

State of Rhode Island

Journal of the Senate

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. 1

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

First Legislative Day

CALL TO ORDER

The Senate meets pursuant to recess and is called to order by The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggiero, President of the Senate, at 4:16 o'clock P.M.

ROLL CALL

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 38 Senators present and 0 Senators absent as follows:

PRESENT –38: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggiero, and Senators Acosta, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Cano, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

ABSENT – 0:

INVOCATION

The Honorable President, by unanimous consent, presents Senator Burke to deliver the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

The Honorable President, by unanimous consent, presents Senator Burke, to lead the Senate in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF RECORD

The Senate Journal of the Thirty-Fourth Legislative Day of the 2023 proceedings is read in part.


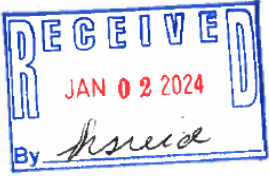
Upon suggestion of Senator Burke and by unanimous consent, further reading of the Journal is dispensed with and the Journal approved as recorded.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S OPENING DAY ADDRESS

(See Appendix for Senate President's Opening Day Address)

COMMUNICATIONS

The Honorable President of the Senate presents the following communications:

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">SENATOR FRANK A. CICCONE, III District 7</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Room 212 Rhode Island State House Providence, Rhode Island 02903</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICE: 401-276-5568</p> <p style="text-align: center;">sen-ciccione@rilegislature.gov</p> | <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">State of Rhode Island</p>  <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">Senate Chamber</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">CHAIRPERSON Committee on Labor</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Committee on Finance</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Committee on Rules, Government Ethics & Oversight</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Permanent Joint Committee On State Lottery</p> |
| <p>January 2, 2024</p> <p>The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggiero President of the Senate State House, Room 318 Providence, RI 02903</p> <p>Dear Mr. President:</p> <p>Please be advised that on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, I will be absent from Senate Session.</p> <p>I would appreciate you recording my letter in the appropriate Senate Journal. Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p><i>Frank A. Ciccone, III</i></p> <p>Frank A. Ciccone, III Senator District ~ 7</p> <p>FAC/ko</p> | | |
|  | | |

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

DOMINICK J. RUGGERIO
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

Room 318
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

OFFICE: (401) 222-6655
FAX: (401) 222-2967
sen-ruggerio@rilegislature.gov

The Honorable Senate
Senate Chamber
State House
Providence, RI 02903

January 2, 2024

The Honorable, the Senate:

Pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of the Senate Democratic Caucus, I am making the following appointments for the year 2024:

Senator Valarie J. Lawson
Senate Majority Whip

Senator Melissa A. Murray
Deputy Majority Leader

Sincerely,

Dominick J. Ruggerio
President of the Senate

IN THE SENATE
Read and Ordered to be
PLACE ON FILE

JAN 02 2024

Reading Clerk

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

State of Rhode Island

JOHN E. FLEMING, JR.
Chief of Staff
Office of the President of the Senate



Room 317
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Senate Chamber

OFFICE: (401) 222-6655
FAX: (401) 222-2967

Email: jfleming@rilegislature.gov

January 2, 2024


The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggiero
President of The Senate
Room 318
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear President Ruggiero:

Effective today January 2, 2024, I hereby resign my position as Secretary of the Senate.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


John E. Fleming, Jr.
Chief of Staff

IN THE SENATE
Read and Ordered to be
PLACE ON FILE

JAN 02 2024


Reading Clerk

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

DOMINICK J. RUGGERIO
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

State of Rhode Island



Room 318
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

OFFICE: (401) 222-6655
FAX: (401) 222-2967
sen-ruggerio@rilegislature.gov

Senate Chamber

January 2, 2024

The Honorable Senate
Senate Chamber
State House
Providence, RI 02903

To the Honorable, the Senate

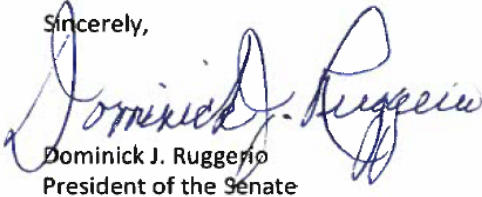
Pursuant to Section 5.4 of the Senate Rules entitled "Officers of Committees," I am making the following appointments:

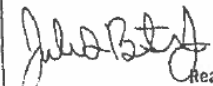
Senate Committee Health and Human Services
Senator Pamela J. Lauria, Secretary

Senate Committee on Special Legislation and Veteran's Affairs
Senator Jacob E. Bissaillon, Secretary

Senate Committee on Rules, Government Ethics and Oversight
Senator Samuel D. Zurier, Vice Chair
Senator Jonathan Acosta, Secretary

Sincerely,


Dominick J. Ruggerio
President of the Senate

IN THE SENATE
Read and Ordered to be
PLACE ON FILE
JAN 02 2024

Reading Clerk

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

DOMINICK J. RUGGERIO
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

State of Rhode Island



Room 318
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

OFFICE: (401) 222-6655
FAX: (401) 222-2967
sen-ruggerio@rilegislature.gov

Senate Chamber

January 2, 2024

The Honorable Senate
Senate Chamber
State House
Providence, RI 02903

To the Honorable, the Senate

Pursuant to Section 5.2 of the Senate Rules, I am making the following appointments:

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Jacob E. Bissaillon

Senate Committee on Special Legislation and Veteran's Affairs
Senator Jacob E. Bissaillon

Senate Committee on Rules, Government Ethics and Oversight
Senator Jacob E. Bissaillon

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dominick J. Ruggerio".

Dominick J. Ruggerio
President of the Senate

IN THE SENATE
Read and Ordered to be
PLACE ON FILE

JAN 02 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julia B. A.".

Julia B. A.
Clerk

Read and ordered to be placed on file.



State of Rhode Island
Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State
Gregg M. Amore, *Secretary of State*

December 8, 2023

To the Honorable Senate:

I have the honor to inform you that I administered on the eighth day of December, A.D. 2023, the oath of office to Jacob Bissaillion of Providence as Senator of District 01.

Respectfully yours,

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

IN THE SENATE
Read and Ordered to be
PLACE ON FILE

JAN 02 2024

Reading Clerk

State House, Room 218, Providence, RI 02903
Phone: 401-222-2357 | Fax: 401-222-1356 | secretaryamore@sos.ri.gov | www.sos.ri.gov

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE GOVERNOR

The Honorable President presents the following communication from His Excellency, The Governor, transmitting the following appointments and requesting the advice and consent of the Senate thereto:



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

January 1, 2024

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Section 42-82-3 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following reappointment to the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee:

Diane Lynch
(Familiar with Land Use & Community Planning Issues)

For a term expiring January 1, 2029.

To this appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggiero, Senate President
Honorable Ryan Pearson, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

January 1, 2024

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Section 42-82-3 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following reappointment to the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee:

Jane Bevan Linsley
(Familiar with Land Use & Community Planning Issues)

For a term expiring January 1, 2029.

To this appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel J. McKee".

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President
Honorable Ryan Pearson, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

January 1, 2024

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Section 42-82-3 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following reappointment to the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee:

Michael Hutchinson
(Knowledge/Experience in Agriculture)

For a term expiring January 1, 2027.

To this appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel J. McKee".

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President
Honorable Ryan Pearson, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. McKEE

January 1, 2024

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Section 42-82-3 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following reappointment to the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee:

Jonathan Reiner
(Familiar with Land Use & Community Planning Issues)

For a term expiring January 1, 2029.

To this appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggiero, Senate President
Honorable Ryan Pearson, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

January 1, 2024

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Section 42-82-3 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following appointment to the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee:

Jayne L. Merner
(Knowledge/Experience in Agriculture)

VICE
Martha Neal

For a term expiring January 1, 2025.

To this appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. McKee", is written below the word "Sincerely,".

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President
Honorable Ryan Pearson, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

January 1, 2024

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Section 42-82-3 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following appointment to the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee:

Charles B. Allott, Esq.
(Knowledge /Experience in Agriculture)

VICE
David Wallace

For a term expiring January 1, 2026.

To this appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel J. McKee".

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President
Honorable Ryan Pearson, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

January 1, 2024

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Section 42-82-3 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following appointment to the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee:

Joanne Riccitelli
(Familiar with Land Use & Community Planning Issues)

VICE
Everett Stuart

For a term expiring January 1, 2026.

