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. 16

Tuesday, April 09, 2024

Sixteenth Legislative Day

CALL TO ORDER

The Senate meets pursuant to recess and is called to order by The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio, President of the Senate, at 4:18 o'clock P.M.

ROLL CALL

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 35 Senators present and 2 Senators absent as follows:

PRESENT –35: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, Senators Acosta, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

ABSENT – 2: Senators Cano, and Paolino.

INVOCATION

The Honorable President, by unanimous consent, presents Senator de la Cruz to deliver the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

APPROVAL OF RECORD

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

Upon suggestion of Senator de la Cruz 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:

SENATOR

DAWN EUER

District 13

Room 312 Rhode Island State House Providence, Rhode Island 02903

> OFFICE: 401-276-5589 FAX: 401-528-1711

sen-euer@rilegislature.gov

State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

CHAIR Committee on Judiciary

Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans' Affairs

Committee on Rules, Government Ethics & Oversight

April 9, 2024

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

Dear President Ruggerio:

Please be advised and let the record reflect that I will be absent from the Chamber today, Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

Please record my letter in the appropriate Senate Journal. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Euer

Senator - District 13

DE/moj

cc: Helena Reid, Secretary of the Senate

SENATOR TIARA MACK District 6

Room 333 Rhode Island State House Providence, Rhode Island 02903

> CELL: 401-288-1288 OFFICE: 401-276-5561

sen-mack@rilegislature.gov

State of Rhode Island



SECRETARY Committee on Commerce

Committee on Education

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government

April 9, 2024

The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio President of the Senate Rhode Island State House 82 Smith Street, 3rd Floor, Room 318 Providence, RI 02903

Dear President Ruggerio:

Please be advised and let the record reflect that I will be absent from the Chamber Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

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

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Tiara Mack

Senator District #6

TM/nc

cc Mrs. Helena Reid, Secretary of the Senate

State of Rhode Island

DOMINICK J. RUGGERIO
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



Room 318 Rhode Island State House Providence, Rhode Island 02903

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

Senate Chamber

April 9, 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 appointment:

Senate Committee Housing and Municipal Government

Senator Roger A. Picard, Chairman

Sincerely,

Dominick J. Ruggerio
President of the Senate

SENATOR

THOMAS J. PAOLINO

District 17

DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER 19 Heritage Drive Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865

Rhode Island State House Providence, Rhode Island 02903 MOBILE: 401-749-6120 OFFICE: 401-222-2708 FAX: 401-222-1206 sen-paolino@rilegislature.gov

State of Rhode Island

Senate Chamber

Committee on Education

Committee on Finance

April 9, 2024

Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio President of the Rhode Island Senate 318 State House Providence, RI 02903

Dear Mr. President:

Please be advised and let the record reflect that I will be absent from the Senate session on Tuesday April 9, 2024 due to illness.

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

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted
Thomas J. Paolino
Thomas J. Paolino

IN THE SENATE Read and Ordered to be PLACE ON FILE

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATIONS

Senate Resolution No. 2977

BY McKenney, Lawson, Gallo, DiPalma, Gu **ENTITLED,** SENATE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 7-13, 2024, TO BE "NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC5889/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator McKenney requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

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

The resolution is read and passed upon a voice vote.

Senate Resolution No. 2978

BY E Morgan **ENTITLED,** SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE CHARLES W. BECK {LC5821/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Morgan requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

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

The resolution is read and passed upon a rising vote.

CONSENT CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024:

1. The Reappointment of Roger Booth (Rep. Fire Protection Industry) to the Fire Safety Code Board of Appeals and Review for a term expiring March 1, 2030.

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

2. The Appointment of Melissa M. Horne VICE Constance R. Pemmerl to the State Properties Commission for a term expiring March 1, 2025.

