

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 Seventh day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.

Volume 152, No. 13

Thursday, March 20, 2025

Thirteenth Legislative Day

CALL TO ORDER

The Senate meets pursuant to recess and is called to order by The Honorable Hanna M. Gallo, Senate President Pro Tempore, at 4:11 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 Ruggerio, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

ABSENT – 0:

INVOCATION

The Honorable Senate President Pro Tempore, by unanimous consent, presents Senator Dimitri to deliver the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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


APPROVAL OF RECORD

The Senate Journal of the Eleventh Legislative Day of the 2025 proceedings is read in part.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Honorable Senate President Pro Tempore presents the following communications:

<p>SENATOR DAWN EUER District 13</p> <hr/> <p>Room 308 Rhode Island State House Providence, Rhode Island 02903</p> <p>OFFICE: 401-276-5561 sen-euer@rilegislature.gov</p>	<p>State of Rhode Island</p>  <p>Senate Chamber</p>	<p>Committee on Judiciary</p> <hr/> <p>Committee on Special Legislation & Veterans' Affairs</p> <hr/> <p>Committee on Rules, Government Ethics & Oversight</p>
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March 20, 2025


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 Thursday, March 20, 2025.

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

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Dawn Euer
Senator District #13

Placed on file.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATIONS**Senate Resolution No. 859****BY** Rogers**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF ARMAND M. LAMONTAGNE
{LC2397/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Rogers requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Rogers moves passage, seconded by Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissailon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a rising vote.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Upon suggestion of Senator Rogers and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President Pro Tempore, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Armand LaMontagne; Lorraine LaMontagne, Armand's wife, Lisa LaMontagne, Armand's daughter, Ernie LaMontagne, Nephew, Melissa LaMontagne. Ernie's wife, Jimmy Gomes, Friend and Louis Polisena, Friend.

Appendix**CONSENT CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025:****1. 2025-S 840****BY** Gu**ENTITLED**, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER OF LEO'S SERVICE CENTER, INC.

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

2. 2025-S 841**BY** Gallo**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL (SGAC)

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

Upon motion of Senator Lawson, 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 – 36: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

Appendix**CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025:**

1. ***The Appointment of Dr. Michael Reuter VICE Catherine Hall to the Coastal Resource Management Council for a term expiring January 31, 2027.***

Committee on Environment & Agriculture 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 Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

The advice and consent of the Senate is given, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote, with 37 members voting in the affirmative, and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS – 37: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Upon suggestion of Senator Tikoian and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President Pro Tempore, welcomes to the Chamber Doctor Michael Reuter, his wife Alison Reuter, his daughter Madeleine Reuter, his father Richard Reuter, his mother Rhonda Reuter, his niece Emma Finkelman, and his sister Jean Finkelman.

2. 2025-S 28**BY** Zurier**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

Committee on Finance recommends passage.

Senator Zurier moves passage of the act, seconded by Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, and Vargas.

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, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

3. 2025-S 44**BY** Sosnowski**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES

Committee on Finance recommends passage.

Senator Sosnowski moves passage of the act, seconded by Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 37 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS – 37: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

4. 2025-S 674**BY** Acosta

ENTITLED, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF CENTRAL FALLS TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, IMPROVEMENT, ALTERATION, REPAIR, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES IN THE CITY BY THE ISSUANCE OF NOT MORE THAN \$15,000,000 BONDS, NOTES AND/OR OTHER EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS THEREFOR

Committee on Finance recommends passage.

Senator Acosta moves passage of the act, seconded by Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

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, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

5. 2025-S 196**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 Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, Morgan, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

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, Appollonio, Bell, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

6. 2025-S 473

BY Lawson

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

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Senator Lawson moves passage of the act, seconded by Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 37 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS – 37: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

7. 2025-S 62

BY DiMario

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- THE RHODE ISLAND
WORKS PROGRAM

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

Senator DiMario moves passage of the act, seconded by Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

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, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Upon suggestion of Senator DiMario and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President Pro Tempore, welcomes to the Chamber Leanne Barrett from East Greenwich and Alba from Pawtucket.

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 Felag announces that the Senate Committee on Finance will meet today at the rise of the senate in Room 211.

Senator Lauria announces that the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services will meet today at the rise of the senate in the senate lounge.

Senator Bissaillon announces that the Senate Committee on Judiciary will meet today at the rise of the senate in Room 313.

