept. of Education (RIDE))

BY McNamara, Phillips

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM (Delays the date for local education agencies to select one of the high quality curricula and material for math and English language arts from June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2027.) {LC4373/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7514

BY Felix, Alzate, Giraldo, Diaz, Morales, Tanzi, Henries, Kazarian, Potter, Batista

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SUPPORT AND ACCESS TO BILINGUAL EDUCATION ACT (Creates a new chapter for the support/access to bilingual education. It creates a dual language program fund to be administered by the department of education. Local education agencies would be eligible to apply to the department for funding. Eff. 7/1/24) {LC4023/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Education

House Bill No. 7515

BY Boylan, Bennett, Spears, Carson, McGaw, Fogarty, Handy, Knight, Cortvriend, Donovan

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- MICROPLASTICS REDUCTION ACT (Prohibits a manufacturer from selling, offering for sale, or distributing into commerce any product containing synthetic polymer micro particles beginning January 1, 2028.) {LC4337/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

House Bill No. 7516

BY Fogarty, Cotter, Handy, McEntee, Cortvriend, Spears, Donovan, Carson, Kazarian, Speakman

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY -- PROTECTION OF TREES AND PLANTS GENERALLY (Allows the department of environmental management to remove freshwater non-native and invasive aquatic plants and assist municipalities in preventing the growth and spread of these and other invasive species in the freshwater lakes and ponds.) {LC4846/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

House Bill No. 7517

(Dept. of Health)

BY Corvese, Noret, Azzinaro, Solomon, Baginski, Brien, McNamara, Phillips, DeSimone

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- OFFICE OF STATE MEDICAL EXAMINERS (Provides for procedures for the burial of unclaimed remains.) {LC4459/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7518

BY Morales, Batista, Donovan, Giraldo, Casimiro, Henries, McEntee, Fogarty, Kislak, Azzinaro

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS {LC4500/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7519**BY** McNamara, Corvese, Shallcross Smith, Brien**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES -- HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBILITY AND QUALITY ASSURANCE ACT (Provides that dental services rendered to patients would be reimbursed by standards governed by the general laws of Rhode Island.) {LC4683/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7520**BY** Quattrocchi, Nardone, Rea, Roberts, Place, Chippendale**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- RIGHTS OF NURSING HOME PATIENTS (Repeals a 2021 law that mandated minimum staffing levels and standards for quality care for nursing homes and their residents with violations subject to monetary penalties.) {LC4744/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

House Bill No. 7521**BY** Baginski, Carson, Boylan**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- AUTOMATED DECISION TOOLS -- ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (Creates requirements for the developers or deployers of artificial intelligence and allows civil action against these developers or deployers by the attorney general and local solicitors.) {LC4182/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Innovation, Internet, & Technology

House Resolution No. 7522**BY** Baginski, Carson, Boylan**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO EXTEND FUNDING FOR THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM {LC4778/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Innovation, Internet, & Technology

House Bill No. 7523

(Dept. of Corrections)

BY Felix, Batista, Craven, Morales, Dawson, Vella-Wilkinson, Speakman, Henries, McGaw, Hull
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- VITAL RECORDS (Provides an exemption for certain incarcerated persons from the payment of fees for a first request for vital statistics from the department of health.) {LC4377/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7524**BY** Felix, McEntee, Batista, Craven, Sanchez, Alzate, Cruz, Potter, Morales, Henries**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- BAIL AND RECOGNIZANCE (Prohibits the courts from setting cash or surety bail on any misdemeanor offense but permits the court to set reasonable non-monetary conditions of bail to assure the defendant's presence in court as required and to protect the community.) {LC4021/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7525

BY Felix, Kazarian, Batista, Stewart, Alzate, Craven, Tanzi, Morales, Dawson, Henries
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT--
CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT (Repeals 42-56-38.1 and requires the department of corrections to
provide free communication services to inmates and juveniles held in residential placement or
detention centers and requires that those facilities provide in-person contact visits.) {LC4028/1}
02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7526

BY Felix, Craven, Knight, Batista, Cruz, McEntee, Ajello, Dawson, Edwards, Lombardi J
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- IDENTIFICATION AND
APPREHENSION OF CRIMINALS (Mandates that the clerk of the district court automatically seal
individual counts of criminal complaints upon dismissal pursuant to rule 48(a) of the rules of criminal
procedure for district court.) {LC4024/1}
02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7527

BY Felix, Batista, Cruz, Alzate, Diaz, Giraldo, Lombardi J, McEntee, Morales, Potter
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- GENERAL PROVISIONS
(This act would further delineate the definitions of felony, misdemeanor and petty misdemeanor.)
{LC4027/1}
02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7528

