

## State of Rhode Island

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# JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

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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. 11

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Eleventh Legislative Day

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### 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 4:20 o'clock P.M.

### ROLL CALL

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 36 Senators present and 1 Senator absent as follows:

**PRESENT –36:** The Honorable President Dominick Ruggiero, Senators Acosta, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Cano, Ciccone, 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.

**ABSENT – 1:** Senator Mack.

### INVOCATION

The Honorable President, by unanimous consent, presents the Reverend Edward S. Cardente, Saint Anthony Church to deliver the invocation.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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



**APPROVAL OF RECORD**

The Senate Journal of the Ninth Legislative Day of the 2024 proceedings is read in part.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Honorable President of the Senate presents the following communications:

<b>SENATOR</b> <b>TIARA MACK</b> District 6	<b>State of Rhode Island</b>	<b>SECRETARY</b> Committee on Commerce
Room 333 Rhode Island State House Providence, Rhode Island 02903		Committee on Education
CELL: 401-288-1288 OFFICE: 401-276-5561 sen-mack@rilegislature.gov	<b>Senate Chamber</b>	Committee on Housing & Municipal Government
March 19, 2024		
<p>The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggiero President of the Senate Rhode Island State House 82 Smith Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Room 318 Providence, RI 02903</p>		
<p>Dear President Ruggiero:</p>		
<p>Please be advised and let the record reflect that I will be absent from the Chamber Tuesday, March 19th and Thursday, March 21, 2024.</p>		
<p>I would appreciate your recording my letter in the appropriate Senate Journal.</p>		
<p>Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p>		
<p>Sincerely yours,  Tiara Mack Senator District #6</p>		
<p>TM/nc</p>		
<p>cc Mrs. Helena Reid, Secretary of the Senate</p>		

Read and placed on File.

## State of Rhode Island

SENATOR  
ANA B. QUEZADA  
*Deputy Majority Whip*  
District 2

P.O. Box 27666  
Providence, Rhode Island 02907

Room 212  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

sen-quezada@rilegislature.gov



## Senate Chamber

Committee on Education

SECRETARY  
Committee on Judiciary

March 19, 2024

The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggiero  
President of the Senate  
318 State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear President Ruggiero:

Please be advised that I will be unable to attend Senate Session on Tuesday, March 19th, 2024 as I will be in North Carolina.

I would appreciate you recording my letter in the appropriate Senate Journal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ana B. Quezada", written in a cursive style.

Ana B. Quezada  
Deputy Majority Whip  
District-2

ABQ/erl

Cc: Helena Reid

Read and 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**

February 28, 2024

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Section § 42-75-3 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following appointment to the Rhode Island State Arts Council:

**Blake Johnson**

Vice

**Mary Kim Arnold**

For a term expiring March 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 over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Daniel J. McKee  
Governor  
DJM/ecd

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 Education.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Upon the suggestion of Senator Gu and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Julie Crane from Roger Williams University.

**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION****Senate Resolution No. 2792**

**BY** Burke

**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY AND THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND IRELAND  
{LC5757/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Burke requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Burke moves passage, seconded by The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, Senators Acosta, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Cano, Ciccone, 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.

The resolution is read and passed upon a voice vote.

**IRISH MUSICAL SELECTION**

Upon the suggestion of Senator Burke and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President of The Senate, welcomes to the Chamber North Providence Councilman Steven Anthony Loporchio to perform an Irish Musical Selection "Danny Boy".

**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION****Senate Resolution No. 2793****BY** Ruggerio**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE CELEBRATION OF ST. JOSEPH'S DAY

{LC5756/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Gallo requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Gallo moves passage, seconded by The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, Senators Acosta, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Cano, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a voice vote.

**ITALIAN MUSICAL SELECTION**

Upon the suggestion of Senator Gallo and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President of The Senate, welcomes to the Chamber North Providence Councilman Steven Anthony Loporchio to perform an Italian Musical selection "Volare".