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

RECESS

Upon the Motion of Senate Majority Whip Tikoian, seconded by Senate Majority Leader Lawson, and upon suggestion of Senator Rogers the Senate stands in Recess at 4:38 o'clock P.M. *in memory of Armand M. Lamontagne.*

NEW BUSINESS**Senate Bill No. 860****BY** Zurier

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE PAUL W. CROWLEY RHODE ISLAND STUDENT INVESTMENT INITIATIVE (Allows the board of regents to appoint a receiver to manage a school district with the authority described in § 16-7.1-5.2 relating to state intervention in the Providence public school district.)
{LC1466/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Education.

Senate Bill No. 861**BY** Zurier

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE PAUL W. CROWLEY RHODE ISLAND STUDENT INVESTMENT INITIATIVE (Allows when authorized by the board of regents, the commissioner to designate a receiver for the district with all the powers of the superintendent and school committee.)
{LC1467/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Education.

Senate Bill No. 862**BY** Britto, McKenney, Vargas

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- ENERGY FACILITY SITING ACT (Requires applications for energy facilities to take into consideration the 2021 Act on Climate and how the facility may advance or delay the greenhouse gas emissions reductions.)
{LC2568/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Environment and Agriculture.

Senate Bill No. 863**BY** Valverde, Lauria, Murray

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (Requires the producer of artificial turf and turf infill sold or distributed in Rhode Island to report its chain of custody, from installation to use, repurposing, recycling and disposal.)
{LC1238/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Environment and Agriculture.

Senate Bill No. 864**BY** Britto, McKenney, Appollonio**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE -- HUNTING AND HUNTING SAFETY--WILDLIFE KILLING CONTEST (Bans wildlife killing contests on both public and private lands in the state.)

{LC2560/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Environment and Agriculture.

Senate Bill No. 865

(General Treasurer)

BY Vargas, LaMountain, Bissaillon, DiPalma, Lawson, Britto, Appollonio, Tikoian**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCE -- STATE INVESTMENT COMMISSION (Requires the state investment commission to create a capital access initiative to expand potential investment opportunities for the state's pension fund and engage qualified but traditionally underrepresented investment managers.)

{LC1707/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 866**BY** Britto, McKenney, Raptakis, Appollonio, Vargas, Tikoian**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (Provides a three thousand dollar (\$3,000) stipend to a qualified applicant who successfully completes the job training program of the department of human services or department of children, youth and families.)

{LC2558/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 867

(General Treasurer)

BY Vargas, LaMountain, Bissaillon, DiPalma, Lawson, Appollonio, Britto, Tikoian**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROBATE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE -- UNCLAIMED INTANGIBLE AND TANGIBLE PROPERTY (Permits the division of unclaimed property within the office of the general treasurer to accept miscellaneous intangible property belonging to Rhode Island residents.)

{LC1715/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Resolution No. 868**BY** DiPalma, Lawson, Tikoian, DiMario, Britto, Felag**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,000,000 TO 401 TECH BRIDGE TO STUDY AND EXPLORE SEAGLIDERS IN RHODE ISLAND (This resolution would make an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to 401 Tech Bridge to study and explore seaglidrs.)

{LC2574/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 869**BY** DiPalma, Gu, Ciccone, Sosnowski, Murray, Tikoian, Lawson, Lauria, Kallman**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- RHODE ISLAND PROGRAM TO ADDRESS ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE (Creates the position of dementia services coordinator within the department of health to coordinate the departments approach to Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.)

{LC2590/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 870**BY** DiMario, Murray, Zurier, McKenney, Valverde, Lawson, Lauria, Appollonio, Bissaillon, DiPalma, Mack**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES IN OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME (Provides \$4,000,000 to support comprehensive and effective afterschool, school vacation, summer learning and workforce development programs for students in grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12).)

{LC2532/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Resolution No. 871**BY** Britto, McKenney, Raptakis, Appollonio, Vargas, Tikoian**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 TO THE UNITED WAY OF RHODE ISLAND FOR THE 2-1-1 HUMAN SERVICES HOTLINE (Authorizes the appropriation of the sum of \$500,000 to the United Way of Rhode Island to provide operational support for the 2-1-1 system.)

