

# 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 Seventh Day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.

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Volume 153, No. 6

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Sixth Day

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The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 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 67 members present and 8 members absent as follows:

**PRESENT** – 67: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Felix, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Paplauskas, Phillips, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi, and Voas.

**ABSENT** – 8: Representatives Abney, Batista, Bennett, Caldwell, Fellela, Perez, Roberts, and Shanley.

## INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi presents Representative Susan R. Donovan, 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 20, 2026, is approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Representative Jose F. Batista is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 22, 2026.  
Representative David A. Bennett is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 22, 2026.  
Representative Justine A. Caldwell is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 22, 2026.  
Representative Marvin L. Abney is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 22, 2026.  
Representative Evan P. Shanley is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 22, 2026.  
Representative Deborah A. Fellela is unable to attend session today, Thursday, January 22, 2026.

**CALENDAR**

From the Calendar are taken:

**IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026:****1. 2026-H 7028**

**BY** Read

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES, AND AMENDING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SPECIAL HOUSE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE FINDINGS AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS THE FLOODING OF THE PAWTUXET RIVER

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources recommends passage.

Majority Leader Blazejewski moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives McEntee, Marszalkowski, Serpa, Cortvriend, McNamara, Corvese, Carson, Casey, Potter, and Fogarty.

Majority Leader Blazejewski discusses the resolution.

By unanimous consent, Majority Leader Blazejewski, seconded by Representative McNamar, offers a written motion to amend.

**FLOOR AMENDMENT**

**TO**

2026 -- H 7028

HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES, AND AMENDING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SPECIAL HOUSE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE FINDINGS AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS THE FLOODING OF THE PAWTUXET RIVER

Mr. Speaker:

I hereby move to amend 2026 -- H 7028, entitled "HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES, AND AMENDING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SPECIAL HOUSE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE FINDINGS AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS THE FLOODING OF THE PAWTUXET RIVER", as

follows:

1. On page 2, line 1, by deleting the language “Rhode Island Energy”, and by inserting in place thereof the language “Providence Water”.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Read

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LC003877/2  
=====

Majority Leader Blazejewski discusses the amendment.

The motion to amend prevails on a roll call vote, 61 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative, as follows:

YEAS - 61: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Paplauskas, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Voas.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

Read and passed, as amended, on a roll call vote, 61 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative, as follows:

YEAS - 61: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fascia, Finkelman, Fogarty, Furtado, Giraldo, Handy, Hopkins, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Paplauskas, Place, Potter, Quattrocchi, Read, Sanchez, Santucci, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Tanzi.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

**GUESTS**

Representative Craven, in honor of the life and legacy of the late Honorable Anthony DeLuca, extends a warm welcome to his sons, Anthony and Steven, to the House. Former State Representative DeLuca dedicated his life to public service and helping others. He served in the Rhode Island National Guard, as a Councilman and Council President for the City of Cranston, and as a State Representative in the Rhode Island General Assembly. He also enjoyed coaching high school football and golf. His generosity in action was matched only by his kindness in spirit. Representative Craven offers his heartfelt condolences to the entire DeLuca family.

Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy warmly welcomes Jackie Hersey and her daughter, Nicole; the Law Revision Department; Sue Pegden; Michael Civittolo; Betty Ann Donahue; Matthew Bolton; and Heather Savoie to the House. He also extends his congratulations to Jackie Hersey on her retirement. Speaker Shekarchi expresses appreciation for her dedicated service to the State of Rhode Island and extends his best wishes for her future endeavors.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

On behalf of Speaker Shekarchi, Chairman Solomon expresses appreciation for Kathleen Jackson's dedicated service to the State of Rhode Island and extends his best wishes for her future endeavors.

Chairwoman Shallcross Smith announces that the Committee on Small Business will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 135 of the State House.

On behalf of Speaker Shekarchi, Majority Whip Kazarian extends their heartfelt sympathies to the entire Demarais family.

Representative Slater invites all members to attend the Rhode Island Community Food Bank's Food Insecurity Awareness Day on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the State House Library.