BY Solomon, Brien, Kazarian, Dawson, Craven
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE
GENERALLY -- DECISIONS, SPECIAL FINDINGS AND ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES (Adds
the doctrine of assumption of risk to the current comparative negligence statute.) {LC4813/1}
02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7529

BY Perez, Vella-Wilkinson, Diaz, Fellela, Roberts, Brien, Phillips, Hull, Azzinaro
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- BORN-ALIVE INFANT
PROTECTION ACT (Provides duties/obligations of medical personnel to born-alive infants resulting
from an abortion punishable as a felony along with a civil action for compensatory/punitive
damages/automatic one year license suspension.) {LC4632/1}
02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 7530

BY Alzate, Edwards, Kazarian, Voas, Potter, Cruz, Corvese
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HOLIDAYS AND DAYS OF SPECIAL OBSERVANCE --
WORK ON HOLIDAYS AND SUNDAYS (Amends the current law so that, aside from any existing
contract, all laborers, mechanics, and workers who are required to work on Sundays and/or holidays
be paid by their employers at least one and one-half (1½) times the normal rate of pay.) {LC3901/1}
02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Labor

House Bill No. 7531**BY** Felix, Edwards, Alzate, Batista, McNamara, Sanchez, Henries, Potter, Morales**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MINIMUM

WAGES (Commencing 1/1/25, gradually increases the minimum wage for employees receiving gratuities from the current (\$3.89) to (\$14.95) by 1/1/29 and on 1/1/30 the minimum wage shall be no less than the minimum wage established by the minimum wage law.) {LC4018/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Labor

(For Co-sponsorship removal request, see Journal of 4-9-2024, page 2.)**House Bill No. 7532****BY** Felix, Messier, Alzate, McNamara, Stewart, Henries, Potter, McEntee, Tanzi**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MINIMUM

WAGES (Allows individuals employed in domestic service or in or about a private home to be included as an employee, for purposes of minimum wages law.) {LC4026/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Labor

(For Co-sponsorship removal request, see Journal of 4-9-2024, page 3.)**House Bill No. 7533****BY** Corvese, Noret, Azzinaro, Solomon, Baginski, Brien, McNamara, Phillips, DeSimone**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- LEAD

HAZARD MITIGATION (Requires renovation projects of pre-1978 buildings to comply with provisions of chapter 24.6 of title 23 and chapter 21 of title 28, and require presence of lead inspector and supervisor and require lead training. DLT would ensure compliance.) {LC4713/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7534**BY** Cruz, Speakman, Potter, Tanzi, Alzate, Voas**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- CITY HOUSING

AUTHORITIES (Allows RIHMFC and related organization to administer allocations of funds for low-income housing.) {LC4688/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7535**BY** Ajello, Diaz, Morales, Batista, Kislak, Lombardi J, Hull**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

(Exempts from taxation the real and tangible personal property of the Providence Preservation Society.) {LC4885/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7536**BY** Newberry, Casey**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES

(Repeals § 3-7-19 which prohibits retail liquor licenses within two hundred feet (200') of schools and religious institutions.) {LC4065/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

House Bill No. 7537

(Lieutenant Governor)

BY Voas, Hull, Slater

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY (Amends the composition of the small business advisory council.) {LC4400/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Small Business

House Bill No. 7538

BY Vella-Wilkinson, Batista, Solomon, Casimiro, Shallcross Smith, Rea, Finkelman, Ajello, Azzinaro

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION FEES (Permits disabled veterans to be issued several disabled veteran plates, permits plates to be transferred to their spouse or caretaker during the veteran's life and would allow disabled veteran plates to be issued for a commercial vehicle of any size.) {LC4894/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Special Legislation

House Bill No. 7539

(by request)

BY Vella-Wilkinson, Bennett, Perez, Batista, Shanley

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 and support of The Preservation Society of Rhode Island.) {LC4775/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Special Legislation

House Bill No. 7540

BY Kislak, McGaw, Speakman, Caldwell, Cotter, Donovan, Handy, Potter, Boylan, Sanchez

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- PRIMARIES FOR ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND FOR PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE (Establishes the Ranked Choice Voting for Rhode Island Presidential Primaries and provides for new sections on Ranked Choice Voting Tabulation and Results Reporting.) {LC4241/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

House Bill No. 7541

(General Treasurer)

BY Voas, Giraldo, Potter, Finkelman, DeSimone, Hull, Slater, Alzate

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION (Permits hit and run victims suffering serious bodily injury to recover under the crime victim compensation program.) {LC4583/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7542