{LC2566/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 872**BY** Britto, Raptakis, Vargas**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT (Redirects the distribution of hotel tax money to the Rhode Island commerce corporation.)
{LC2559/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Resolution No. 873**BY** Bissaillon, DiPalma, Tikoian, Lawson, Sosnowski, Murray, Urso, Britto, DiMario, Burke
ENTITLED, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$90,000,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO SUPPORT PHYSICIAN REIMBURSEMENT RATE INCREASES IN THE RHODE ISLAND MEDICAID PROGRAM (Authorizes the appropriation of the sum of \$90,000,000 to the Rhode Island executive office of health and human services to be invested in increasing reimbursement rates for all physicians and advanced practice providers.)
{LC2565/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 874**BY** DiMario, Murray, Valverde, Lauria, Urso, Appollonio, Thompson, Ujifusa**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (Provides that licensed independent clinical social workers be able to enroll and bill Medicaid directly for covered services provided to adults with Medicaid fee-for-service coverage.)
{LC1520/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

Senate Bill No. 875**BY** Bissaillon, Dimitri, Quezada, Urso**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- EXPUNGEMENT OF CRIMINAL RECORDS (Reduces the time for expungements to three (3) years for a single misdemeanor and five (5) years for felonies and multiple misdemeanors.)
{LC2563/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 876**BY** Bissaillon, Dimitri, Quezada, Urso

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- EXPUNGEMENT OF CRIMINAL RECORDS (Permits those individuals convicted of multiple felonies and misdemeanors to have their records expunged and provide criteria for the court to consider in determining whether the person is of good moral character.)
{LC2564/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 877**BY** DiPalma

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- UNFAIR CLAIMS SETTLEMENT PRACTICES ACT (Defines a “consumer accessible fair market value” for a vehicle valuation figure.)
{LC1212/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 878**BY** Britto, McKenney, Raptakis, Appollonio, Vargas, Tikoian

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (Establishes general case load limits for DCYF workers similar to those contained in the Council on Accreditation standards.)
{LC2561/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Labor and Gaming.

Senate Bill No. 879**BY** Lawson, LaMountain, Gallo, Lauria, Britto

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION FEES (Includes an individual who is seventy-five (75) years of age or older with a combined disability rating of fifty percent (50%), as eligible for disabled veterans license plates.)
{LC2572/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs.

FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

House Bill No. 5017

BY Diaz, Kislak, Bennett, Edwards, Giraldo, Shallcross Smith, Ajello, Fogarty

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- CONSUMER ENFORCEMENT OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICE WARRANTIES (Requires manufacturers of assisting technology devices to make available to independent repair providers/the owner of the device, any documentation/parts, software/other items intended for use with the equipment/parts, including updates to software.)
{LC432/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce.

House Bill No. 5019

BY Speakman, Casey, Knight, Noret, Read, Kislak, Cortvriend, Bennett, Boylan, McGaw

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- CONSUMER PFAS BAN ACT OF 2024 (Prohibits a manufacturer from manufacturing, knowingly selling, offering for sale, distributing for sale or distributing for use in the state any firefighting personal protective equipment containing intentionally-added PFAS as of January 1, 2027.)
{LC119/1}

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

House Bill No. 5025

BY Edwards, Bennett, Spears, O'Brien, Hull, Newberry, Chippendale

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (Provides that the trapping and subsequent release of any unowned feral or free roaming cat for the purpose of spaying or neutering of the cat would not be considered abandonment.)
{LC319/1}

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

House Bill No. 5030

BY McEntee, Tanzi, Spears, Fogarty

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (Grants the town council of the town of South Kingstown the authority to enact a homestead exemption ordinance.)
{LC448/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

House Bill No. 5046

BY Knight, Speakman, Kislak, Caldwell, Noret, Cortvriend, Kazarian, Casimiro, Alzate, Corvese

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- ELECTRONIC IMAGING DEVICES (Criminalizes the unauthorized dissemination of sexually explicit images of another person that are created by digital devices or created without the consent of the person depicted.) {LC53/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

House Bill No. 5083 SUB A

BY Fellela, Serpa, Messier, Corvese, Ackerman, Caldwell

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS REQUIRED AT PUBLIC PLACES AND HEALTHCARE FACILITIES -- DAVID CASEY ACT (Requires public or private golf courses to have an automated external defibrillator on the premises.) {LC120/A/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on health and Human Services.

House Bill No. 5100 SUB A

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kazarian, Ackerman, Alzate, Morales, Serpa, Kennedy, Giraldo, Voas

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- STATE BUILDING CODE -- ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT (Authorizes municipalities to make an emergency declaration under limited circumstances to allow for the construction and use of SAVE Units on a temporary basis which have specialized requirements and exemptions from the state fire and building codes.) {LC705/A/1}

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

House Bill No. 5162

BY McNamara, Cotter, Solomon, Potter, Carson, Ackerman

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (Incorporates the department of elementary and secondary education's SurveyWorks school climate indicators for evaluating the performance of LEAs and individual public schools.) {LC498/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Education.

