

## 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. 17

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Seventeenth 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 4:22 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, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

**ABSENT – 1:** Senator Paolino.

### INVOCATION

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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



**APPROVAL OF RECORD**

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

Upon suggestion of Senator Murray 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:

<p>SENATOR <b>PAM LAURIA</b> District 32</p> <hr/> <p>56 Martin Avenue Barrington, Rhode Island 02806</p> <p>Room 310 Rhode Island State House Providence, Rhode Island 02903</p> <p>STATE HOUSE OFFICE: 401-276-5567 HOME: 401-431-0013</p> <p>sen-lauria@rilegislature.gov</p>	<p>State of Rhode Island</p>  <p>Senate Chamber</p>	<p>Secretary, Committee on Health and Human Services</p> <hr/> <p>Committee on Special Legislation &amp; Veterans' Affairs</p>
<p>April 11, 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 I am unable to attend Senate Session today, April 11, 2024.</p>		
<p>I would appreciate your recording my letter in the appropriate Senate Journal.</p>		
<p>Sincerely,</p>		
 <p>Pam Lauria Senator – District 32</p>		
<p>PL/djc</p>		
<p>cc: Secretary of the Senate</p>		

Placed on file.

State of Rhode Island

SENATOR  
LEONIDAS P. RAPTAKIS  
District 33

2080 Nooseneck Hill Road  
Coventry, Rhode Island 02816

Room 114  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

OFFICE: 401-276-5567  
HOME: 401-397-8345

sen-raptakis@rilegislature.gov



Senate Chamber

VICE CHAIR  
Committee on Special Legislation &  
Veterans' Affairs

SECRETARY  
Committee on Judiciary

April 11, 2024

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

Dear Mr. President,

Please be advised that I am unable to attend Senate Session today, April 11, 2024.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Raptakis", is written over a horizontal line.

Leonidas P. Raptakis  
Senator – District 33

LPR/djc

cc: Secretary of the Senate

SENATOR  
**MEGHAN E. KALLMAN**  
District 15

Room 112  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

MOBILE: 401-648-9422  
OFFICE: 401-276-5581

sen-kallman@rilegislature.gov

State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
Committee on Housing and  
Municipal Government

Committee on Commerce

Committee on  
Environment and Agriculture

April 11, 2024

The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggiero  
President of the 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 chamber on Thursday, April 11, 2024.

I would appreciate your 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 "Meghan Kallman", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Senator Meghan E. Kallman  
Senate District 15

MEK/cb

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

April 11, 2024

The Honorable Senate  
Senate Chamber  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

To the Honorable, the Senate

Pursuant to Section 5.3 of the Senate Rules, I am making the following appointment:

**Senate Committee on Housing and Municipal Government**  
Senator Melissa A. Murray

Sincerely,

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

Dominick J. Ruggerio  
President of the Senate

Placed on file.

State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

SENATOR  
**ROGER A. PICARD**  
*Deputy President Pro Tempore*  
District 20

764 Mendon Road  
Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895

Room 112  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RESIDENCE: 401-769-4902  
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VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
Committee on Commerce

Committee on Labor

Committee on  
Housing & Municipal Government

April 11, 2024

The Honorable Senate President Dominick Ruggiero  
Senate Chamber  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Senate President Ruggiero

Due to my appointment as Chairman to the Senate Committee on Housing & Municipal Government I am submitting my resignation as Deputy Senate President Pro Tempore effective immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger A. Picard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Roger A. Picard  
Senator, District 20

Placed on file.