To this appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. McKee", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggiero, Senate President
Honorable Ryan Pearson, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

October 13, 2023

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE,

I have the honor to inform you in accordance with the provisions of Section § 23-99-4 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following nomination to the Chair of the Life Science Hub of Rhode Island:

Neil D. Steinberg
Chair

For a term expiring January 1, 2028.

To this Appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Daniel J. McKee'.

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggiero, Senate President
Honorable Ryan W. Pearson, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

November 1, 2023

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE,

I have the honor to inform you in accordance with the provisions of Section § 42-64.10-7 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following appointment to the Quonset Development Corporation:

Lauren A. Burgess, Esq.

Vice
Scot A. Jones

For a term expiring January 1, 2025

To this Appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel J. McKee".

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President
Honorable Ryan W. Pearson, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

December 7, 2023

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE,

I have the honor to inform you in accordance with the provisions of Section § 42-64-8 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following appointment to the **Rhode Island Commerce Corporation**

Simon J. Wood

Vice
Bernard Buonanno III

For a term expiring February 1, 2027.

To this Appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel J. McKee".

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggiero, Senate President
Honorable Ryan W. Pearson, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce.

ELECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

The Honorable President declares that nominations for the office of the Secretary of the Senate are now in order.

Senator Gallo nominates Helena S. Reid of Providence as the Secretary of the Senate for the 2024 session.

The nomination is seconded by Senator Tikoian.

The motion to elect Helena S. Reid of Providence as the Secretary of the Senate of the Senate for the 2024 Session is read and passed, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote with 36 Senators voting in the affirmative and 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 36: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggiero, and Senators Acosta, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Cano, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

OATH

The Honorable Gregg Amore, Secretary of State, administers the Oath of Office to the Secretary of the Senate to Helena S. Reid of Providence.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Upon the suggestion of Senator Lombardi and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President of The Senate, welcomes to the Chamber Michael P. Reid, the husband of *newly elected Secretary of the Senate Helena S. Reid*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator DiMario announces that the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture will meet Tuesday, January 09th at 5:00pm in the Senate Lounge.

Senator Felag announces that the Senate Committee on Finance will meet Thursday, January 04th at 5:00 pm in Room 211.

Senator Bissaillon would like to announce that Capital Television will be taking a group photo next to the Independent Man, the 14-foot statute on display in the buildings main entrance.

RECESS

Upon the Motion of Senator Pearson, seconded by Senator de la Cruz, the Senate stands in Recess at 4:37 o'clock P.M.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Chairman DiPalma, from the Committee on Finance, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measure:

The Appointment of Neil D. Steinberg as Chair of the Life Science Hub of Rhode Island for a term expiring January 1, 2028.

Placed on the Calendar for Thursday, January 11th.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

Chairwoman DiMario, from the Committee on Environment and Agriculture, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measures:

The Reappointment of Diane Lynch (Familiar with Land Use & Community Planning Issues) to the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee for a term expiring January 1, 2029.

Placed on the Consent Calendar for Thursday, January 11th.

The Reappointment of Jonathan Reiner (Familiar with Land Use & Community Planning Issues) to the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee for a term expiring January 1, 2029.

Placed on the Consent Calendar for Thursday, January 11th.

The Appointment of Jayne L. Merner (Knowledge/Experience in Agriculture) VICE Martha Neal to the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee for a term expiring January 1, 2025.

Placed on the Consent Calendar for Thursday, January 11th.

The Appointment of Charles B. Allott, Esq. (Knowledge/Experience in Agriculture) VICE David Wallace to the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee for a term expiring January 1, 2026.

Placed on the Consent Calendar for Thursday, January 11th.

The Appointment of Joanne Riccitelli (Familiar with Land Use & Community Planning Planning Issues) VICE Everett Stuart to the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee for a term expiring January 1, 2026.

Placed on the Consent Calendar for Thursday, January 11th.