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

**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION****House Resolution No. 7260**

**BY** Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Craven, Chippendale, McEntee, Potter, Kennedy, Hull, Fogarty, Corvese  
**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF  
THE HONORABLE ANTHONY DELUCA {LC4428/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, on behalf of Speaker Shekarchi, Representative Craven requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Representative Craven and Speaker Shekarchi discuss the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 7261**

**BY** Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kennedy, Edwards, Chippendale, O'Brien, Azzinaro, Corvese, Fellela, Serpa

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING AND THANKING JACKIE HERSEY FOR HER MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND CONGRATULATING HER ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT {LC3183/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, on behalf of Speaker Shekarchi and the entire House of Representatives, Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy, seconded by Speaker Shekarchi, Majority Leader Blazejewski, and the entire House of Representatives, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

**House Resolution No. 7262**

**BY** Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Solomon, Chippendale, Paplauskas, Casey, Casimiro, Kazarian, Edwards, Kennedy

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING AND THANKING KATHLEEN B. JACKSON FOR HER MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND CONGRATULATING HER ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT {LC3184/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, on behalf of Speaker Shekarchi and the entire House of Representatives, Chairman Solomon requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Chairman Solomon discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Chairman Solomon, seconded by Speaker Shekarchi, Majority Leader Blazejewski, and the entire House of Representatives, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

**House Resolution No. 7263**

**BY** Carson, Kazarian, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Messier, Furtado, Diaz, Donovan, Caldwell, Cortvriend

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JANUARY 23, 2026, TO BE "MATERNAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC3477/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Carson discusses the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 7264**

**BY** Shallcross Smith, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Carson, Hull, Alzate, Morales, Marszalkowski, Diaz

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING DEBORAH J. PIASECKI ON HER PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT IN THE RHODE ISLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD {LC3121/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, on behalf of Speaker Shekarchi, Chairwoman Shallcross Smith requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Chairwoman Shallcross Smith discusses the resolution.

Read and passed, on a motion of Chairwoman Shallcross Smith 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. 7265****BY** Knight, McEntee, Dawson**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS -- THE RHODE ISLAND SPECIAL DEPOSITS ACT (Establishes the Rhode Island Special Deposits Act to be governed by an account agreement between the bank and the depositor or its beneficiary.) {LC4287/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7266****BY** Hopkins, Brien, Casimiro, Shanley, Perez, Solomon, Nardone, Fascia, Read, Tanzi**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- SENIOR SAVINGS PROTECTION ACT (Requires anyone engaged in the sale of goods or services, and who offers a discount to its customers' for utilizing automatic payment systems, via ACH or EFT or similar payment systems, provide the same discount to any person who is sixty-five (65).) {LC3949/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7267****BY** O'Brien, Dawson, McEntee, Lima, Costantino, Baginski, Kazarian, Voas, Corvese, McNamara**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- PEER-TO-PEER CAR SHARING PROGRAM ACT (Created a peer-to-peer car sharing program, which will prescribe insurance coverage and other related details while using a car sharing application.) {LC4474/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7268****BY** Nardone, Quattrocchi, Place, Chippendale, Hopkins**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- SMALL EMPLOYER HEALTH INSURANCE AVAILABILITY ACT (Amends the definition of "small employer" for purposes of the small employer health insurance availability act to mean a business employing less than one hundred (100) employees rather than fifty (50) employees.) {LC4289/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7269****BY** Speakman, Spears, Carson, McGaw, Boylan, McEntee, Cotter, Handy, Alzate, Potter**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- NET METERING -- PORTABLE SOLAR GENERATION DEVICES (Excludes portable solar generation devices intended primarily to offset part of a customer's electricity consumption from the definition of eligible net-metering system.) {LC3246/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7270****BY** Speakman, Spears, Carson, Cortvriend, McGaw, Boylan, McEntee, Cotter, Handy, Alzate**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION (Requires the public utilities commission to provide for a classification of service for retail electricity consumers that are large energy use facilities) {LC3826/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 7271****BY** Lombardi, Hull, Sanchez**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COOPERATIVE SERVICE AMONG SCHOOL DISTRICTS (Amends the composition of the urban collaborative in Providence and provides that it is governed by a board of trustees.) {LC4265/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Education

**House Bill No. 7272****BY** Carson, Cortvriend, Fogarty, McGaw, Edwards, Finkelman, Alzate, Donovan, Shallcross Smith, Boylan**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THE HOSPITAL CONVERSIONS ACT (Prohibits the closure or significant reduction of services of a birthing center without notice, application, financial disclosure, public hearing, and approval by the department of health.) {LC3208/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health &amp; Human Services