SENATOR  
WALTER S. FELAG  
District 10

51 Overhill Road  
Warren, Rhode Island 02885

Room 318  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

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State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

CHAIRPERSON  
Committee on Special  
Legislation & Veterans' Affairs

2ND VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Committee on Finance

**April 11, 2024**

**Ms. Helena Reid  
Secretary of the Senate  
State House, Room 220  
Providence, RI 02903**

**Dear Ms. Secretary:**

**I would like to take this opportunity to respectfully request that a Senate Bill be withdrawn at the sponsors request.**

**The legislation I would like to have withdrawn is 2024 Senate Bill 2957. I appreciate your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Walter S. Felag Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Senator Walter Felag Jr.  
Senator – District 10**

**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION****Senate Resolution No. 2981****BY** Cano, Picard**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND TAIWAN WHILE SUPPORTING ENHANCED BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN AND TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

{LC5777/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Lawson requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

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

The resolution is read and passed upon a voice vote.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Upon the suggestion of Senator Gallo and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston; Director General Charles Liao, Deputy Director General Wellington Shih, Deputy Director Chin Hsu and from the Rhode Island Association of Chinese, Chairman Louis Yip.

**SPECIAL GUEST ADDRESS**

Director General Charles Liao from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston addresses the members of the senate chamber.



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**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION****Senate Resolution No. 2980****BY** Mack**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING "BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK" ON APRIL 11TH - 17TH, 2024, IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
{LC5710/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Mack requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Mack moves passage, seconded by Senators Acosta, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Gallo, Gu, LaMountain, Lawson, Lombardi, McKenney, Miller, Morgan, Picard, Quezada, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Valverde, and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a voice vote.

**Appendix****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.

Senator Sosnowski moves that the advice and consent of the Senate be given this appointment, seconded by Senators Gallo, DiPalma, Lawson, Lombardi, Bissaillon, Zurier, Ciccone, Gu, Tikoian, McKenney.

The advice and consent of the Senate is given, by unanimous consent, 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, 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, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.**NAYS – 0:**

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Upon the suggestion of Senator Sosnowski and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber newly appointed to the Convention Center Authority Carol A. Lombardi and her husband Charles A. Lombardi, Mayor of the Town of North Providence.

2. 2024-S 2857  
BY Bissaillon  
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES

Committee on Finance recommends passage.

Senator Bissaillon moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators Euer, Ciccone, Quezada, Murray, Lawson, Zurier.

Senator Bissaillon, seconded by Senators Euer and Zurier offers the following written motion to amend:

FLOOR AMENDMENT

2024 -- S 2857

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

Mr. President:

I hereby move to amend 2024 -- S 2857, entitled "AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES", as follows:

- 1. On page 2, line 30, by striking the language "city council of the city of Providence and the".
- 2. On page 4, between lines 8 and 9, by inserting the following language:

"(1) The city council of the city of Providence may, by ordinance, provide for, and adopt, a tax rate on various classes as they shall deem appropriate. Provided, that the tax rate for Class 2 shall not be more than two (2) times the tax rate of Class 1; that the tax rate for Class 3 shall not be more than three (3) times the tax rate of Class 1; and that the tax rate for Class 2 shall not be more than three and one-half (3½) times the effective owner-occupied tax rate of Class 1, whether by homestead exemption or separate rates."

- 3. On page 4, lines 32 and 33, by deleting all language thereon and by inserting in place thereof the following language:

"(4) The tax rate for Class 2 shall not be more than two (2) times the base tax rate of Class 1A; and the tax rate for Class 2 shall not be more than three and one-half (3½) times the effective owner-occupied tax rate of Class 1, whether by homestead exemption or separate rates. There shall be no further differential tax rate limits for a tax classification adopted pursuant to this section."

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Bissaillon

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LC005712/2  
=====

Senators Bell, Zurier, DiPalma, and Acosta discuss the amendment.

The motion to amend prevails upon a roll call vote with 34 Senators voting in the affirmative, 2 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

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

**NAYS – 2:** Senators Bell and Morgan.

Senator Bissaillon moves passage of the act, as amended, seconded by Senator DiPalma.

The act is read and passed, as amended, upon a roll call vote, with 34 members voting in the affirmative and 2 members voting in the negative as follows:

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

**NAYS – 2:** Senators Bell and Morgan.

**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.

Senator Bissaillon moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators Pearson, Acosta, Zurier, Burke, McKenney.

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, 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, Mack, McKenney, Murray, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

**NAYS – 0:**

**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.

Senator Bissaillon moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators DiPalma, Zurier, Mack, and Burke.

