

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 Sixth day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty Six.

Volume 153, No. 5

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Fifth Legislative Day

CALL TO ORDER

The Senate meets pursuant to recess and is called to order by The Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, President of the Senate, at 4:21 o'clock P.M.

ROLL CALL

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 37 Senators present and 1 Senator absent as follows:

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

ABSENT – 1: Senator Sosnowski.

INVOCATION

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

APPROVAL OF RECORD

The Senate Journals of the Third and Fourth Legislative Days of the 2026 proceedings are read in part.

Upon suggestion of Senator de la Cruz and by unanimous consent, further reading of the Journals are dispensed with and the Journals 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

January 16, 2026

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Article 10, Section 4 of the Rhode Island Constitution, entitled State Court Judges - Judicial Selection, I have made the following appointment as Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Superior Court:

Shannon G. Signore, Esq.

Vice
Daniel A. Procaccini

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

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

cc:

Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, Senate President
Honorable Frank A. Ciccone, III, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader
Rhode Island Ethics Commission
Legislative Press Bureau
Law Revision Office
Honorable Paul Sutell, Chief Justice, Rhode Island Supreme Court
Honorable Alice B. Gibney, Presiding Justice, Rhode Island Superior Court
Honorable Jeanne E. LaFazia, Chief Judge, Rhode Island District Court
Honorable Matthew L. LaMountain, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
Shannon G. Signore, Esq.

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

January 16, 2026

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Article 10, Section 4 of the Rhode Island Constitution, entitled State Court Judges - Judicial Selection, I have made the following appointment as Associate Judge of the Rhode Island District Court:

Michael J. McCaffrey

Vice
Melissa R. DuBose

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

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

cc:

Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, Senate President
Honorable Frank A. Ciccone, III, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader
Rhode Island Ethics Commission
Legislative Press Bureau
Law Revision Office
Honorable Paul Suttell, Chief Justice, Rhode Island Supreme Court
Honorable Alice B. Gibney, Presiding Justice, Rhode Island Superior Court
Honorable Jeanne E. LaFazia, Chief Judge, Rhode Island District Court
Honorable Matthew L. LaMountain, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
Honorable Michael J. McCaffrey, Esq.

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

January 16, 2026

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Article 10, Section 4 of the Rhode Island Constitution, entitled State Court Judges - Judicial Selection, I have made the following appointment as Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Family Court:

Andrea M. Iannazzi

Vice
Debra E. DiSegna

To this appointment, 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 Valarie J. Lawson, Senate President
Honorable Frank A. Ciccone, III, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader
Rhode Island Ethics Commission
Legislative Press Bureau
Law Revision Office
Honorable Paul Sutell, Chief Justice, Rhode Island Supreme Court
Honorable Alice B. Gibney, Presiding Justice, Rhode Island Superior Court
Honorable Jeanne E. LaFazia, Chief Judge, Rhode Island District Court
Honorable Matthew L. LaMountain, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
Andrea M. Iannazzi

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

January 16, 2026

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Article 10, Section 4 of the Rhode Island Constitution, entitled State Court Judges - Judicial Selection, I have made the following appointment as Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Family Court:

Alberto Aponte Cardona, Sr.

Vice
Patricia K. Asquith

To this appointment, 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 Valarie J. Lawson, Senate President
Honorable Frank A. Ciccone, III, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader
Rhode Island Ethics Commission
Legislative Press Bureau
Law Revision Office
Honorable Paul Sutell, Chief Justice, Rhode Island Supreme Court
Honorable Alice B. Gibney, Presiding Justice, Rhode Island Superior Court
Honorable Jeanne E. LaFazia, Chief Judge, Rhode Island District Court
Honorable Matthew L. LaMountain, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
Alberto Aponte Cardona, Sr.

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATIONS

Senate Resolution No. 2187

BY Mack

ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF THE REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ON JANUARY 15, 2026
{LC4044/1}

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 Senator Tikoian.

The resolution is read and passed upon a voice vote.

Senate Resolution No. 2188

BY Morgan

ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE RICHARD SERRA
{LC3124/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Morgan requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Morgan moves passage, seconded by Senator Tikoian.

The resolution is read and passed upon a rising vote.

GUESTS

Upon suggestion of Senator Morgan and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Jean Shields, Mark Serra, Bryan Serra, Niki Wall, Sandy Puchalski, and Tina Lavigne.

Senate Resolution No. 2189

BY Acosta

ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING AND REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
NAYASIA A. GONZALEZ

{LC4078/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Acosta requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Acosta moves passage, seconded by Senator Tikoain.

The resolution is read and passed upon a rising vote.

GUESTS

Upon suggestion of Senator Acosta and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Nayasia A. Gonzalez; Raisa Gonzalez, Iryan Jerome Aubert, Kevin Gonzalez, Kierra Baptista, Jayleanna Sanchez, Je'Laiza Gonzalez, Iryan Aubert II, and Ranzell Aubert.

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.

NEW BUSINESS

Senate Resolution No. 2190

BY Raptakis, Burke, Rogers

ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 83RD ANNIVERSARY
OF THE "FOUR CHAPLAINS", THE FOUR MEN OF GOD WHO SACRIFICED THEIR
LIVES DURING WORLD WAR II SO THAT OTHERS MIGHT LIVE

{LC3473/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

Senate Resolution No. 2191

BY Euer

**ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING
OF FRANCIS D. LANDRY, JR.**

{LC4418/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon the Motion of Senate Majority Whip Tikoian, seconded by the entire Senate, the Senate adjourns at 4:46 o'clock P.M. *in memory of the Honorable Richard Serra and Nayasia A. Gonzalez*

HELENA S. REID
Secretary of the Senate

Appendix**INVOCATION****SENATOR JESSICA DE LA CRUZ**

Almighty God, good and gracious Father, We come before You grateful for the privilege of service and mindful of the responsibility You have entrusted to us. We ask for Your wisdom to guide our decisions, Your courage to stand for truth, and Your humility to remember that all authority ultimately comes from You. Grant us discernment as we deliberate, strength to resist pressure that leads us away from what is right. May our work honor You, protect liberty, and promote justice for all. We ask these things in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Appendix

CONSENT CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026:

1. 2026-S 2190

BY Raptakis

ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 83RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE "FOUR CHAPLAINS", THE FOUR MEN OF GOD WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES DURING WORLD WAR II SO THAT OTHERS MIGHT LIVE

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

2. 2026-S 2191

BY Euer

ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF FRANCIS D. LANDRY, JR.

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.