House Bill No. 5163**BY** McNamara, Cotter, Solomon, Potter, Carson, Ackerman**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM (Directs all local education agencies to select one of the identified high-quality curricula and materials for science and technology no later than June 30, 2026.)

{LC512/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Education.

House Bill No. 5176 SUB A**BY** Speakman, Knight, Boylan, Ajello, Carson, Donovan, Cortvriend, Kislak, Potter, Cotter**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- STUDENT COMPUTER DEVICE PRIVACY (Prohibits an educational institution or school district from accessing or using location data for tracking a student's institutional device or personal device, except in limited circumstances.)

{LC756/A/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Education.

House Bill No. 5185 SUB A**BY** Donovan, Potter, Carson, Fogarty, Spears, McGaw, Speakman, Shallcross Smith, Ajello, Handy**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- PROHIBITION OF UNFAIR SERVICE AGREEMENTS (Prohibits the use of service agreements that are unfair to an owner of residential real estate who enters into such an agreement or to persons who may become owners of that real estate in the future.)

{LC749/A/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

House Bill No. 5215**BY** Phillips, Bennett, Corvese, Newberry, Chippendale, Brien, Solomon, Read, Serpa, Fellela**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- UNFAIR SALES PRACTICES (Provides that health clubs must discontinue automatic deductions from the consumer's account or credit card within 30 calendar days of receiving a notice to stop from the consumer.)

{LC748/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce.

House Bill No. 5231

BY Phillips, Bennett, Corvese, Newberry, Chippendale, Brien, Solomon, Read, Serpa, Fellela
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- RHODE ISLAND UNIFORM COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE ACT (Provides that commercial driver instruction would include industry-specific training on the recognition, prevention, and reporting of human trafficking.)
{LC747/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

House Bill No. 5269

BY Noret, Casimiro, Finkelman, Corvese, Shallcross Smith, Nardone, Place, Speakman, Costantino, Read
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (Allows the waiver of interest on overdue taxes for commercial properties.)
{LC929/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

House Bill No. 5270

BY McGaw
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Exempts from taxation the real and tangible personal property of the Friends of Little Compton Wellness Center, Inc.)
{LC1023/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

House Bill No. 5278 SUB A

BY Azzinaro, Fellela, Kennedy, Shallcross Smith, Abney, Donovan, Felix, Hull, Solomon, Hopkins
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- THE MILITARY CHILD ACT (Defines "military-connected student" and provides advance enrollment and open enrollment school registration procedures to give the military connected student flexibility in choosing a school district.)
{LC1112/A/1}

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

House Bill No. 5293

BY Hull, Sanchez, Lombardi, DeSimone, O'Brien, Fogarty, Diaz
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY (Creates a public education program on methods to recycle textiles.)
{LC1127/1}

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

House Bill No. 5332**BY** Knight, Chippendale**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS -- THE RHODE ISLAND SPECIAL DEPOSITS ACT (Establishes the Rhode Island Special Deposits Act to be governed by an account agreement between the bank and the depositor or its beneficiary.)
{LC1239/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce.

House Bill No. 5369**BY** Ajello, Morales, Lombardi, Hull, Slater, DeSimone, Diaz, Kislak**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Exempts from property taxation, the real and tangible personal property of the Providence Preservation Society.)
{LC594/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

House Bill No. 5442**BY** Fogarty, Carson, Cotter, Noret, Hull, Tanzi, Bennett, Dawson, Cortvriend, Shallcross Smith**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- PUBLIC UTILITIES (Expands meaning of bomb threats and false reports to include any warning or threat of the existence of an explosive device and allows judge to impose conditions of bail to include extreme risk protection orders, no trespass orders and counseling.)
{LC1560/1}


Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

House Bill No. 5703**BY** Fogarty, McEntee, Tanzi, Shallcross Smith, Carson, Donovan, Spears, Cotter, Caldwell, Cortvriend**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO THE KINGSTON WATER DISTRICT -- BONDS (Increases the maximum amount of the Kingston water district bonding authority from four million dollars (\$4,000,000) to fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000).)
{LC1706/1}

Introduced, referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Honorable Senate President Pro Tempore presents the following communications:

<p>SENATOR LORI URSO District 8</p> <hr/> <p>Room 209 Rhode Island State House Providence, Rhode Island 02903</p> <p>OFFICE: 401-276-5567 sen-urso@rilegislature.gov</p>	<p>State of Rhode Island</p>  <p>Senate Chamber</p>	<p>SECRETARY Committee on Health & Human Services</p> <hr/> <p>Committee on Artificial Intelligence & Emerging Technologies</p> <hr/> <p>Committee on Environment & Agriculture</p>
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March 20, 2025

Helena Read
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 the following bill be withdrawn at the sponsor's request.