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, Cano, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Murray, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

**NAYS – 0:**

**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.

Senator de la Cruz moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators Rogers, DeLuca, Bissaillon.

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, Cano, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Murray, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.**NAYS – 0:****6. 2024-S 2100****BY** Acosta**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- GENERAL PROVISIONS

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

Senator Acosta moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators Pearson, Gallo, Ciccone, Sosnowski, Britto, Mack, Gu, Bell, Ujifusa, Murray, Valverde.

Senators Bell and Bissaillon discuss the act.

The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 35 members voting in the affirmative and 1 member voting in the negative as follows:

**YEAS – 35:** 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, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Murray, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.**NAYS – 1:** Senator Morgan.

**ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

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

Senator Lawson nominates Senator Matthew L. LaMountain, as President Pro Tempore of the Senate for the 2024 Session.

The nomination is seconded by Senators Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Gallo, Gu, Lawson, Lombardi, Acosta, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Mack, McKenney, Murray, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

Senators Bissaillon and Euer speak on the nomination.

The motion to elect Senator Matthew L. LaMountain from the city of Warwick as President Pro Tempore 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 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, 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 today is Credit Union Day.

Senator Picard announces that the Senate Committee on Housing and Municipal Government will meet at the rise of the senate in room 212.

Senator DiPalma 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 5:22 o'clock P.M.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES****COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE**

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

**House Bill No. 7657**

**BY** Costantino, Rea

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

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

**COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT**

Chairman Picard, from the Committee on Housing and Municipal Government, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measures:

**House Bill No. 7061**

**BY** Tanzi, Fogarty, McEntee, Spears

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Exempts from taxation the real and tangible personal property of the Johnnycake Center Realty Corporation, a domestic nonprofit corporation, located in South Kingstown.)  
{LC3812/1}

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

**House Bill No. 7244 SUB A**

**BY** Ackerman, Voas, Phillips, Marszalkowski

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- GENERAL POWERS (Authorizes the town of Cumberland to require the registration of certain business entities not registered with the secretary of state that are situated in Cumberland.)  
{LC4086/A/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

**House Bill No. 7245****BY** Ackerman, Voas, Phillips, Marszalkowski**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- DOGS

(Increases the fines for dog ordinance violations in the town of Cumberland.)

{LC4085/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

**COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL LEGISLATION AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

Chairman Felag, from the Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measures:

**Senate Bill No. 2735****BY** Bell**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES

(Exempts the property located at 94 Carpenter Street in Providence from the general law prohibiting liquor licenses within a certain proximity to schools or churches.)

{LC5659/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

**Senate Bill No. 2839**

(Dept. of Administration)

**BY** Felag, Raptakis, Bissaillon, E Morgan, Acosta, Euer, Lauria, Ujifusa**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- PUBLIC

BUILDINGS (Allows the department of administration to temporarily loan the state battle flags and markers to approved federal or state agencies under the condition that such loan is insured by bond against damage or loss.)

{LC4946/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

**NEW BUSINESS****Senate Bill No. 2982****BY** Picard**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES AND

RESERVES (Replaces the term "the drug naloxone" with the term "opioid antagonist" in chapters regulating life insurance policies and group life insurance policies.)

{LC5944/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Commerce.



**Senate Bill No. 2983**

**BY** Ciccone, F. Lombardi, Burke, Picard, Tikoian, Britto, LaMountain, Bell, Lawson  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION -- STUDENT SUCCESS ACT (Reduces the time, from three (3) years to one year, required for a nonimmigrant foreign national student, who has resided in Rhode Island, to be eligible to pay the same in-state tuition as any other Rhode Island student.)  
{LC5941/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Education.

**Senate Resolution No. 2984**

**BY** Zurier, Kallman, Cano, Quezada, Miller  
**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL TO BE "HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
{LC5841/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Education.

