

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

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Volume 152, No. 14

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Fourteenth 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. Ruggerio, President of the Senate, on at 4:27 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 President, by unanimous consent, presents Father Nicholas Lanzourakis to deliver the invocation.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

**APPROVAL OF RECORD**

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

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

**APPOINTMENTS BY THE GOVERNOR**

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



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. McKEE**

March 14, 2025

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Section 16-32-2.2 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following reappointment to the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees:

**David Martirano**  
(Selected from a list provided by Speaker)

For a term expiring February 1, 2028

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

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McKee  
Governor  
DJM/ecd

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President  
Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, Senate Majority Leader  
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Education.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. McKEE**

March 14, 2025

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE,

I have the honor to inform you in accordance with the provisions of Section § 16-32-2.2 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following reappointment to the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees:

**Maria Ducharme**

For a term expiring February 1, 2028.

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

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McKee  
Governor

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President  
Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, Senate Majority Leader  
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

**RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Education.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE**

March 14, 2025

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Section 16-32-2.2 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following reappointment to the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees:

**Roby Luna**

For a term expiring February 1, 2028

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

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McKee  
Governor  
DJM/ecd

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President  
Honorable Valarie J. Lawson Senate Majority Leader  
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

**RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Education.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. McKEE**

March 14, 2025

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Section 16-32-2.2 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following reappointment to the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees:

**Matthew Lenz**  
(Senate President Appointment)

For a term expiring February 1, 2028.

To this reappointment, I respectfully request your advice and

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McKee  
Governor  
DJM/ecd

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President  
Honorable Valerie J. Lawson, Senate Majority Leader  
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

**RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Education.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. McKEE**

March 14, 2025

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE,

I have the honor to inform you in accordance with the provisions of Section § 16-32-2.2 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following reappointment to the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees:

**Yahaira (Jay) Placencia**

For a term expiring February 1, 2028.

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

Sincerely,

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

Daniel J. McKee  
Governor

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President  
Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, Senate Majority Leader  
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

**RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Education.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. McKEE**

March 14, 2025

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Section 16-32-2.2 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following reappointment to the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees:

**Cornelius Kerwin**

For a term expiring February 1, 2028

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

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McKee  
Governor  
DJM/ecd

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President  
Honorable Vallarie J. Lawson Senate Majority Leader  
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

**RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903**

Referred to the Senate Committee on Education.

**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION****Senate Resolution No. 880**

**BY** Raptakis, Gallo, Euer, Lawson, Tikoian, de la Cruz, Urso, Felag, Patalano, Burke  
**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING MARCH 25, 2025, AS THE  
204TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY AND CELEBRATING  
DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES  
{LC1178/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Raptakis requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Raptakis moves passage, seconded by 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, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a voice vote.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Upon suggestion of Senator Raptakis and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Consul General of Greece Boston Symeon Tegos, Secretary General Dimitris Skalkos, Federation of Hellenic Societies Olgo Fotos, Commander Konstantinos Vaskakis, Joanna Andreopoulou and Alexander Philippides.

Upon suggestion of Senator Euer and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Father Aaron Walker, Mayor Charles Holder, Elaine Holder, Loula Eliopoulos, Greek Language Teacher, Eleni Anagnostopoulos, and Leon Panteleos, AHEPA President.

Upon suggestion of Senator Patalano and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Harry Nicolopoulos, his daughter Sherri Cesario, Mr. Constantine Coclin, who is today's Co-MC for the Greek Independence Day Ceremony in the Governor's State Room, Krystina Nicolopoulos Cesario of our State Government Intern Program who happens to be Harry's granddaughter, and Paul Kallis of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Parish Council President.

Upon suggestion of Senator Paolino and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Dr. John Sysikatos.



Upon suggestion of Senator Gallo and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Father Andrew George, Koula Rougas dance instructor, John Lysikatos, and Senator Raptakis wife Dr. Donna Raptakis.

Upon suggestion of Senator DiPalma and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Peter Petrou, Marizete Petrou, Alexander Philippides, Telly Amarant, and Elizabeth Amarant.

Upon suggestion of Senator Dimitri and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Johnston Police Officer Charles Psilopoulos.

### IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

#### **Senate Resolution No. 881**

**BY** DiMario

**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING MARCH OF 2025, AS "NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
{LC2332/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator DiMario requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator DiMario moves passage, seconded by Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, 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.

The resolution is read and passed upon a voice vote.

**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.

Senator Raptakis moves passage of the act, seconded by 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, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 38 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

**YEAS – 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.

**NAYS – 0:**

**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.

Senator Felag moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, 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.

The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 38 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

**YEAS – 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.

**NAYS – 0:**

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Upon suggestion of Senator Felag and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Terri Ann Conley Potts, Jackson Potts, and Kim Evans.

