

# State of Rhode Island

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# JOURNAL

-OF THE-

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**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.

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Volume 151, No. 21

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Twenty-first-Day

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The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence on Thursday, March 21, 2024, and is called to order at 4:18 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, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Rea, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson and Voas.

**ABSENT** – 5: Representatives Bennett, Edwards, Marszalkowski, Quattrocchi and Roberts.

## STATEMENT FROM SPEAKER K. JOSEPH SHEKARCHI

“Today, a horrible tragedy of unspeakable proportions occurred in my home city of Warwick. We don’t know all the facts yet, but our collective hearts are broken. My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of the young child who tragically lost his life.”

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents Representative Jon D. Brien 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, March 12, 2024, is approved.

RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY



House of Representatives

**CO-SPONSORSHIP REMOVAL REQUEST**  
**2024**

Pursuant to House Rule 15(g)(ii), Rep. Morales  
hereby requests the removal of their co-sponsorship of Bill # H - 7958  
entitled: Am. Act Relating to Property - Public  
Auctions By Electronic Remote Procedures  
which is currently in the House Committee on Municipal Gov. & Housing

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

House District # 7

Date: 3/20, 2024

Acknowledgement:  
[Handwritten Signature]  
Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker

NOTE: This request must be submitted to the Clerk of the House, and House Recording Clerk who will retain the original and a copy to be placed in the committee's original bill file

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Representative David A. Bennett is unable to attend session today, Thursday, March 21, 2024.  
Representative John G. Edwards is unable to attend session today, Thursday, March 21, 2024.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SPEAKER**

March 21, 2024

Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi announces the following:

Chairman Joseph Solomon Jr. has been nominated to the National Conference of State Legislatures' Legislative Energy Horizon Institute.

Representative Matthew Dawson has been nominated to the State Council of the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision.

**CALENDAR**

From the Calendar are taken:

**IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024:****1. 2024-H 7328**

**BY** Ajello

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- CONDUCT OF ELECTION AND VOTING EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

Chairman Shanley moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Speakman, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, McGaw, Voas, Majority Whip Kazarian, Representatives McNamara, Felix and Vella-Wilkinson.

Chairman Shanley discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 69 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 69: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Rea, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**2. 2024-H 7469**

**BY** Carson

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- INTERSTATE COMPACT ON INDUSTRIALIZED/MODULAR BUILDINGS

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

Chairman Shanley moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Spears, Cotter, Carson, Donovan, Abney, Ajello, Majority Whip Kazarian and Representative Vella-Wilkinson.

Chairman Shanley discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 70 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**3. 2024-H 7470**

**BY** Cardillo

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES -- SIZE, WEIGHT, AND LOAD LIMITS

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

Chairman Shanley moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Cardillo, Biah, Shallcross Smith, Perez, Corvese, Lima, Costantino, Majority Whip Kazarian, Representatives Fellela and Phillips.

Chairman Shanley discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 69 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 69: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Rea, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, Vella-Wilkinson, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**4. 2024-H 7471**

**BY** Tanzi

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' AND CHAUFFEURS' LICENSES

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

Chairman Shanley moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Casey and Corvese.

Chairman Shanley discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 70 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**5. 2024-H 7583**

**BY** Azzinaro

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

Chairman Shanley moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy, Representatives Costantino, Phillips, McEntee, Cardillo, Biah, O'Brien, Donovan, Corvese, Deputy Majority Whip Ackerman, Representatives McNamara, Solomon, Majority Whip Kazarian, Representatives Fellela, Brien, Minority Leader Chippendale and Representative Vella-Wilkinson.

Chairman Shanley discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 70 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**6. 2024-S 2550**

**BY** Gu

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CHARIHO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF THREE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (ONE IN EACH OF THE TOWNS OF CHARLESTOWN, RICHMOND AND HOPKINTON) AND IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SWITCH ROAD CAMPUS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, COSTS OF DEMOLITION, DESIGN, HEALTH AND SAFETY PROJECTS, PLAYGROUNDS, LANDSCAPING, PAVING AND ALL EXPENSES INCIDENTAL THERETO BY THE ISSUANCE OF NOT MORE THAN \$150,000,000 BONDS AND/OR NOTES THEREFOR, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF STATE HOUSING AID AT A REIMBURSEMENT RATE OR STATE SHARE RATIO OF NOT LESS THAN 61% AT THE TIME OF ISSUANCE, WHICH RATE OR RATIO MAY INCREASE TO MORE THAN 76% AT PROJECT COMPLETION

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

Chairman Abney moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives Spears, Cotter, McEntee, Azzinaro, Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy and Representative Fogarty.