**Senate Bill No. 2985**

**BY** Bissaillon, Euer, Quezada  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- COUNCIL ON THE ARTS (Establishes a Rhode Island creative futures fund in the amount of eighteen million dollars (\$18,000,000).)  
{LC5954/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 2986**

**BY** Burke  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Increases the real property exemptions of veterans and the elderly residing in the Town of West Warwick.)  
{LC5939/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 2987****BY** Ciccone, F. Lombardi, Burke, Tikoian, Britto, LaMountain, Bell**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- RETIREMENT SYSTEM--CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS (Requires that present and former employees, active and retired members, and beneficiaries receiving any retirement, disability or death allowance receive a \$2,000 increase per year.)

{LC5940/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 2988****BY** F. Lombardi**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- RHODE ISLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND LAND USE ACT (Provides amendments relative to the compliance and implementation of the comprehensive planning and use act including the conditions upon which limitations may be placed on land use applications by municipalities.)

{LC5871/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

**Senate Bill No. 2989****BY** Tikoian, Quezada, Felag, Burke, LaMountain, Britto, F. Lombardi, Ciccone**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MOBILE AND MANUFACTURED HOMES (Makes several amendments relative to manufactured homes, including adding a definition for manufactured home and a provision allowing for certain manufactured homes to be considered a single-family home if on a lot zone for such use.)

{LC5855/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

**Senate Bill No. 2990****BY** Ciccone, Zurier, F. Lombardi, Britto, DiPalma**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- STATE BUILDING CODE (Amends various provisions relative to the duties of the state building commissioner and would establish a building code education and training unit to educate building officials and inspectors statewide.)

{LC5861/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

**Senate Bill No. 2991****BY** Burke, LaMountain**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- LOCAL PLANNING BOARD OR COMMISSION (Provides amendments to the membership provisions of planning boards or commissions and would enable municipalities to establish "combined review boards" to replace separate planning and zoning boards.)

{LC5857/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

**Senate Bill No. 2992****BY** Kallman, McKenney, Burke**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- ABANDONED PROPERTY (Requires towns and cities to publish a list of abandoned properties and makes various other amendments relative to the sale of abandoned property by a receiver.)

{LC5866/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

**Senate Bill No. 2993****BY** DiPalma, Ciccone, Britto, Zurier, F. Lombardi**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND HOUSING RESOURCES ACT OF 1998 (Provides that mobile and manufactured homes be included as affordable housing under certain conditions.)

{LC5872/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

**Senate Bill No. 2994****BY** McKenney, Burke, LaMountain, Kallman**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES (Amends provisions relative to the application of zoning ordinances pertaining to wetland buffers to projects for development, redevelopment, construction or rehabilitation.)

{LC5869/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

**Senate Bill No. 2995****BY** Mack**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION (Requires, by January 1, 2026, the creation of an online, publicly available, comprehensive statewide geographic information system of land related resources to include information from all towns and cities.)

{LC5873/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

**Senate Bill No. 2996****BY** Rogers**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- GENERAL POWERS -- FOSTER MUNICIPAL COURT (Establishes a municipal court within the town of Foster.)

{LC5922/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

**Senate Bill No. 2997****BY** de la Cruz**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE HARRISVILLE FIRE DISTRICT AND ESTABLISHING THE CLEAR RIVER ELECTRIC AND WATER DISTRICT (Amends the Harrisville Fire District Charter allowing the district to provide rescue services, fire suppression, medical and ambulance services/water services would be provided by a separate entity.)

{LC5921/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

**Senate Bill No. 2998****BY** Gu**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES (Amends several sections of law relating to zoning ordinances to provide uniform zoning standards for accessory dwelling units.)

{LC5874/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

**Senate Bill No. 2999****BY** Bissaillon**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

(Provides amendments to the requirements of the inclusionary zoning law for affordable housing development.)

{LC5868/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 3000****BY** Euer**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- SUBDIVISION OF LAND

(Provides amendments relative to the permitting authority of, and acceptable forms of financial security permissible for construction and/or improvement guarantees relating to the completion of required public improvements.)