Upon suggestion of Senator Tikoian and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber General Reginald Centracchio, Sergeant Major Raymond Viens, and his wife Stacy Viens.

Upon suggestion of Senator Sosnowski and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Commander Tiger Patrice, VFW 916 Wakefield, RI.

Upon suggestion of Senator Murray and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Commander Mark Turner, RI Vets of Foreign Wars, President Joseph Janiero, United Vet Council of Woonsocket, Stephen Dougherty, Auxiliary President, and Joseph Diniz, Senior Vice Commander.

Upon suggestion of Senator Morgan and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Don Haining and Mike Pennen from Lincoln.

**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 Sosnowski announces that the Senate Committee on Commerce will meet today at the rise of the senate in Room 212.

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

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

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

Senator Patalano announces that the Senate Committee on Labor and Gaming will meet tomorrow at 4:30pm in Room 212.

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

**RECESS**

Upon the Motion of Senate Majority Whip Tikoian, seconded by Senate Majority Leader Lawson, the Senate stands in Recess at 5:05 o'clock P.M.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The Honorable President presents the following communications:

SENATOR  
**TODD M. PATALANO**  
District 26

Room 312  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

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

[sen-patalano@rilegislature.gov](mailto:sen-patalano@rilegislature.gov)

State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

Committee on Judiciary

Committee on  
Labor and Gaming

March 25, 2025

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

Dear Helena:

I respectfully request the withdrawal of my name as a co-sponsor of Senate Bill 2025-S278 entitled, an act relating to Criminal Offenses-Commercial Sexual Activity..

This bill is assigned to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.


Thank you, in advance, for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd M. Patalano", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Todd M. Patalano  
Senator, District 26

Placed on file.

<p><b>SENATOR</b> <b>JOHN P. BURKE</b> District 9</p> <p><b>DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER</b></p> <hr/> <p>7 Bradley Court West Warwick, Rhode Island 02893</p> <hr/> <p>Room 221-A Rhode Island State House Providence, Rhode Island 02903</p> <p>OFFICE: 401-276-5506 CELL: 401-374-4721</p> <p>sen-burke@rilegislature.gov</p>	<p>State of Rhode Island</p>  <p>Senate Chamber</p>	<p>VICE-CHAIR Committee on Labor &amp; Gaming</p> <hr/> <p>VICE-CHAIR Committee on Artificial Intelligence &amp; Emerging Technologies</p> <hr/> <p>Committee on Judiciary</p> <hr/> <p>Committee on Housing &amp; Municipal Government</p>
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March 26, 2025

Mrs. Helena S. Reid  
Secretary of the Senate  
State House – Room 220  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Mrs. Secretary:

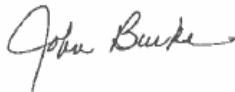
Pursuant to Rule 4.1 of the Senate Rules, I would like to respectfully request that the following bill be withdrawn:

2025 Senate Bill SB-0355; AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES --  
COMMERCIAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY.

This legislation has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

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

Sincerely,



John P. Burke  
Senator – District 9

Placed on file.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Senate meets pursuant to recess and is called to order by the Honorable Matthew L. LaMountain, Deputy Senate President Pro Tempore, on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:13 o'clock P.M

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion of Senator Lawson, 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

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.



**Appendix****INVOCATION****FATHER NICHOLAS LANZOURAKIS**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Almighty and Everlasting God, Source of all wisdom, justice, and truth, On this sacred day, we gather in gratitude as we commemorate the Feast of the Annunciation, The moment when the Archangel Gabriel proclaimed to the Virgin Mary the good news of salvation, That Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, would take flesh for the redemption of the world. On this same day, we also honor the spirit of freedom and resilience, Remembering the valiant struggle of the Greek people for independence, Who, with unwavering faith in You, rose to reclaim their God-given dignity and liberty. We give thanks for their courage, their devotion to Hellenic ideals, And for the lasting contributions of Greece to the world—principles of democracy, philosophy, and justice. We also lift up in prayer this great nation, the United States of America, A land founded upon principles of liberty, justice, and human dignity. Bless this country and its leaders, That they may govern with wisdom, humility, and a steadfast commitment to truth and righteousness. We ask for Your special blessings upon the state of Rhode Island, Upon its Senate, its Governor, and all elected and appointed officials, That they may serve with integrity, wisdom, and a spirit of selfless dedication to the people they represent. Guide them in the ways of justice and compassion, That they may uphold the values of freedom and fairness for all who call this state their home. Lord, You are the author of all true freedom, Grant that we may always use this gift to serve one another in love, To defend the weak, to uphold righteousness, and to seek unity in times of division. Strengthen the bonds of friendship between the United States and Greece, That both nations may continue to work together for the common good of all people. Through the intercessions of the Most Holy Theotokos, And all the saints who have borne witness to Your truth, May we walk always in Your light and glorify Your holy name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever, and unto the ages of ages.