NEW BUSINESS**Senate Resolution No. 2001****BY** Ruggiero**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2025

{LC3618/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

Senate Resolution No. 2002**BY** Lawson, Lauria, Britto**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF VINCENT A. SPREMULLI

{LC3650/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

Senate Resolution No. 2003**BY** Lawson**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF PAUL J. GRIFFITH

{LC3651/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

Senate Resolution No. 2004**BY** Lawson**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF KAREN J. OLIVEIRA

{LC3652/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

Senate Resolution No. 2005**BY** Lawson, Murray**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF IRIDE MARGIE DESROSIERS

{LC3275/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

Senate Resolution No. 2006**BY** Lawson, Cano**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF HECTOR J. BEAUPRE, JR.

{LC3659/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

Senate Bill No. 2007**BY** Murray, Valverde, Lauria, Tikoian, Euer, Miller, DiMario, Mack, Britto**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (Prohibits the declawing of cats by any surgical procedure to amputate or modify a portion of a cat's paw in order to remove the cat's claws. Does not apply to any procedure performed for a therapeutic purpose.)

{LC3497/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Environment and Agriculture.

Senate Bill No. 2008**BY** Rogers, DeLuca, de la Cruz**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT (Prohibits total education aid paid to any local education agency from being reduced by more than one percent (1%) of the municipal education appropriation in the previous fiscal year.)

{LC3696/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 2009**BY** Burke, Pearson, Gallo, LaMountain, Bissaillon, Britto, Tikoian**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT (Requires all public school teachers hired on or after July 1, 2024, to participate in the retirement system social security pursuant to chapter 7 of title 36.)

{LC3636/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 2010**BY** Rogers, DeLuca, de la Cruz**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- RETIREMENT OF MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (Increases the number of days a retired municipal employee could work in a calendar year without interruption of pension benefits to ninety (90) days.)

{LC3699/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Resolution No. 2011**BY** Rogers, DeLuca, de la Cruz**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF APPROXIMATELY \$30,000,000 TO RHODE ISLAND'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS (This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$100,000 to each public school in Rhode Island for school safety and security improvements.)

{LC3706/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 2012**BY** Rogers, DeLuca, Paolino, de la Cruz**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.)

{LC3707/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 2013**BY** DiPalma, Miller, DiMario, Valverde, Lawson, Lauria, Ujjifusa, E Morgan**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- PRESCRIPTION DRUG COST PROTECTION (Requires single-family residential zoning in municipalities with populations of over twenty-thousand (20,000) shall allow middle housing and mandates that those municipalities adopt zoning regulations for middle housing.)

{LC3776/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

Senate Bill No. 2014**BY** Euer, Lawson, Miller, DiPalma, F. Lombardi, DiMario**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THE HOSPITAL CONVERSIONS ACT (Repeals health services council and expands the health services and amends several provisions relative to the review process of the hospital conversion act pertaining to maintenance of services and required disclosures.)

{LC3552/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

Senate Bill No. 2015**BY** DiPalma, Miller, DiMario, Valverde, Lawson, Lauria, Ujifusa, E Morgan**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS -- DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS (Mandates, as of 1/1/26, all recovery housing facilities register with department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals adhere to the National Alliance for Recovery Residences process.)
{LC3830/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

Senate Bill No. 2016**BY** Rogers, DeLuca, de la Cruz**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (Allows municipalities without public transportation extending to urban service boundaries to reduce the low- or moderate-income housing requirements from 10% to 6%.)
{LC3698/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

Senate Bill No. 2017**BY** Rogers, DeLuca, de la Cruz**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (Provides another method for municipalities to identify and calculate private residences as low- and moderate-income housing. This method is in addition to and not in lieu of other methods permitted under law.)
{LC3694/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

Senate Bill No. 2018**BY** Euer**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (Includes non-owner-occupied residential properties used for short-term rentals for tourist or transient use to be assessed as Class 2 properties on or after the assessment date of December 31, 2024.)
{LC3556/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

Senate Bill No. 2019**BY** Rogers, DeLuca, de la Cruz**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HIGHWAYS -- SIDEWALKS (Requires that all maintenance of sidewalks along state highways, with the exception of snow and ice removal, be the responsibility of the state.)

{LC3697/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

Senate Bill No. 2020**BY** Euer**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- SHORT-TERM RENTAL COMMUNITY IMPACT FEE (Enables cities and towns to impose an impact fee of 2% on the total consideration charged for occupancy of a house, condominium, or other resident dwelling that is rented in its entirety for less than 31 consecutive days.)