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

Upon motion of Senator Pearson, seconded by Senator de la Cruz, the following measures on Today's Consent Calendar, by unanimous consent, are read and passed, upon a roll call vote:

YEAS – 34: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, Senators Acosta, Bell, Bissaillon, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

NAYS - 0:

CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024:

2024-S 2151 SUB A 1.

BY DiMario

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- NET **METERING**

Committee on Environment & Agriculture recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A.

Senator DiMario moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators DiPalma, Pearson, Sosnowski, Gu, Ujifusa, Lawson, Britto.

Senator DiMario, seconded by Senators Pearson, and Zurier offers the following written motion
to amend:
FLOOR AMENDMENT
то
2024 S 2151 SUBSTITUTE A
AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS NET METERING
Mr. President:
I hereby move to amend 2024 S 2151 SUBSTITUTE A, entitled "AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS
NET METERING", as follows:
NET METERING, as follows.
On page 13, line 12, by striking the word "including", and by inserting in place thereof the word "except".
Respectfully submitted,
Senator DiMario
====== LC004281/2

The motion to amend prevails upon a roll call vote with 35 Senators voting in the affirmative, 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS – 35: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, Senators Acosta, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Morgan, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

NAYS - 0:

Senator DiMario moves passage of the act, as amended, seconded by Senators Pearson and LaMountain.

The act is read and passed, as amended, upon a roll call vote, with 31 members voting in the affirmative and 4 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS – 31: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, Senators Acosta, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Murray, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

NAYS – 4: Senators de la Cruz, DeLuca, Morgan, and Rogers.

2. 2024-S 2732 SUB A

BY LaMountain

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE -- HUNTING AND HUNTING SAFETY -- CAPTIVE HUNTING PROHIBITED

Committee on Environment & Agriculture recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A.

Senator LaMountain moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators Lawson, DiPalma, Felag, Sosnowski, Murray, Quezada, Tikoian, Bissaillon.

The bill marked Substitute "A" is read and passed and the original bill indefinitely postponed, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote, with 32 members voting in the affirmative and 3 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS – 32: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, Senators Acosta, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Murray, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

NAYS – **3:** Senators de la Cruz, Morgan, Rogers.

3. 2024-S 2319

BY Ciccone

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION -- TOWN OF JOHNSTON

Committee on Finance recommends passage.

Senator Ciccone moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators Felag, Britto, Burke, Tikoian, and Lombardi.

The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 35 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS – 35: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, Senators Acosta, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

NAYS - 0:

4. 2024-S 2328

BY Euer

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION -- TAX EXEMPTIONS -- JAMESTOWN

Committee on Finance recommends passage.

Senator DiPalma moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators Felag, Gallo, Zurier, Burke, Lombardi, and Morgan.

The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 35 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS – 35: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, Senators Acosta, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

NAYS - 0:

5. 2024-S 2598

BY Ujifusa

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

Committee on Finance recommends passage.

Senator Ujifusa moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators Felag, Quezada, Lauria, Zurier.

The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 34 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative and 1 member abstaining as follows:

YEAS – 34: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, Senators Acosta, Bell, Bissaillon, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

NAYS - 0:

ABSTAINED – 1: Senator Britto.

6. 2024-S 2082

BY Murray

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Senator Murray moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators Lawson, Pearson, DiPalma, Kallman, Lauria, Valverde, Britto, Acosta, Felag, Gallo, Zurier, Burke, Gu and Quezada.

The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 35 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS – 35: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, Senators Acosta, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

NAYS - 0:

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

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

Senator Raptakis announces that the Senate Committee on Special Legislation and Veteran's Affairs will meet tomorrow at 4:30pm in room 211.

Senator Raptakis announces that the Senate Committee on Judiciary will meet Thursday at the rise of the senate in room 313.

Senator LaMountain announces that the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture will meet tomorrow at 4:30pm 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 the senate lounge.

Senator Felag announces that the Senate Committee on Finance will meet at the rise of the senate in room 313.