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Upon the suggestion of Senator Gallo and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber her grandson Enzo and her granddaughter Anabelle.

**Appendix****CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024:**

- 1. 2024-S 2588**  
**BY** DiPalma  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

Committee on Finance recommends passage.

Senator DiPalma moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators Zurier and Ujifusa.

The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 36 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

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

**NAYS – 0:**

- 2. 2024-S 2202**  
**BY** Lauria  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

Senator Lauria moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators Pearson, Euer, Gallo, Ujifusa, and Bell.

Senator Lauria seconded by Senators Euer and DiPalma offers the following written motion to amend:

**FLOOR AMENDMENT**

**TO**

**2024 -- S 2202**

**AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS**

Mr. President:

I hereby move to amend 2024 -- S 2202, entitled "AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS", as follows:

1. On page 1, line 19, by striking the word "loaded".

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Lauria

=====  
LC004006/2  
=====

The motion to amend prevails upon a roll call vote with 28 Senators voting in the affirmative, 7 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

**YEAS – 28:** The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, Senators Acosta, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Cano, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, McKenney, Miller, Murray, Pearson, Picard, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

**NAYS – 7:** Senators Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, Morgan, Paolino, Raptakis, Rogers.

Senator Lauria moves passage of the act, as amended, seconded by Senators Pearson, Euer, Acosta, Murray, Cano.

Senators Lombardi, Lauria, Rogers, Raptakis, de la Cruz, and Morgan discuss the act as amended.



The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 29 Senators voting in the affirmative, and 7 Senators voting in the negative as follows

**YEAS – 29:** The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, Senators Acosta, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Cano, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, McKenney, Miller, Murray, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

**NAYS – 7:** Senators Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, Morgan, Paolino, Raptakis, Rogers.

### TRANSMITTAL

By unanimous consent, all matters on the Secretary's desk are ordered to be transmitted to His Excellency, the Governor, the Honorable Secretary of State or to the Honorable House of Representatives forthwith.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Burke announces that the Senate Committee on Labor will meet tomorrow at 4:30pm in room 212.

Senator Picard announces that the Senate Committee on Commerce will meet at the rise of the senate in room 212.

Senator LaMountain announces that the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture will meet tomorrow at 4:00pm in the senate lounge.

Senator Cano announces that the Senate Committee on Education will meet tomorrow at 4:00pm in room 313.

Senator Felag announces that the Senate Committee on Finance will meet at the rise of the senate in the senate lounge.

Senator Valverde announces that the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services will meet at the rise of the senate in room 211.

### RECESS

Upon the Motion of Senator Lawson, seconded by Senator de la Cruz, the Senate stands in Recess at 5:23 o'clock P.M.

**FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

A message from the House of Representatives transmits with announcement of passage, of the following measure:

**House Bill No. 8001**

(by request)

**BY** Spears, Kennedy

**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.)

{LC5060/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Chairwoman Cano, from the Committee on Education, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measures:

*The Reappointment of Marisa Brown to the Rhode Island State Arts Council for a term expiring March 1, 2027.*

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

*The Reappointment of Bethany Lardaro to the Rhode Island State Arts Council for a term expiring March 1, 2027.*

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

*The Reappointment of Silvermoon LaRose to the Rhode Island State Arts Council for a term expiring March 1, 2027.*

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

*The Appointment of Amy Leidtke VICE Lorraine Hynes to the Rhode Island State Arts Council for a term expiring March 1, 2026.*

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

*The Appointment of Elvys Ruiz VICE Mohammed Farzan to the Rhode Island State Arts Council for a term expiring March 1, 2027.*

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

*The Appointment of Mary K. Talbot VICE Kate Blacklock to the Rhode Island State Arts Council for a term expiring March 1, 2027.*

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

*The Reappointment of Kelly A. Morrissey to the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority for a term expiring January 31, 2029.*

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

*The Appointment of Dr. Kim Stack VICE Bonnie Saccucci to the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority for a term expiring January 31, 2029.*

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

#### 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 Jane Bevan Linsley (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.