**House Bill No. 7273****BY** Hopkins, Brien, Casimiro, Shanley, Perez, Nardone, Fascia, Read, Tanzi, Chippendale**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT (Requires the state to implement the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact no later than July 1, 2026.) {LC3608/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health &amp; Human Services

**House Bill No. 7274****BY** Hopkins, Brien, Casimiro, Shanley, Perez, Nardone, Fascia, Ackerman, Tanzi, Chippendale**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS (Permits physician assistants to practice without a physician's direct supervision and receives direct payments from Medicaid.) {LC3633/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health &amp; Human Services

**House Bill No. 7275****BY** Stewart, Donovan, Boylan, Cotter, Caldwell, Fogarty, Cruz, Giraldo, Place, Kislak**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES (Requires health insurance plans to cover services provided by licensed certified professional midwives. Insurers would be required to report utilization and cost data annually and certain limited benefit policies would be exempt.) {LC4215/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health &amp; Human Services

**House Bill No. 7276****BY** Fogarty, Carson, McGaw, Boylan, Furtado, Messier, Shallcross Smith, Cruz, Potter, Donovan**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES (Prohibits an insurance company from imposing any cost-sharing requirements for any diagnostic or supplemental breast examinations.) {LC4401/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health &amp; Human Services

**House Bill No. 7277****BY** Stewart, Donovan, Boylan, Hopkins, Cotter, Caldwell, Fogarty, Cruz, Giraldo, Place**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS

INSURANCE POLICIES (Requires health insurance policies to cover licensed certified lactation counselor services for childbearing families. It would also prohibit requiring supervision or duplicate payments for services and mandates annual reporting.) {LC4236/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

**House Bill No. 7278**

**BY** Hopkins, McNamara, Nardone, Brien, Casimiro, Shanley, Perez, Fascia, Read, Tanzi

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- TELEMEDICINE COVERAGE ACT

(Permits healthcare professionals to diagnose and treat patients remotely with store-and-forward technology when provision of services in such manner is consistent with the standard of care.)

{LC3611/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

**House Resolution No. 7279**

**BY** Carson

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATIONS

DATES OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND PROVIDE

RECOMMENDATIONS PERTAINING TO SERVICES AND COORDINATION OF STATE

PROGRAMS RELATING TO OLDER ADULT RHODE ISLANDERS (Extends the reporting and

expiration dates of Commission to Study And Provide Recommendations on Services and

Coordination of State Programs for Older Adults from November 30, 2025, to November 30, 2026,

and would expire on January 31, 2027.) {LC3206/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Health & Human Services

**House Bill No. 7280**

**BY** Place, Cruz, Potter, Lombardi, Newberry, Tanzi, Felix, Brien, Hull, Ajello

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- BAIL AND

RECOGNIZANCE (Creates a 10 member bail task force to study the need of monetary conditions of

bail and to consider other methods for ensuring an accused's appearance in court, enhance public

safety and honor the presumption of innocence and to file report by 1/1/2028.) {LC4338/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7281**

**BY** Cruz, Brien, Potter, Stewart, Kislak, Place, McEntee, Sanchez, Shanley, Craven

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- EXPUNGEMENT OF

CRIMINAL RECORDS (Reduces the time for expungements to 3 years for a single misdemeanor

and 5 years for felonies and multiple misdemeanors.) {LC3144/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7282**

**BY** Place, Cruz, Potter, Lombardi, Newberry, Tanzi, Fascia, Felix, Brien, Ajello

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- STATE CRIME

LABORATORY COMMISSION (Increases the membership of the state crime laboratory

commission from five (5) to nine (9). The overseer and co-executive secretaries of the commission

have been changed to the deans of URI's colleges of pharmacy and engineering.) {LC4313/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7283****BY** Chippendale, Newberry, Place**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROBATE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE -- COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF DECEDENT'S ESTATES (Allows a duly authorized administrator or executor of an estate to request decedent's funds on deposit with any financial institution without cost.) {LC4271/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7284**

(by request)