BY Ackerman, DeSimone, Edwards, McNamara, O'Brien, Tanzi, Slater

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- INSPECTION OF MOTOR VEHICLES (Changes the inspection requirement for a new motor vehicle from two (2) years to five (5) years from the date of purchase.) {LC3994/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7543**BY** Boylan, Dawson, Kazarian, Henries**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- FOUNDATION LEVEL SCHOOL SUPPORT (Provides the state's share of the basic program and approved expenditures would be paid to the city of East Providence in twelve (12) monthly installments.) {LC4684/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7544**BY** Azzinaro, Kennedy, Corvese, Solomon, Casey, Lima, O'Brien, Ackerman, McNamara**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- RHODE ISLAND PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP -- RHODE ISLAND HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PILOT PROGRAM (Extends the time for which a student may enroll in order to qualify for the Promise Scholarship or the Hope Scholarship up to one year after high school graduation.) {LC4804/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7545**BY** Shallcross Smith, Kazarian, Vella-Wilkinson, Casimiro, Alzate, Cruz, McNamara, Tanzi, Hull, Cotter**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT (Provides for an appropriation by the general assembly in the amount of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) to the various school districts and municipalities to employ additional social workers.) {LC4870/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7546**BY** Morales, Chippendale, Biah, Perez, Batista, Sanchez, Potter, Cruz, DeSimone, Lombardi J**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Provides a tax upon the endowment of a private institution of higher education equal to two percent (2%) upon each dollar over \$1,000,000,000.) {LC4125/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7547**BY** Cruz, Potter, Morales, DeSimone, Handy, Cotter, Batista, Alzate, Kislak, Tanzi**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- RHODE ISLAND CHILD CARE FOR ALL ACT (Establishes the Rhode Island Child Care for All Act which would provide high quality and affordable child care to families throughout the state.) {LC4880/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7548**BY** Nardone, Rea, Morgan P, Quattrocchi**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SURPLUS FUNDS TAX CREDIT ACT (Mandates that any surplus state tax revenue received in any fiscal year be refunded to the taxpayers of this state on a proportional basis in relation to the personal income tax liability incurred by the taxpayers in that fiscal year.) {LC4743/1}

02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7549

BY Felix, Morales, Alzate, Lombardi J, Diaz, Batista, Cruz, Sanchez, Henries, McGaw
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY (Prohibits the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) from imposing any fares and/or charges for service provided to the general public. Effective 1/1/2025.) {LC4039/1}
02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7550

BY Cotter, Cortvriend, Tanzi, Fogarty, Alzate, Carson, Speakman, McGaw, Donovan, Chippendale
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO THE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (Authorizes the submission of proposals for several bonds to the people of the state at the general election to be held in November, 2024. These bonds relate to capital development and the "green economy.") {LC4830/1}
02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7551

BY Nardone, Rea, Morgan P, Quattrocchi
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (Repeals the sunset for the small business assistance program and permanently extends the program beyond the scheduled expiration date of December 31, 2024.) {LC4736/1}
02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

House Bill No. 7552

BY Vella-Wilkinson, Batista, Solomon, Casimiro, Shallcross Smith, Rea, Finkelman, Ajello, Azzinaro
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- VETERANS' AFFAIRS (Provides that every city and town must maintain a municipal veterans' service officer. Also authorizes a one hundred thousand dollar (\$100,000) appropriation to be used to fund matching grants for the support and outreach for veterans.) {LC4875/1}
02/07/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:47 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Shallcross Smith, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Daniel G. Gingras; on motion of Representative Shanley, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Harold L. Trafford Jr.; on motion of Representative Spears, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Grace Klinger; on motion of Representative Alzate, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Jocelyn DoCouto seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Chippendale the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX**INVOCATION****REPRESENTATIVE JACQUELYN M. BAGINSKI**

Dear Lord: As we continue Black History Month, we call upon you today to help us recognize just how different we are from one another, yet we are all your children. Guide us always to remember that the diversity of our citizens is the very foundation of our country, and African Americans' contributions to that foundation need to be fully recognized and appreciated. Amen

APPENDIX

TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR

Senate Bill No. 2099

BY Raptakis

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES (Allows Timothy Conlon to join Sarah Conlon and Andrew Proulx in marriage on or about March 22, 2024, within the City of Newport, Rhode Island.) {LC3915/1}

02/06/2024 Transmitted to Governor

APPENDIX

CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024:

- 1. 2024-H 7013 SUB A**
BY Fellela
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- RYAN'S LAW

Committee on Corporations recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A.

- 2. 2024-H 7090**
BY Phillips
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- UNFAIR SALES PRACTICES

Committee on Corporations recommends passage.

- 3. 2024-H 7221**
BY Shanley
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

Committee on Special Legislation recommends passage.

Francis McCabe
Clerk of the House

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