{LC5870/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 3001****BY** LaMountain**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES --SUBDIVISION OF LAND

(Makes amendments to various provisions relative to subdivision of land review, review stages, special provisions related to development and the procedures for approvals from various permitting authorities.)

{LC5867/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 3002****BY** DiPalma**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

{LC5928/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 3003****BY** LaMountain

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- MERIT SYSTEM -- PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION (Eliminates waiting periods for acceptance response for successful candidates, requires that all qualified candidates names be sent to the hiring agency, mandates given DHS social worker tests quarterly and extends DCYF pilot hiring program for 3/15/26.)  
{LC5912/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Labor.

**Senate Bill No. 3004****BY** DiPalma

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- MOTION PICTURE PRODUCTION TAX CREDITS (Clarifies that all costs of goods used and services performed in Rhode Island shall qualify as state-certified production costs.)  
{LC5992/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

**FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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

**House Bill No. 7203**

**BY** O'Brien, Corvese, Shanley, Craven, Knight, Dawson, Finkelman, Noret, Serpa, Azzinaro  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES (Adds the month of August to the dates a Class A retail alcoholic beverage establishment can offer unlimited free samples of wine, beer and distilled spirits products.)  
{LC4073/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs.

**House Bill No. 7439**

(Dept. of Health)

**BY** Speakman

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- PFAS IN DRINKING WATER, GROUNDWATER, AND SURFACE WATER (Delays from June 1, 2024, until June 1, 2025, the necessity to conduct monitoring for the maximum number PFAS in drinking water and would amend the type of water systems to which the requirement applies.)  
{LC4457/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture.

**House Bill No. 7468 SUB A**

(Emergency Management Agency)

**BY** Casey, Noret, Hull, O'Brien, Shanley, McEntee, Solomon**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES --

REGISTRATION FEES (Exempts the Rhode Island Disaster Medical Assistance Team, Inc. from payment of certain vehicles registration fees.)

{LC4326/A/2}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

**House Bill No. 7561****BY** Casimiro, Donovan, Cotter, Kislak, McNamara, Abney, Voas, Serpa, Shekarchi, Craven**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM (Enables cities and

towns to enact enabling legislation authorizing a partner program to assist students with an IEP for specially designed physical education classes.)

{LC4667/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Education.

**House Bill No. 7586****BY** Hull, J. Lombardi, Fogarty, Cardillo, Fellela, Perez, Diaz, Costantino, Shallcross Smith, Tanzi**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- EQUIPMENT

AND ACCESSORIES GENERALLY (Authorizes Providence canteen vehicles to be equipped with sirens, whistles or bells and would require operators of any canteen vehicle to receive 5 hours of training in the operation of the vehicle and its emergency equipment.)

{LC4923/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

**House Bill No. 7612**

(General Treasurer)

**BY** Cortvriend, Spears, Carson, Dawson, McGaw, Finkelman, Handy, Azzinaro, Nardone**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OFFICE

OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (Requires school districts to provide the parent/guardian of a student with an individualized education program (IEP) with information concerning the achieving a better life experience (ABLE) account program benefits and the program application process.)

{LC4576/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Education.

**House Bill No. 7613**

**BY** Donovan, Ajello, Tanzi, J. Lombardi, Kennedy, Azzinaro, Speakman, Henries, Biah, Cotter **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS (Requires RIDE to develop type 1 diabetes informational materials for the parents and guardians of students that will be posted publicly on RIDE's website.)  
{LC5096/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Education.

**House Bill No. 7630**

(Attorney General)

**BY** Serpa, Noret

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- ACCIDENTS AND ACCIDENT REPORTS (Provides for a single, increased range of penalties for all driving offenses which result in serious bodily injury or death.)  
{LC5084/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

**House Bill No. 7631**

(Attorney General)

**BY** Serpa, Noret

**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 five to ten years.)  
{LC5086/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

**House Bill No. 7725 SUB A**

**BY** O'Brien, Biah, Corvese, McNamara, Ackerman, Hull, Slater, Donovan, Kazarian, DeSimone **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS (Allows emergency preliminary certificates for teaching to be issued for up to a total of five (5) years.)  
{LC5427/A/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Education.