**BY** Read, Potter, Corvese, Carson, Casimiro, Noret, Cotter, McEntee, Donovan, Craven**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.) {LC4378/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7285****BY** Nardone, Chippendale, Quattrocchi, Place, Santucci**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT (Requires effective January 1, 2027, that upon the execution of a lease agreement for a mobile and manufactured homes in a mobile and manufactured home park, a complete copy of the lease be provided to the tenant within 10 days of execution.) {LC3958/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7286****BY** Lombardi, Potter, Cruz, Kislak, Giraldo, Diaz, Stewart, Hull, Tanzi, Sanchez**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- HOMELESS BILL OF RIGHTS (Updates the Homeless Bill of Rights law to add rules governing the interaction with encampments and includes the right to access clean and sanitary conditions.) {LC4392/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7287****BY** Nardone, Place, Chippendale, Newberry**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL (Clarifies the process of depositing settlement funds from non-multi-state initiatives and require that settlements could not be spent without express general assembly authorization.) {LC4277/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7288****BY** Place, Cruz, Lombardi, Paplauskas, Quattrocchi, Santucci, Newberry, Fascia, Felix, Brien**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATUTES AND STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION -- EFFECT OF GENERAL LAWS (Directs the office of law revision to identify, on a yearly basis, any decisions or holding of the United States Supreme Court that would require amendments to any state statutes.) {LC4314/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7289**

**BY** Place, Cruz, Potter, Lombardi, Newberry, Tanzi, Felix, Brien, Ajello, Stewart

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT -- POWERS OF ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL -- CIVIL FORFEITURE PROCEDURE (Prohibits civil asset forfeiture regarding violations of the controlled substances laws until a criminal conviction is obtained.) {LC4302/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

**House Bill No. 7290**

**BY** Cotter, Spears, Carson, Donovan, Corvese, Morales, Read, Kislak, Ajello, Potter

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- RESTRICTIONS ON SELF-SERVICE CHECKOUT STATIONS ACT (Places limits on the number of self-service checkout stations a grocery store can have and on the workload of employees assigned to monitor those checkout stations.) {LC4054/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**House Bill No. 7291**

**BY** Casey, Edwards, Ackerman

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- LABOR RELATIONS ACT (Allows employees, not represented by a union, to create a group to collectively bargain with employers.) {LC3521/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Labor

**House Bill No. 7292**

**BY** Edwards

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- RHODE ISLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND LAND USE ACT--COMPREHENSIVE PERMITS PROHIBITED IN WATERSHED OVERLAY PROTECTION (Prohibits applications for a comprehensive permit under the Rhode Island comprehensive planning and land use regulation act in any watershed overlay protection district located in the town of Tiverton.) {LC4130/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

**House Bill No. 7293**

**BY** Edwards

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND HOUSING RESOURCES ACT OF 1998 (Allows the town of Tiverton to receive a one-half (1/2) credit for affordable housing units for manufactured homes in age restricted communities in conformance with all zoning laws and/or ordinances of the town.) {LC4131/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

**House Bill No. 7294**

**BY** Edwards

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING -- TIVERTON (Prohibits applications filed in the town of Tiverton, for comprehensive permit projects, for low- and moderate-income housing, to include accessory dwelling units.) {LC4120/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

**House Bill No. 7295****BY** Edwards**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (Permits the town of Tiverton to require additional testing, to be performed by and at the expense of the developer, to ensure that there is no dewatering or loss of effective recharge to surrounding wells within close proximity of the new construction.) {LC4161/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing

**House Bill No. 7296****BY** Edwards**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING--PARKING SPACES (Permits Tiverton to require two parking space for each studio, one-bedroom, or two-bedroom low- or moderate-income housing units upon the determination that limited or no local public transportation or off-street parking availability near these units.) {LC4128/1}

{LC4128/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing

**House Bill No. 7297****BY** Edwards**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- TIVERTON'S NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS ACT (Sets timelines for Tiverton's new construction, including one year for final approval, two (2) years for building permits, and temporary inclusion of units in the town's count until completion or three (3) years, whichever comes first.) {LC4126/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing

**House Bill No. 7298****BY** Edwards**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (Allows the town of Tiverton to apply different tax rates to all classes of property.) {LC4125/1}

{LC4125/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing

**House Bill No. 7299****BY** Voas, Solomon, Casey, Giraldo, Potter, O'Brien, Slater, DeSimone, Stewart**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (Permits every municipality in the state to offer a homestead tax exemption of up to 20% of assessed value on residential properties, and also provides that municipalities that grant greater exemptions not be limited by this section.) {LC4084/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing

**House Bill No. 7300****BY** DeSimone, Morales**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES (Provides that exemptions to the prohibition of liquor licenses within two hundred feet (200') of schools or places of worship do not eliminate neighboring property owners' remonstrance rights to object to the license.) {LC4415/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing

**House Resolution No. 7301****BY** Carson**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION REINSTATING THE LIFE OF AND EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO REVIEW AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICIES THAT DEAL WITH NUMEROUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SHORT-TERM RENTALS ISSUES {LC3205/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing

**House Bill No. 7302**

(by request)

**BY** Carson**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 Lime Rock Foundation, Inc.) {LC3445/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Special Legislation

**House Resolution No. 7303**

(Secretary of State)

**BY** Alzate, Stewart, Giraldo, Donovan, Spears, Carson, Lombardi, Read, Diaz**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION -- OF SUFFRAGE (Proposes to the voters of the state a constitutional amendment regarding eligibility to vote and to be a candidate.) {LC3127/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**House Bill No. 7304**

(by request)

**BY** Kazarian, Stewart, Alzate, Casimiro, Voas, Potter, Dawson, Boylan, Furtado**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OPEN MEETINGS (Allows a pregnant member or member that has given birth in the past six (6) months to appear remotely and permits any member that participates in a meeting remotely to vote at that meeting, provided that the meeting is held in person.) {LC3153/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**House Bill No. 7305****BY** Knight, Serpa, Potter, Cortvriend, Dawson, Diaz, Boylan, Cotter, Spears, Speakman**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC RECORDS -- ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS (Makes changes to the access to public records act, including clarifying various provisions, increasing the sanctions for knowing and willful violations of the law, and making certain traffic accident data and preferred license plate information public.) {LC4375/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**House Bill No. 7306****BY** Santucci, Fascia, Nardone, Quattrocchi, Newberry, Chippendale, Paplauskas, Cotter, Hull, Felix**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- AUDITOR GENERAL (Requires the auditor general to conduct performance audits of all state agencies.) {LC3612/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government &amp; Elections

**House Bill No. 7307**

**BY** Santucci, Fascia, Nardone, Newberry, Quattrocchi, Chippendale, Paplauskas

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND REGULATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN NEED OF SCRUTINY ACT (Establishes the Rhode Island Regulations from the Executive In Need of Scrutiny Act which would require review and approval of rules with implementation and compliance costs of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) or more over a two-year period.) {LC3620/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 7308**

**BY** Read, Potter, Noret, Casimiro, Hopkins, Cotter, Donovan, Spears

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- PARKING FACILITIES AND PRIVILEGES (Creates a new registration plate for qualified individuals to possess an "adaptive vehicle license plate" to accommodate the transportation needs of an individual with a significant mobility impairment.) {LC4162/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**House Bill No. 7309**

**BY** Lima, Costantino, Azzinaro, Slater, Baginski, Brien

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (Authorizes a property owner to pursue reasonable actions to protect their property from coastal hazards that affect life, infrastructure, or essential land uses without prior approval.) {LC4274/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House State Government & Elections

**(For Co-sponsorship removal request, see Journal of 3-19-2026, page 3.)**

**House Bill No. 7310**

**BY** Stewart, Cruz, Casimiro, Kazarian, Place, Kislak, Lombardi, Voas, Tanzi, Potter

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN (Requires EOHHS to provide self-measured blood pressure monitoring for eligible pregnant and postpartum individuals, covering home monitors, training, data transmission, and co-interventions, with state funds if federal aid is unavailable.) {LC4286/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7311**

**BY** Nardone, Quattrocchi, Fascia, Santucci, Paplauskas, Chippendale

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND COMMERCE CORPORATION (Limits the authority of the Rhode Island commerce corporation to finance any transaction to five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for any one individual, business entity or project.) {LC4279/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7312**

**BY** Nardone, Quattrocchi, Fascia, Santucci, Place, Chippendale

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- ESTATE AND TRANSFER TAXES -- LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (Increases the net taxable estate exemption to fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) for deaths that occur on or after January 1, 2027.) {LC4278/1}

01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7313**

**BY** Alzate, Fogarty, Potter, Giraldo, Donovan, Spears, Lombardi, Diaz, Cotter, Kazarian  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PERSONAL INCOME TAX (Creates an additional tax rate of 3% on taxable income over \$640,000 in 2026 dollars. Applies to tax years 2027 and thereafter and not retroactively.) {LC3716/1}  
01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7314**

**BY** DeSimone, Kazarian, Potter, Voas, Cruz, Giraldo, Kislak, Solomon, McGaw, Slater  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PERSONAL INCOME TAX (Provides modifications for payments of interest on student loans shall be subtracted from federal adjusted gross income to an amount equal to the payments of interest for the satisfaction of outstanding student loans.) {LC4416/1}  
01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7315**