{LC3555/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

Senate Bill No. 2021**BY** Euer, Lawson, F. Lombardi, DiMario, Bissaillon, Acosta, Cano, Kallman**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.)

{LC3557/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Labor.

Senate Bill No. 2022**BY** Paolino, F. Lombardi, Pearson, Tikoian**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SPEED RESTRICTIONS -- SCHOOL BUS SPEED LIMIT (Establishes a speed limit for school buses being driven on a limited access highway to ten miles per hour (10mph) less than the posted speed limit.)

{LC3704/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 2023

BY Raptakis, Tikoian, Burke, Sosnowski, F. Lombardi, McKenney, Felag, de la Cruz, DiPalma, Murray

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES (Extends the "lookback" period for repeat offenses involving driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs under § 31-27-2 and for repeat offenses related to failure or refusal to submit to chemical tests under § 31-27-2.1 from 5 years to 10 years.)
{LC3378/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 2024

BY Tikoian, Raptakis, Burke, Sosnowski, F. Lombardi, Felag, DiPalma, Britto, McKenney, Quezada

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES (Increases penalties for a variety of motor vehicle offenses.)
{LC3376/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 2025

BY Raptakis, Tikoian, Burke, Sosnowski, F. Lombardi, McKenney, Felag, DiPalma, Murray, Britto

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSES (A judge would have discretion to allow a hardship exception to keep license plates of a person convicted of this offense.)
{LC3333/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 2026

BY Raptakis, Tikoian, Burke, Sosnowski, F. Lombardi, Felag, McKenney, DiPalma, Murray, Britto

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSES (Requires that the license plates of a vehicle be confiscated by a police officer if the owner was arrested for driving while their license was suspended, revoked or cancelled for refusing to submit to a chemical test or for operating under the influence.)
{LC3339/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

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}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 2028**BY** DiMario, Bissaillon, F. Lombardi, Pearson, Raptakis, Lawson, Euer, Cano, Murray
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- OUTDOOR DINING ACT (Establishes standards governing the municipal regulation of outdoor dining at food service establishments.)
{LC3529/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs.

Senate Resolution No. 2029**BY** de la Cruz, Raptakis, DeLuca, Rogers, Paolino, E Morgan, Zurier
ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL AS IT DEFENDS ITSELF AGAINST THE BARBARIC WAR LAUNCHED BY HAMAS AND OTHER TERRORISTS
{LC3711/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs.

CALL TO ORDERThe Senate meets pursuant to recess and is called to order by the Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio, President of the Senate, on Thursday, January 11th at 4:12 o'clock P.M.**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion of Senator Pearson, seconded by Senator de la Cruz, and the Senate adjourns at 4:13 o'clock P.M.

HELENA S. REID
Secretary of the Senate

Appendix

CONSENT CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024

1. ***The Reappointment of Diane Lynch (Familiar with Land Use & Community Planning Issues) to the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee for a term expiring January 1, 2029.***

Committee on Environment & Agriculture recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

2. ***The Reappointment of Jonathan Reiner (Familiar with Land Use & Community Planning Issues) to the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee for a term expiring January 1, 2029.***

Committee on Environment & Agriculture recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

3. ***The Appointment of Jayne L. Merner (Knowledge/Experience in Agriculture) VICE Martha Neal to the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee for a term expiring January 1, 2025.***

Committee on Environment & Agriculture recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

4. ***The Appointment of Charles B. Allott, Esq. (Knowledge/Experience in Agriculture) VICE David Wallace to the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee for a term expiring January 1, 2026.***

Committee on Environment & Agriculture recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

5. ***The Appointment of Joanne Riccitelli (Familiar with Land Use & Community Planning Planning Issues) VICE Everett Stuart to the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee for a term expiring January 1, 2026.***

Committee on Environment & Agriculture recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

6. **2024-S2001**
BY Ruggerio
ENTITLED,SENATE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2025
- Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
7. **2024-S2002**
BY Lawson
ENTITLED,SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF VINCENT A. SPREMULLI
- Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
8. **2024-S2003**
BY Lawson
ENTITLED,SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF PAUL J. GRIFFITH
- Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
9. **2024-S2004**
BY Lawson
ENTITLED,SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF KAREN J. OLIVEIRA
- Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
10. **2024-S2005**
BY Lawson
ENTITLED,SENATE RESOLUTION EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF IRIDE MARGIE DESROSIERS
- Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
11. **2024-S2006**
BY Lawson
ENTITLED,SENATE RESOLUTION EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF HECTOR J. BEAUPRE, JR.
- Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