Chairman Abney discusses the act.

Read and passed, in concurrence, on a roll call vote, 70 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

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

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

### GUESTS

Chairman Craven, a University of Rhode Island alumnus, welcomes to the House Chamber University of Rhode Island Board members President Marc Parlange, Provost Barbara Wolfe, Vice Chair, Armand Sabitoni, student Board Member Reva Goyal, College of Nursing Professor Melissa Sutherland, Cortney Nicolato and Yahaira "Jay" Placencia in recognition of University of Rhode Island Day to showcase the University's statewide impact and role as Rhode Island's flagship university.

On behalf of the Woonsocket Delegation, Chairman Casey extends a warm welcome to the distinguished guests gathered here in the House Chamber to commemorate International Francophone Day. This day holds special significance as we celebrate the linguistic diversity that is intrinsic to our national identity and recognize the profound impact of the French language, which serves as a unifying thread among diverse communities worldwide.

Among our esteemed guests are notable figures such as Canada Senior Consular Officer Josie Crimini, Communication & Cultural Affairs Attachee of the Quebec Delegation Marie-Josée Duquette, Honorary Consulate of France to Rhode Island Stephanie Begin, Honorary Consul of France to Rhode Island and former Lieutenant Governor Roger Begin, Director of the Museum of Work & Culture Anne Conway, and Dominique Gregoire from the Alliance Francaise of Providence. Also present are Benedicte Brouder, Head of School at the French American School of Providence, Beatrice Duchastel de Montrouge, Public Programs Coordinator at the Museum of Work & Culture, and Margie Johnston from the Alliance Francaise De Newport.

Speaker Shekarchi recognizes former Lieutenant Governor Roger Begin and extends a warm welcome to all our distinguished guests.

Chairman Shanley extends a warm welcome to the House Chamber, members of Major Sullivan Ballou, Camp #3, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Chairman Shanley expresses gratitude for their commitment to maintaining a historic cemetery, honoring our history, ensuring that the

sacrifices of those who came before us are never forgotten, and preserving the memory and legacy of those who fought in the Civil War.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Fellela wishes Garrett Pierel, who works at Capitol Television, a Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Speaker Shekarchi wishes Garrett a Happy Birthday!

Chairman Slater announces that the House Finance Subcommittee on Education will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 35 of the State House.

Vice-Chairman Phillips announces that the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 135 of the State House.

Representative Shallcross Smith wishes her great-granddaughter Mila a Happy 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Speaker Shekarchi wishes Mila a Happy Birthday!

Chairwoman Vella-Wilkinson cordially invites all members to attend a special event commemorating Women's History Month on Thursday, March 28th, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. The event guest speaker, Kali Reis, is a member of the Seaconke Wampanoag Tribe and will focus on raising awareness about domestic violence. In recognition of Women's History Month, we kindly request all members to wear purple as a symbol of solidarity and support.

Vice-Chairman O'Brien announces that the Committee on Corporations will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 101 of the State House.

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces that the next House session will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, and Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

### IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

#### **House Resolution No. 8087**

**BY** Azzinaro, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, McEntee, O'Brien, Kennedy, Ajello, Fellela, Ackerman

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING "MEDAL OF HONOR DAY" ON MARCH 25, 2024, IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC5454/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairman Azzinaro discusses the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 8088**

**BY** Shanley, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Place, Kennedy, Azzinaro, Ajello, Fellela, Ackerman, Tanzi  
**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 1000TH REPAIRED GRAVESTONE OF THE MAJOR SULLIVAN BALLOU CAMP #3 IN THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR, AND HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO REPAIR THOSE GRAVE MARKERS {LC5678/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairman Shanley discusses the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 8089**