Senator McKenney announces that the Senate Committee on Rules, Government Ethics and Oversight will meet tomorrow at 3:30pm in room 212.

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

RECESS

Upon the Motion of Senator Lawson, seconded by Senator de la Cruz, and upon suggestion of Senator Morgan, the Senate stands in Recess at 4:42 o'clock P.M. *in memory of Honorable Charles W. Beck.*

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Chairwoman Sosnowski, from the Committee on Commerce, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measure:

The Appointment of Carol A. Lombardi VICE Peri Ann Aptaker to the Convention Center Authority for a term expiring June 30, 2027.

Placed on the 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:

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}

Placed on the Calendar on Tuesday, April 23rd, 2024.

Senate Bill No. 2153

BY Sosnowski, DiMario, Raptakis, F. Lombardi, Felag, Gu, de la Cruz **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- FRESHWATER LAKE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (Establishes the Rhode Island lake management program and a restricted receipt account as a fund within the department of environmental management to aid with lake and pond management issues relating to the control of aquatic invasive plants.) {LC3645/1}

Placed on the Calendar on Tuesday, April 23rd, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

Senate Bill No. 2979

BY Felag, Pearson, F. Lombardi, DiPalma, Sosnowski, Ciccone, Gallo, Burke, LaMountain, Raptakis

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT -- PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- RETIREMENT SYSTEM (Reduces the number of years from five (5) to three (3), when calculating for retirement purposes, the average of the highest consecutive years of compensation, for teachers, and state and municipal employees.) {LC5932/1}

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, April 11th at 4:19 o'clock P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Senator Pearson, seconded by Senator de la Cruz, and the Senate adjourns at 4:21 o'clock P.M.

HELENA S. REIDSecretary of the Senate

INVOCATION

SENATOR JESSICA DE LA CRUZ

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024:

1. The Appointment of Carol A. Lombardi VICE Peri Ann Aptaker to the Convention Center Authority for a term expiring June 30, 2027.

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

2. 2024-S 2857

BY Bissaillon

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES

Committee on Finance recommends passage.

3. 2024-S 2858

BY Bissaillon

ENTITLED, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE TO ISSUE NOT TO EXCEED \$400,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION, RELATED DEMOLITION, RENOVATION, IMPROVEMENT, ALTERATION, REPAIR, LANDSCAPING, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND ALL COSTS RELATED THERETO, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF STATE HOUSING AID AT A REIMBURSEMENT RATE OR STATE SHARE RATIO OF NOT LESS THAN 75% AT THE TIME OF ISSUANCE AND PROVIDED THAT THE AUTHORIZATION SHALL BE REDUCED BY THE AMOUNT OF CERTAIN GRANTS RECEIVED FROM STATE BOND PROCEEDS, FROM THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OR FROM THE RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY

Committee on Finance recommends passage.

4. 2024-S 2859

BY Bissaillon

ENTITLED, AN ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH RHODE ISLAND GENERAL LAWS SECTION 16-7-44 APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF \$125,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, NOTES AND OTHER EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, IMPROVEMENT, ALTERATION, REPAIR, LANDSCAPING, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND ALL COSTS RELATED THERETO

Committee on Finance recommends passage.

5. 2024-S 2862

BY de la Cruz

ENTITLED, AN ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH RHODE ISLAND GENERAL LAWS § 16-7-44, APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF \$6,400,000 BONDS BY THE TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, IMPROVEMENT, ALTERATION, REPAIR, LANDSCAPING, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE TOWN, AND ALL ATTENDANT EXPENSES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURAL COSTS

Committee on Finance recommends passage.

6. 2024-S 2100

BY Acosta

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- GENERAL PROVISIONS

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024:

1. 2024-S 2007

BY Murray

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Committee on Environment & Agriculture recommends passage.

2. 2024-S 2153 SUB A

BY Sosnowski

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- FRESHWATER LAKE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Committee on Environment & Agriculture recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A.