**BY** Santucci, Place, Hopkins, Newberry, Nardone, Quattrocchi, Fascia, Chippendale, Paplauskas, Cotter, Brien  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- RHODE ISLAND INFRASTRUCTURE BANK (Establishes the rural housing development revolving fund for the purpose of providing loans to support low- and moderate-income housing development projects in rural areas.) {LC3622/1}  
01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7316**

**BY** Santucci, Fascia, Nardone, Newberry, Quattrocchi, Chippendale, Paplauskas  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- STATE PURCHASES -- REVIEW OF CONTRACTED SERVICES (Require the director of any state agency with more than five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in contracted services to conduct a review of said services and to provide a two percent (2%) reduction in said expenditures over five years.) {LC3621/1}  
01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7317**

**BY** Donovan, Diaz, Shallcross Smith, Ajello, Potter, Fogarty, Speakman, Cotter, Kazarian, Boylan  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- RHODE ISLAND EARLY EDUCATOR WORKFORCE ACT (Direct the manage existing workforce development and compensation programs for the early educators workforce.) {LC4280/1}  
01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7318**

**BY** Cotter, Chippendale, Kennedy, Santucci, Speakman, Donovan, Spears, Casimiro, Knight  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT (Increases the state's regionalization bonus to six percent (6.0%) of the state's fiscal year share of foundation education aid. This bonus would be ongoing and continuing so long as the district remains a regional school district.) {LC4367/1}  
01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7319**

**BY** Diaz, Slater, Shallcross Smith, Donovan, Casimiro, Cruz, Kislak, Tanzi, Giraldo  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- THE RHODE ISLAND WORKS PROGRAM (Eliminates the sunset on the provision of funding, modify eligibility requirement to 85% of state median income and expand funding to at least 20 hours per week.) {LC4484/1}  
01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7320**

**BY** Diaz, Slater, Shallcross Smith, Donovan, Casimiro, Cruz, Kislak, Edwards, Felix, Tanzi  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- THE RHODE ISLAND WORKS PROGRAM (Removes the requirement that families consent to, and cooperate with the department of human services in establishing paternity and enforcing child and medical support orders as a condition of eligibility for child care assistance.) {LC4485/1}  
01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7321**

**BY** Santucci, Nardone, Quattrocchi, Fascia, Slater, Chippendale, Paplauskas, Cotter, Fellela  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- RETIREMENT SYSTEM -- CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS -- POST-RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT (Removes the cap on post-retirement employment for teaching administrator or staff member who has retired under the provisions of title 16, 36 or 35 of the general laws.) {LC3613/1}  
01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7322**

**BY** Carson, Cortvriend, McGaw, Edwards, Shallcross Smith, Boylan  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THE RHODE ISLAND MATERNAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT AND EQUITY ACT OF 2026 (Establishes the Rhode Island Maternal Health Improvement and Equity Act of 2026, to establish permanent statewide support for maternal health and to implement the maternal health strategic plan improving maternal health care and access.) {LC3215/1}  
01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 7323**

**BY** Alzate, Fogarty, Donovan, Spears, Carson, Lombardi, Diaz, Cotter, Cruz, Kislak  
**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, 2027, to provide coverage to the insured and the insured's spouse and dependents for all FDA-approved contraceptive drugs, devices and other products.) {LC4206/1}  
01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Resolution No. 7324**

**BY** Casey, Brien, Phillips, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Corvese, Cruz, Lombardi, Potter, Diaz  
**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 TO SOJOURNER HOUSE IN RHODE ISLAND (Authorizes the appropriation of the sum of \$500,000 to Sojourner House to support its permanent housing development program that provides safe, secure housing to individuals and families fleeing from dangerous situations.) {LC3714/1}  
01/23/2026 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:40 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Edwards, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Camilla Boyd Chappell; on motion of Representative Craven, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Hon. Anthony DeLuca; on motion of Representative Kazarian and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Ruth Desmarais; on motion of Representative Edwards, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Camilla Kenyon Boyd Chappell; seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Chippendale the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

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

**APPENDIX**

**INVOCATION**

**REPRESENTATIVE SUSAN R. DONOVAN**

Dear God, we come before you today with humility in our hearts. Give us the patience and understanding to face life's challenges with grace and courage. Always mindful that we are here to do what is right and just for all citizens. Amen.