

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. 20

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Twentieth Legislative Day

In Memoriam

The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio

December 19, 1948 – April 21, 2025

President of the Rhode Island Senate

2017-2025

Rhode Island State Senator

1985 – 2025

May God Keep You In His Loving Care

CALL TO ORDER

The Senate meets pursuant to adjournment and is called to order by The Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, President of the Senate, on at 4:12 o'clock P.M.

ROLL CALL

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 33 Senators present and 4 Senators absent as follows:

PRESENT –33: The Honorable President Valarie Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Thompson, Tikoian, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

ABSENT – 4: Senators Euer, Mack, Pearson, and Ujifusa.

INVOCATION

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

APPROVAL OF RECORD

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Upon suggestion of Senator DiPalma and by unanimous consent, the Honorable Senate President, welcomes to the Chamber former State Senator from Newport & former President of the Senate M. Teresa Paiva Weed and former State Senator from Warwick & Associate Justice on the Supreme Court Erin Lynch Prata.

Upon suggestion of Senator DiPalma and by unanimous consent, the Honorable Senate President, welcomes to the Chamber Riley McKinley, intern from Bryant University.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Honorable President presents the following communications:

SENATOR
LINDA L. UJIFUSA
District 11

Room 112
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

OFFICE 401-276-5589

sen-ujifusa@rilegislature.gov

State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

Committee on
Health & Human Services

Committee on Special Legislation
& Veterans' Affairs

April 30, 20245

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

Dear President Lawson:

Please be advised and let the record reflect that I will be absent from the Chamber today, Wednesday, April 30, 2025 due to illness.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Ujifusa".

Linda L. Ujifusa
Senator - District 11

Placed on file.

SENATOR
TIARA T. MACK
District 6

Room 219
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

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sen-mack@rilegislature.gov

State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

Committee on Commerce

Committee on Education

Committee on
Housing & Municipal Government

April 30, 2025

The Honorable Valerie Lawson
President of the Senate
State House, Room 318
Providence, RI 02903

Dear President Lawson:

Please be advised and let the record reflect that I will be absent from the Chamber on Wednesday, April 30, 2025.

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

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tiara Mack".

Tiara Mack
Senator District 6

Placed on file.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**Senate Resolution No. 995****BY** Lawson, Ciccone, Tikoian**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE DOMINICK J. RUGGERIO, PRESIDENT AND DEAN OF THE RHODE ISLAND SENATE
{LC2791/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Gallo requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

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

Senators Gallo, Felag, Sosnowski, Murray, DiPalma, Raptakis, DiMario, Acosta, Bell, Quezada, Ciccone, de la Cruz, McKenney, Lauria, Bissaillon, Kallman, LaMountain, Thompson, Lawson, and Madam President Valarie J. Lawson discuss the senate resolution.

The resolution is read and passed upon a rising vote.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE REMARKS

The Honorable Senator Valarie J. Lawson presents the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the House.

The Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the House, addresses the members of the Senate and the family and friends of Dominick J. Ruggerio.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Raptakis announces that the Senate Committee on Special Legislation will meet at the rise of the senate in Room 211.

Senator Murray announces that the Senate Committee on Education will meet at the rise of the senate in Room 313.

Senator Patalano announces that the Senate Committee on Labor and Gaming will meet at the rise of the senate in Room 212.

Senator Bissaillon announces that the Senate Committee on Judiciary will meet Thursday at 2:30pm and 3:30pm in Room 313.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Upon suggestion of Senator Bissaillon and by unanimous consent, the Honorable Senate President, welcomes to the Chamber former State Senator from Cranston Joshua Miller.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Senator Tikoian, seconded by Senator de la Cruz, the Senate adjourns at 5:56 o'clock P.M. *in memory of Senate President Dominick J. Ruggerio.*

HELENA S. REID
Secretary of the Senate

Appendix**INVOCATION****SENATOR V. SUSAN SOSNOWSKI**

Almighty Father, Blessed are You for giving us family and friends, To be with us in times of joy and sorrow, To help us in days of need, And to rejoice with us in moments of celebration. Lord, We ask, that You grant strength to the families who have lost loved ones, and to our Senate family as we celebrate the life and legacy of our colleague Dominick J. Ruggerio. May You take the souls of the departed forever into Your protection. May Your grace be with them and their families as they meet the challenges ahead. Amen.

Appendix

CONSENT CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025:

1. ***The Appointment of Christopher J. Fragomeni (Gubernatorial Appt) VICE Peter Willey to the East Providence Waterfront District for a term expiring March 31, 2029.***

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

2. ***The Reappointment of Jeffrey E. Bogosian to the Rhode Island Airport Corporation for a term expiring June 1, 2028.***

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

3. ***The Reappointment of Christopher H. Little, Esq. to the Rhode Island Airport Corporation for a term expiring June 1, 2028.***

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

4. ***The Reappointment of Jonathan N. Savage to the Rhode Island Airport Corporation for a term expiring June 1, 2029.***

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

5. ***The Reappointment of George Nee 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.

6. ***The Reappointment of R. Jeffrey Hirsh to the Convention Center Authority for a term expiring June 30, 2029.***

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

7. **2025-S 992**
 BY McKenney
 ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY OF 2025 TO BE “MYOSITIS AWARENESS MONTH IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND”

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

8. **2025-S 993**
 BY Sosnowski
 ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MAY OF 2025 AS “RHODE ISLAND NATIVE PLANT MONTH”

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

9. **2025-S 994**
 BY Murray
 ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING MAY OF 2025, AS "NATIONAL SKIN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

10. **2025-H 5694**
 BY Cortvriend
 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends passage in concurrence.

Appendix
CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025:

- 1. 2025-S 720**
BY Ciccone
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends passage.
- 2. 2025-S 618**
BY Mack
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- VITAL RECORDS

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.
- 3. 2025-S 959**
BY Ciccone
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- WORKPLACE PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY ACT

Committee on Labor & Gaming recommends passage.
- 4. 2025-S 591 SUB A**
BY Felag
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO RENAMING THE NEW SAKONNET RIVER BRIDGE, AQUIDNECK ISLAND

Ordered to be placed on the Calendar for passage in concurrence.
- 5. 2025-H 5051 SUB A**
BY Azzinaro
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO RENAMING THE NEW SAKONNET RIVER BRIDGE, AQUIDNECK ISLAND

Ordered to be placed on the Calendar for passage in concurrence.