*The Reappointment of Michael Hutchinson (Knowledge/Experience in Agriculture) to the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee for a term expiring January 1, 2027.*

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Chairman Miller, from the Committee on Health and Human Services, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measures:

**Senate Bill No. 2072**

**BY** DiMario, Cano, Lawson, Valverde, Miller, Pearson, Lauria, Bissaillon, Euer, Murray **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE HEALTHCARE SERVICES FUNDING PLAN ACT (Amends RI's existing Healthcare Services Funding Plan Act by adding an account relating to a new Psychiatry Resource Network to fund RI's present PediPRN and MomsPRN, as well as similar programs which may be added by regulation in the future.)

{LC3501/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

**Senate Bill No. 2720**

**BY** Britto, Ruggerio, Pearson, Miller

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS (Includes any costs paid by an enrollee or on behalf of the enrollee by a third party when calculating an enrollee's overall contribution to any out-of-pocket maximum or cost sharing requirement under a health plan as of January 1, 2025.)

{LC3540/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

Chairwoman Euer, from the Committee on Judiciary, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measure:

**Senate Bill No. 2436**

**BY** LaMountain, Burke, Bissaillon, Euer

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- RHODE ISLAND NONCOMPETITION AGREEMENT ACT (Prohibits noncompete agreements except for noncompete agreements between a seller and buyer of a business; creates civil action for an employer for the violation of an agreement by employee regarding disclosure or wrongful utilization of trade secrets.)

{LC3988/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

**COMMITTEE ON LABOR**

Chairman Ciccone, from the Committee on Labor, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measure:

**Senate Bill No. 2121**

**BY** Lawson, Ruggerio, Pearson, Bissaillon, Lauria, DiMario, Euer, Gallo, Cano, Miller  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS --  
TEMPORARY DISABILITY INSURANCE -- GENERAL PROVISIONS (Includes siblings, grandchildren, care recipient for temporary caregiver benefits of 12 weeks/Increases weekly dependent's allowances from \$10 to \$20 or 7% of benefit rate whichever is greater. Effective January 1, 2025.)  
{LC3484/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

**NEW BUSINESS****Senate Resolution No. 2794**

**BY** Lawson, Gallo, Tikoian  
**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REPEAL THE GOVERNMENT PENSION OFFSET AND THE WINDFALL ELIMINATION PROVISION FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT AND FOR PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN TO SIGN THAT LEGISLATION INTO LAW  
{LC5662/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Senate meets pursuant to recess and is called to order by the Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio, President of the Senate, on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> 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**  
**CALENDAR**

**IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024:**

- 1. 2024-S 2539**  
**BY** Tikoian  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY --  
DOGS

Committee on Environment & Agriculture recommends passage.
- 2. 2024-S 2092**  
**BY** Sosnowski  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO  
TAXATION

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends passage.
- 3. 2024-S 2027**  
**BY** Euer  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROBATE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE --  
UNIFORM REAL PROPERTY TRANSFER ON DEATH ACT

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.
- 4. 2024-S 2467**  
**BY** Cano  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS --  
RHODE ISLAND PARENTAL AND FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

Committee on Labor recommends passage.
- 5. 2024-S 2127**  
**BY** Lawson  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES --  
MANUFACTURING AND WHOLESALE LICENSES

Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs recommends passage.