The legislation I would like to have withdrawn is 2025 Senate Bill No. 239 BY Urso, Acosta, Lauria, Tikoian, Quezada, Appollonio, Mack ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- RHODE ISLAND EARLY EDUCATOR COMPENSATION STABILIZATION ACT (Directs the departments of human services and education to work together to sustain and strengthen existing workforce development and compensation programs for educators working in licensed child care and early learning programs statewide.) {LC1430/1}

I appreciate your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Lori Urso
RI State Senator District 8, Pawtucket

LU/djc

cc: The Honorable Hanna Gallo, Education Chair
Kristin Silvia, Director of Legislation

Placed on file.

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 Tuesday, March 25th at 4:24 o'clock P.M

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Senator Lawson, seconded by Senator de la Cruz, and the Senate adjourns at 4:26 o'clock P.M.

HELENA S. REID
Secretary of the Senate

Appendix**INVOCATION****SENATOR ANDREW R. DIMITRI**

As the spring season begins, we pray that we all be unbound from that which weighs heaviest on our hearts, and that a new season of restoration and revelation begins. We ask for Your guidance in restoring the face of the earth. May we learn to live in harmony, safety and peace. Amen.

Appendix
CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025:

1. **2025-S 155**
 BY Raptakis
 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES --
 REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs recommends passage.

2. **2025-S 591**
 BY Felag
 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO RENAMING THE NEW SAKONNET
 BRIDGE, AQUIDNECK ISLAND

Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs recommends passage.

Appendix

CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025:

1. **2025-H 5252 SUB A**

BY McNamara

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- WARWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUDGET COMMISSION

Committee on Finance recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A in concurrence.

State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

VOTE BY PROXY

To the Honorable President of the Senate:

Pursuant to Rule 8.13 of the Rules of the Senate for the Years 2025-2026, and with your consent, I hereby cast my vote by proxy on the following matter before the Senate:

☐ 2025-H

☒ 2025-S

(Bill Number)

Consent Calendar

(Advice & Consent, Order of Business, or Amendment Number)

* If voting on a Consent Calendar or Bill Bundle, please attach a copy

☒ APPROVE

☐ DISAPPROVE

Respectfully Submitted,

Date 03/20/2025

Senator Dominick J. Ruggerio

Senate District 4

NOTARY

State of Rhode Island

County of Providence

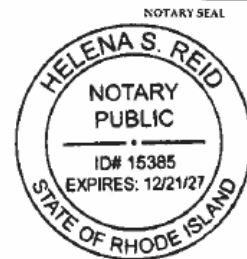
On this 20th day of March, 2025, before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared Senator Dominick J. Ruggerio, personally known to me to be the person whose name is signed on this document in my presence.

Notary Public Signature

Helena S. Reid
Notary Public Printed

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12/21/2027
Commission Expiration



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3-20-25 hsr
Date Initials

State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

VOTE BY PROXY

To the Honorable President of the Senate:

Pursuant to Rule 8.13 of the Rules of the Senate for the Years 2025-2026, and with your consent, I hereby cast my vote by proxy on the following matter before the Senate:

☐ 2025-H

☒ 2025-S

(Bill Number)

Appointment of Dr. Michael Reuter

(Advice & Consent, Order of Business, or Amendment Number)

* If voting on a Consent Calendar or Bill Bundle, please attach a copy

☒ APPROVE

☐ DISAPPROVE

Respectfully Submitted,

Dominick J. Ruggiero

Date 03/20/2025

Senator Dominick J. Ruggiero

Senate District 4

NOTARY

State of Rhode Island

County of Providence

On this 20th day of March, 2025, before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared Senator Dominick J. Ruggiero, personally known to me to be the person whose name is signed on this document in my presence.