**BY** Brien, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Kennedy, Ajello, Fellela, Ackerman, Tanzi, Boylan  
**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF RONALD L. ST. PIERRE {LC5759/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Brien discusses the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 8090**

**BY** Kislak, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Speakman, Knight, Chippendale, Fogarty, Biah, McNamara, Potter  
**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING JUDGE MELISSA R. DUBOSE'S HISTORIC CONFIRMATION TO THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND {LC5715/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Kislak and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 8091**

**BY** Phillips, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Brien, Casey, Serpa, Costantino, Kennedy, Ajello  
**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING LA FRANCOPHONIE FLAG RAISING CEREMONY AT THE RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE ON THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024 {LC5746/1}

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.

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

**House Resolution No. 8092**

**BY** Craven, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, McEntee, Vella-Wilkinson, Brien, Shallcross Smith, Fogarty, Abney, Carson  
**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING "URI DAY" AT THE RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE ON MARCH 21, 2024 {LC5648/1}

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

There is no objection.

Chairman Craven, Chairwoman McEntee and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution.

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

**RULE 7D**

**The following bills were received pursuant to Rule 7D:**

Representative Boylan-An Act relating to Education-School Emergency Drill Act  
Representative Cotter-An Act relating to Education-School Committees and Superintendents  
Representative McNamara-An Act relating to Education-Rhode Island Hope Scholarship Pilot Program Act  
Representative Place-An Act relating to Food and Drug-Uniform Controlled Substance Act Civil Forfeiture Procedure

Representative Shanley-An Act relating to Public Officers and Employees–Merit System  
Representative Slater-An Act relating to Statewide Tangible Property Tax Exemption

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.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE SENATE

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

#### **Senate Bill No. 2027**

**BY** Euer, Kallman, Burke

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROBATE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE -- UNIFORM REAL PROPERTY TRANSFER ON DEATH ACT (Allows an owner or owners of real property to execute a deed that names one or more beneficiaries who will obtain title to the property at the owner's death without the necessity of probate.) {LC3553/1}

03/22/2024 Referred to House Judiciary

#### **Senate Bill No. 2092**

**BY** Sosnowski, Valverde, Gu

**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.) {LC3834/1}

03/22/2024 Referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

#### **Senate Bill No. 2127**

**BY** Lawson, Lauria, Felag, Euer, Britto, Pearson, Gallo, Murray, DiMario, Bissaillon

**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.) {LC3466/1}

03/22/2024 Referred to House Committee on Small Business

**Senate Bill No. 2467****BY** Cano, Lawson, Acosta, Mack, Britto, Bell, Valverde, Miller**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- RHODE ISLAND PARENTAL AND FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT (Increases the amount of parental or family leave available to an employee from thirteen (13) weeks to twenty-four (24) weeks in any two (2) calendar years.) {LC4751/1}

03/22/2024 Referred to House Labor

**Senate Bill No. 2539****BY** Tikoian**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- DOGS

(Permits Smithfield to enact ordinances that would allow the animal control officer to issue citations which could be paid my mail and to prescribe penalties for violations of the town's ordinances regulating dogs.) {LC5014/1}

03/22/2024 Referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES  
TRANSFER OF BILLS  
COMMITTEE ON CORPORATIONS**

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

**House Bill No. 7432****BY** Solomon**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- INSURERS' REHABILITATION AND LIQUIDATION ACT (Provides that no person, for over ten days, shall be restricted from enforcing a right under any pledge, security, credit, guarantee agreement, arrangement or other agreement credit enhancement to which a federal home loan bank is a party.) {LC4268/1}

03/22/2024 Placed on House Calendar (03/28/2024)

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Chairman McNamara, for the Committee on Education, reports back the following measures, with recommendation of passage:

**House Bill No. 7513 SUB A**

(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/A/1}

03/22/2024 Placed on House Calendar (03/26/2024)

**House Bill No. 7559**

(Dept. of Revenue)

**BY** Voas, Hull, Slater

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL

(Requires that certain quarterly reports required to be filed by district charter schools, mayoral academies and independent charter schools be submitted to the commissioner of elementary and secondary education.) {LC4450/1}