Appendix

CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024

1. *The Appointment of Neil D. Steinberg as Chair of the Life Science Hub of Rhode Island for a term expiring January 1, 2028.*

Committee on Finance recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S OPENING DAY REMARKS**Dominick J. Ruggerio**

Senate President

Happy New Year to all my Senate colleagues ... our dedicated staff ... and our guests.

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season.

Today, we reconvene to continue our work on behalf of the people of Rhode Island.

I want to take a moment to congratulate our new Majority Whip ... Senator Valarie Lawson.

Val has served with great distinction since her election to the Senate in 2018.

She has been a valued member of our leadership team ... and I have relied on her counsel across a wide range of issues, from politics to policy.

I know she has also earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues. While no one can replace our beloved Maryellen Goodwin ... I know that Senator Lawson will make an exceptional Majority Whip.

I also want to acknowledge the newest member of our chamber ... someone who is already well known to all of us.

Senator Jacob Bissaillon has been a major contributor to the Senate's success in the last several years ... and he was an invaluable partner as Chief of Staff.

He is dedicated to the highest ideals of public service ... and as the new Senator representing District 1, I know he will carry on Whip Goodwin's legacy of service and advocacy.

Senator Bissaillon, welcome.

I additionally want to acknowledge and congratulate John Fleming, the new Senate Chief of Staff.

I have tremendous confidence in each of these individuals ... and in all the Senators and Senate staff members ... to provide the guidance and leadership we need as the Senate continues its work to improve our state.

We had much to celebrate in 2023.

Together, we established a new \$50,000 tangible personal property tax exemption ... eliminating a significant burden for 75 percent of Rhode Island businesses, and ALL smaller businesses.

We made major progress toward addressing lead safety hazards in homes across our state ... and put Rhode Island on track to replace all lead water pipes within the next decade.

We continued our historic work to address Rhode Island's housing crisis ... and our efforts to strengthen our early childhood system.

In 2024, our focus will remain on the critical areas of health care, education, and housing.

It is critical that we focus on ensuring the strength of our community hospitals, attracting and retaining primary care physicians, and ensuring all Rhode Islanders can access quality care.

That includes taking steps to address Medicaid reimbursement rates ... an area especially important to each and every member of this body.

I am grateful for the leadership of Chairman Louis DiPalma on this critical issue.

We will redouble our efforts to strengthen the workforce in health care and education ... and creating new pathways to careers in these essential fields.

Over the past several years – as Rhode Islanders dealt with COVID and then inflation – this chamber prioritized putting money back into the hands of struggling Rhode Island residents and small businesses.

And we will continue exploring ways to provide relief to Rhode Islanders ... as we did with the car tax and tangible tax.

We also have some unfinished business.

This year, I am committed to enacting sensible, meaningful reforms to the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights ... fulfilling the mission of a Senate task force led by former Senator Metts.

And we will work to enact Whip Lawson's proposal to expand TCI insurance to 12 weeks.

This is extremely important for Rhode Island families. Rhode Island used to be a national leader on paid family leave.

As you all know, we have many challenges to face ... and many priorities to balance.

There will be difficult decisions to make.

But while historic federal pandemic funding may be nearing an end ... Rhode Island is on firm footing thanks to the prudent spending approach we have taken.

We directed our one-time pandemic funding toward one-time expenditures ... making important investments in our future without creating new long-term obligations.

Additionally, to prepare for future uncertainty, we have strengthened our reserves with a new, supplemental "rainy day" fund.

It is crucial that Rhode Island's long-term fiscal health remains a central consideration ... even as we address today's needs.

I look forward to this session and to working together with each of you to make Rhode Island an even better place to live and work.

Thank you.

Appendix

INVOCATION

SENATOR JOHN BURKE

Almighty Father, as the New Year begins, let us continue the work of our previous session. We ask that You bestow a special blessing of good health and happiness on each member of this chamber and their families. Amen.