**6. 2024-H 8001****BY** Spears

**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.

**Appendix****CONSENT CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024:**

- 1. *The Reappointment of Marisa Brown to the Rhode Island State Arts Council for a term expiring March 1, 2027.***

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

- 2. *The Reappointment of Bethany Lardaro to the Rhode Island State Arts Council for a term expiring March 1, 2027.***

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

- 3. *The Reappointment of Silvermoon LaRose to the Rhode Island State Arts Council for a term expiring March 1, 2027.***

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

- 4. *The Appointment of Amy Leidtke VICE Lorraine Hynes to the Rhode Island State Arts Council for a term expiring March 1, 2026.***

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

- 5. *The Appointment of Elvys Ruiz VICE Mohammed Farzan to the Rhode Island State Arts Council for a term expiring March 1, 2027.***

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

- 6. *The Appointment of Mary K. Talbot VICE Kate Blacklock to the Rhode Island State Arts Council for a term expiring March 1, 2027.***

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



7. *The Reappointment of Kelly A. Morrissey to the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority for a term expiring January 31, 2029.*

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

8. *The Appointment of Dr. Kim Stack VICE Bonnie Saccucci to the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority for a term expiring January 31, 2029.*

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

9. *The Reappointment of Jane Bevan Linsley (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.

10. *The Reappointment of Michael Hutchinson (Knowledge/Experience in Agriculture) to the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee for a term expiring January 1, 2027.*

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

**Appendix**  
**CALENDAR**

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

- 1. 2024-S 2072**  
**BY DiMario**  
**ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT --**  
**THE HEALTHCARE SERVICES FUNDING PLAN ACT**

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

- 2. 2024-S 2720**  
**BY Britto**  
**ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- PRESCRIPTION DRUG**  
**BENEFITS**

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

- 3. 2024-S 2436**  
**BY LaMountain**  
**ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS --**  
**RHODE ISLAND NONCOMPETITION AGREEMENT ACT**

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

**Appendix****INVOCATION****THE REVEREND EDWARD S. CARDENTE**

**GOOD AND GRACIOUS GOD, CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE AND MASTER OF THE SEASONS WE RENDER GLORY AND PRAISE TO YOU. WE GATHER ON THIS FIRST OFFICIAL DAY OF SPRING IN HONOR OF SAINT JOSEPH AND SAINT PATRICK. AS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS WE GIVE THANKS FOR ALL PEOPLE WHO HAVE SETTLED IN OUR BELOVED STATE AND INSPIRED BY THEIR NATIONAL HERITAGE HAVE BROUGHT NEW LIFE TO OUR FELLOW CITIZENS AND ENRICHMENT OF OUR CULTURE. WHEN THE IRISH EMIGRATED HERE FROM THEIR NATIVE LAND BEGINNING IN THE 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY ESCAPING SEVERE FAMINE AND POLITICAL OPPRESSION THEY INSTILLED AN EXAMPLE OF HARD WORK AND THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION WHICH HAVE INFLUENCED THE INSTITUTIONS THAT ENDURE AMONG US TODAY. WHEN THE ITALIANS LATER FOLLOWED FLEEING POVERTY IN THEIR COUNTRY, THEY VENTURED TO AMERICA DRAWN BY THE PROMISE AND POTENTIAL FOR A BETTER LIFE FOR THEIR FAMILIES AND THEY TOO CONTRIBUTED THEIR MANY TALENTS TO FURTHER BUILDING OUR STATE WITH A DEEPER APPRECIATION OF THE ARTS. THE LEGACY OF BOTH OF THESE ETHNIC GROUPS ARE WOVEN INTO THE FABRIC OF OUR SOCIETY TODAY AND CONTINUE TO BE AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL. ON THIS OCCASION IN OUR STATE HOUSE AS WE HONOR THEIR PATRON SAINTS - JOSEPH ON THIS SPECIAL DAY AND PATRICK THIS PAST SUNDAY MAY WE ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL FOR THE MANY GIFTS WHICH ALL OUR ETHNIC GOUPS HAVE BROUGHT TO THE LIFE OF OUR STATE. ALL PRAISE TO YOU GOD AND MAY YOU CONTINUE TO POUR FORTH DIVINE BLESSINGS ON OUR LEGISLATORS AND GUIDE ALL THEIR EFFORTS THAT THEIR WORKS BE FRUITFUL AND HONOR YOU AS WE GIVE THANKGIVING FOR YOUR LOVE FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.**