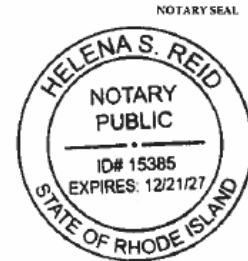
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3-20-25 hrr
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State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

VOTE BY PROXY

To the Honorable President of the Senate:

Pursuant to Rule 8.13 of the Rules of the Senate for the Years 2025-2026, and with your consent, I hereby cast my vote by proxy on the following matter before the Senate:

☐ 2025-H

☒ 2025-S 28

(Bill Number)

(Advice & Consent, Order of Business, or Amendment Number)

* If voting on a Consent Calendar or Bill Bundle, please attach a copy

☒ APPROVE

☐ DISAPPROVE

Respectfully Submitted,

Date 03/20/2025

Senator Dominick J. Ruggerio

Senate District 4

NOTARY

State of Rhode Island

County of Providence

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3-20-25 hsr
Date Initials

State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

VOTE BY PROXY

To the Honorable President of the Senate:

Pursuant to Rule 8.13 of the Rules of the Senate for the Years 2025-2026, and with your consent, I hereby cast my vote by proxy on the following matter before the Senate:

☐ 2025-H

☒ 2025-S 44

(Bill Number)

(Advice & Consent, Order of Business, or Amendment Number)

* If voting on a Consent Calendar or Bill Bundle, please attach a copy

☒ APPROVE

☐ DISAPPROVE

Respectfully Submitted,

Dominick J. Ruggerio
Senator Dominick J. Ruggerio

Date 03/20/2025

Senate District 4

NOTARY

State of Rhode Island

County of Providence

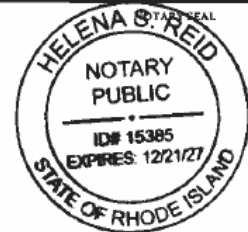
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Date Initials

State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

VOTE BY PROXY

To the Honorable President of the Senate:

Pursuant to Rule 8.13 of the Rules of the Senate for the Years 2025-2026, and with your consent, I hereby cast my vote by proxy on the following matter before the Senate:

☐ 2025-H

☒ 2025-S 674

(Bill Number)

(Advice & Consent, Order of Business, or Amendment Number)

* If voting on a Consent Calendar or Bill Bundle, please attach a copy

☒ APPROVE

☐ DISAPPROVE

Respectfully Submitted,

Dominick J. Ruggerio

Date 03/20/2025

Senator Dominick J. Ruggerio

Senate District 4

NOTARY

State of Rhode Island

County of Providence

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Date Initials

State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

VOTE BY PROXY

To the Honorable President of the Senate:

Pursuant to Rule 8.13 of the Rules of the Senate for the Years 2025-2026, and with your consent, I hereby cast my vote by proxy on the following matter before the Senate:

☐ 2025-H

☒ 2025-S 196

(Bill Number)

(Advice & Consent, Order of Business, or Amendment Number)

* If voting on a Consent Calendar or Bill Bundle, please attach a copy

☒ APPROVE

☐ DISAPPROVE

Respectfully Submitted,

Dominick J. Ruggiero

Date 03/20/2025

Senator Dominick J. Ruggiero

Senate District 4

NOTARY

State of Rhode Island

County of Providence

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3-20-25 *lor*
Date Initials

State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

VOTE BY PROXY

To the Honorable President of the Senate:

Pursuant to Rule 8.13 of the Rules of the Senate for the Years 2025-2026, and with your consent, I hereby cast my vote by proxy on the following matter before the Senate:

☐ 2025-H

☒ 2025-S 473

(Bill Number)

(Advice & Consent, Order of Business, or Amendment Number)

* If voting on a Consent Calendar or Bill Bundle, please attach a copy

☒ APPROVE

☐ DISAPPROVE

Respectfully Submitted,

Dominick J. Ruggerio

Date 03/20/2025

Senator Dominick J. Ruggerio

Senate District 4

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State of Rhode Island

County of Providence

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3-20-25 *ksr*
Date Initials

State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

VOTE BY PROXY

To the Honorable President of the Senate:

Pursuant to Rule 8.13 of the Rules of the Senate for the Years 2025-2026, and with your consent, I hereby cast my vote by proxy on the following matter before the Senate:

☐ 2025-H

☒ 2025-S 62

(Bill Number)

(Advice & Consent, Order of Business, or Amendment Number)

* If voting on a Consent Calendar or Bill Bundle, please attach a copy

☒ APPROVE

☐ DISAPPROVE

Respectfully Submitted,

Dominick J. Ruggerio
Senator Dominick J. Ruggerio

Date 03/20/2025

Senate District 4

NOTARY

State of Rhode Island

County of Providence

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