03/22/2024 Placed on House Calendar (03/26/2024)

**House Bill No. 7560**

(Dept. of Education (RIDE))

**BY** McNamara, Donovan, Roberts, Kislak, Giraldo, Voas, Ackerman

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SHEILA C. "SKIP" NOWELL

ACADEMY (Provides for changes to the operating structure of the Nowell Academy establishing a cooperative agreement among school districts.) {LC4856/1}

03/22/2024 Placed on House Calendar (03/26/2024)

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Chairman Bennett, for the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of passage:

**House Bill No. 7440**

**BY** Boylan, Cotter, Bennett, Chippendale, Edwards, Handy, Cortvriend, Carson, Knight, McGaw

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE -- LOBSTERS AND OTHER

CRUSTACEANS (Amends the current law to allow for the harvesting of blue crabs during the hours of darkness.) {LC4596/1}

03/22/2024 Placed on House Calendar (03/26/2024)

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

Chairman Craven, for the Committee on Judiciary, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of passage:

**House Bill No. 7568**

(Dept. of Transportation/Judiciary)

**BY** Noret, Corvese, Cardillo, Hull, Phillips, Casey, Craven, Kazarian, Speakman, Lima

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MISCELLANEOUS

RULES (Provides additional exception to prohibition on usage of wireless communication device while driving and clarifies that use for purpose of navigation must be while the device is mounted or otherwise affixed to vehicle and not held in the motorist's hand.) {LC4410/1}

03/22/2024 Placed on House Calendar (03/28/2024)

**Chairman Craven, for the Committee on Judiciary, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of transfer to the Committee on Municipal Government & Housing:**

**House Bill No. 7958**

**BY** Henries, Morales, Stewart, Sanchez, Alzate, Felix, Cruz

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- MULTIFAMILY HOUSING ACT (Requires single-family residential zoning in municipalities with populations of over 20,000 to allow middle housing and mandates that those municipalities adopt zoning regulations for middle housing.) {LC5412/1}

03/22/2024 Committee transferred to House Municipal Government & Housing

**Chairman Craven, for the Committee on Judiciary, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of transfer to the Committee on Health & Human Services:**

**House Bill No. 7969**

**BY** Knight, Shanley, Fogarty, Batista, McEntee, Cotter, Vella-Wilkinson, Dawson, Finkelman, Craven

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- ELECTRONIC MONITORING IN NURSING AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES (Allows electronic monitoring of residents or private living unit in nursing or assisted living facility with certain restrictions.) {LC5155/1}

03/24/2024 Committee transferred to House Health & Human Services

**COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING**

Chairman Casey, for the Committee on Municipal Government and Housing, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of passage:

**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}

03/22/2024 Placed on House Calendar (03/28/2024)

**House Bill No. 7657**

**BY** Costantino, Rea

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- DOGS (Permits Smithfield to enact ordinances that would allow the animal control officer to issue citations which could be paid my mail and to prescribe penalties for violations of the town's ordinances regulating dogs.) {LC5056/1}

03/22/2024 Placed on House Calendar (03/28/2024)

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Chairwoman Donovan, for the Committee on Health and Human Services, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of transfer to the Committee on Corporations:**

**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}

03/24/2024 Committee transferred to House Corporations

**NEW BUSINESS****House Bill No. 8093****BY** Chippendale, Cotter, Bennett, Handy, Shallcross Smith, Tanzi, Phillips, Knight, Newberry, Roberts**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- FRESHWATER LAKE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (Establishes the Rhode Island lake management program and a restricted receipt account as a fund within the department of environmental management to aid with lake and pond management issues relating to the control of aquatic invasive plants.) {LC5779/1}

03/22/2024 Introduced, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources

**House Bill No. 8094****BY** Caldwell, Hull, Craven**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS (Waives, for one year, the Rhode Island whole grain requirement for meals served in Rhode Island public schools.) {LC5630/1}

03/22/2024 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Bill No. 8095****BY** O'Brien, Craven, Finkelman, Solomon, McEntee, Serpa, Lima, Costantino, Voas, Slater**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- DOGS (Increases the penalty for violations of the care of dogs statute to a minimum fine of one hundred dollars (\$100) and a maximum fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per violation.) {LC5745/1}