**House Bill No. 7747 SUB A**

(General Treasurer)

**BY** Caldwell, Felix, Morales, Casimiro, Kazarian, Alzate, Baginski, Fogarty, Vella-Wilkinson, McNamara**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION (Allows victims of violent crime receiving awards under the state's crime victim compensation program to use up to \$1,000 of their total award to make reasonable modification to their residence to ensure their future safety.)  
{LC4580/A/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

**House Bill No. 7755****BY** McGaw**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Exempts from taxation the real and tangible personal property of the Little Compton Game Club.)  
{LC5404/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

**House Bill No. 7780****BY** Donovan, Speakman**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO VERY YOUNG CHILDREN (Removes private schools from the provisions of the general laws relating to educational services to very young children.)  
{LC5287/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Education.

**House Bill No. 7948 SUB A****BY** Solomon, Fellela, Voas, Casimiro, Baginski, Shanley, Casey**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES (Provides amendments to the requirements of the inclusionary zoning law for affordable housing development.)  
{LC5508/A/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

**House Bill No. 7949 SUB A as amended****BY** Craven, Fellela, Corvese, Edwards**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- SUBDIVISION OF LAND

(Makes amendments to various provisions relative to subdivision of land review, review stages, special provisions related to development and the procedures for approvals from various permitting authorities.)

{LC5511/A/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

**House Bill No. 7950 SUB A****BY** Felix, Potter, Giraldo, Cruz, Batista, Speakman, Henries, Morales**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- SUBDIVISION OF LAND

(Provides amendments relative to the permitting authority of, and acceptable forms of financial security permissible for construction and/or improvement guarantees relating to the completion of required public improvements.)

{LC5512/A/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

**House Bill No. 7980 SUB A****BY** Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Cruz, Morales, Speakman, Spears, Craven, Azzinaro, Casimiro, Solomon**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MOBILE AND

MANUFACTURED HOMES (Makes several amendments relative to manufactured homes, including adding a definition for manufactured home and a provision allowing for certain manufactured homes to be considered a single-family home if on a lot zone for such use.)

{LC5551/A/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Housing and Municipal Government.

**House Bill No. 7979****BY** Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Cruz, Morales, Speakman, Spears, Craven, Azzinaro, Casimiro, Solomon**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- LOCAL PLANNING

BOARD OR COMMISSION (Provides amendments to the membership provisions of planning boards or commissions and would enable municipalities to establish "combined review boards" to replace separate planning and zoning boards.)

{LC5507/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Housing and Municipal Government.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Senate meets pursuant to recess and is called to order by the Honorable Dominick J. Ruggiero, President of the Senate, on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</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 4:14 o'clock P.M.

**HELENA S. REID**  
*Secretary of the Senate*

**Appendix****INVOCATION****SENATOR MELISSA MURRAY**

Let us pledge our commitment to fostering an environment where every voice is heard, and every citizen feels represented. Let our deliberations be guided by an unwavering dedication to the principles of equality, justice, and the well-being of all citizens, our decisions be rooted in empathy, and our discourse be marked by the pursuit of knowledge. And with gratitude for the opportunity to serve, let us proceed with a shared dedication to the prosperity and well-being of our state. Amen.

Appendix

CONSENT CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024:

- 1. 2024-H 7061**  
**BY** Tanzi  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends passage in concurrence.

- 2. 2024-H 7657**  
**BY** Costantino  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- DOGS

Committee on Environment & Agriculture recommends passage in concurrence.

**Appendix****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.

- 3. 2024-S 2735**  
**BY** Bell  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL  
LICENSES

Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs recommends passage.

- 4. 2024-S 2839**  
**BY** Felag  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS --  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs recommends passage.

Appendix

CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024:

1. **2024-H 7244 SUB A**  
**BY** Ackerman  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- GENERAL POWERS

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A in concurrence.

2. **2024-H 7245**  
**BY** Ackerman  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- DOGS

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends passage in concurrence.