03/22/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 8096****BY** Serpa, Fellela, Roberts**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- MERIT SYSTEM -- PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION (Eliminates waiting periods for acceptance response for successful candidates, requires that all qualified candidates names be sent to the hiring agency, mandates given DHS social worker tests quarterly and extends DCYF pilot hiring program for 3/15/26.) {LC5696/1}

03/22/2024 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**House Bill No. 8097**

(by request)

**BY** Azzinaro, O'Brien, McNamara

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES (Creates special motor vehicle registration plates for vehicles based on the nonprofit entity Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub.) {LC5748/1}

03/22/2024 Introduced, referred to House Special Legislation

**House Bill No. 8098**

**BY** Slater, Voas, O'Brien, Diaz

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- COUNCIL ON THE ARTS (Establishes a Rhode Island creative futures fund in the amount of eighteen million dollars (\$18,000,000).) {LC5725/1}

03/22/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 8099**

**BY** Azzinaro, O'Brien, McNamara

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- RHODE ISLAND PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP (Extends the time for which a student may enroll in the community college of Rhode Island Promise Scholarship program to one year after the student's high school graduation.) {LC5782/1}

03/22/2024 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:58 o'clock P.M. on motion of Majority Leader Blazejewski seconded by Minority Leader Chippendale the House adjourns, on a unanimous voice vote.

**Diane M. DePina**  
**Recording Clerk**

**APPENDIX**

**INVOCATION**

**REPRESENTATIVE JON D. BRIEN**

Dear Lord: Today, we recognize the many contributions of the French people to our country. As a friend and ally, France has stood with America since our revolution. The French culture is an integral part of the very fabric of Rhode Island. Let us acknowledge and honor their contributions to our State and Country and pray we continue our long history of friendship. Amen

**APPENDIX****TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR****Senate Bill No. 2550****BY Gu**

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CHARIHO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF THREE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (ONE IN EACH OF THE TOWNS OF CHARLESTOWN, RICHMOND AND HOPKINTON) AND IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SWITCH ROAD CAMPUS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, COSTS OF DEMOLITION, DESIGN, HEALTH AND SAFETY PROJECTS, PLAYGROUNDS, LANDSCAPING, PAVING AND ALL EXPENSES INCIDENTAL THERETO BY THE ISSUANCE OF NOT MORE THAN \$150,000,000 BONDS AND/OR NOTES THEREFOR, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF STATE HOUSING AID AT A REIMBURSEMENT RATE OR STATE SHARE RATIO OF NOT LESS THAN 61% AT THE TIME OF ISSUANCE, WHICH RATE OR RATIO MAY INCREASE TO MORE THAN 76% AT PROJECT COMPLETION (Authorizes the Chariho Regional School District to finance the construction, furnishing and equipping of three elementary schools (one in each of the towns of Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton) and improvements at the Switch Road Campus.)

{LC5499/1}

03/21/2024 Transmitted to Governor

**APPENDIX****CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024:****1. 2024-H 7509****BY** Finkelman**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW--GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- UNFAIR SALES PRACTICES

Committee on Corporations recommends passage.

**2. 2024-H 7513 SUB A****BY** McNamara**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM

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

**3. 2024-H 7559****BY** Voas**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL

Committee on Education recommends passage.

**4. 2024-H 7560****BY** McNamara**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SHEILA C. "SKIP" NOWELL ACADEMY

Committee on Education recommends passage.

**5. 2024-H 7440****BY** Boylan**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE -- LOBSTERS AND OTHER CRUSTACEANS

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources recommends passage.

**IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024:**

**1. 2024-H 7568**

**BY** Noret

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES --  
MISCELLANEOUS RULES

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

**2. 2024-H 7432**

**BY** Solomon

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- INSURERS' REHABILITATION  
AND LIQUIDATION ACT

Committee on Corporations recommends passage.

**3. 2024-H 7535**

**BY** Ajello

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO  
TAXATION

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

**4. 2024-H 7657**

**BY** Costantino

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY --  
DOGS

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

**Francis McCabe**  
Clerk of the House

**Friday, March 22, 2024**