

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

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 second day of January in the year of Our Lord two thousand and seven.

Volume 134, No.11

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Eleventh Legislative Day

The Senate meets pursuant to adjournment and is called to order by the Honorable Joseph A. Montalbano, President of the Senate, at 4:17 o'clock P.M.

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 Montalbano and Senators Algieri, Alves, Badeau, Bates, Blais, Breene, Ciccone, Connors, Cote, DaPonte, Doyle, Felag, Fogarty, Gallo, Gibbs, Goodwin, Issa, Jabour, Lanzi, Lenihan, Levesque, Maselli, McBurney, McCaffrey, Metts, Miller, Moura, Paiva Weed, Perry, Pichardo, Raptakis, Revens, Ruggerio, Sheehan, Sosnowski, Tassoni, Walaska.

ABSENT – 0:

INVOCATION

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

(See Appendix for Invocation)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

GUESTS

Upon suggestion of Senators Gallo and Alves and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Arlene McNulty and Jo-Ann Schofield, RI Mentoring Partnership, Susan Thomas, Aquidneck Island Mentoring and Woonsocket Mentoring Program, Val Sinesi, Big Brothers of Rhode Island, Karen Gager, Big Sisters of Rhode Island, Tammy Beaudreault, Burrillville Mentor Program, Nina Mackta and Lynda Horenstein East Greenwich Strategic Support Mentoring, Elizabeth

Evens, Feinstein Bristol Mentoring Program, Louise Dias, Feinstein Exeter/West Greenwich Mentor Program, Tara Chance, Feinstein North Kingstown Mentor Program, Ashley Miller, Feinstein San Miguel Mentor Program, Janice Caianiello, RN, Kent Hospital Nurse Mentor Program, Kristin Waugh-Hampel, Learning Through Internship, Arthur Plitt, Rhode Island Disability Mentoring, Lon Tega Morris, Sophia Academy Mentor Program and Pamela Leonhardt, Warwick Mentor Program.

NEW BUSINESS

Senate Resolution No. 148

BY Senators Gallo, Fogarty P, Jabour, Issa, Felag

ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JANUARY AS "NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Senator Gallo requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Gallo moves passage, seconded by Senator Fogarty and the entire Senate.

The resolution is read and passed, upon a voice vote.

Also:

Senate Resolution No. 149

BY Senators Moura, DaPonte, Ruggerio

ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING FERNANDO S. CUNHA, ESQUIRE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 70TH BIRTHDAY

Senator Moura requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Moura moves passage, seconded by Senator Ruggerio.

The resolution is read and passed, upon a voice vote.

Also:

Senate Resolution No. 150

BY Senators DaPonte, Moura

ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF HELEN A. SULLIVAN

Senator DaPonte requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator DaPonte moves passage, seconded by Senator Moura and the entire Senate.

The resolution is read and passed, upon a rising vote.

Also:

Senate Resolution No. 151

BY Senator Moura

ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING EMMA SANDBACH ON THE OCCASION OF HER 70TH BIRTHDAY

Senator Moura requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Moura moves passage, seconded by the entire Senate.

The resolution is read and passed, upon a voice vote.

Also:

Senate Resolution No. 152

BY Senator Maselli

ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE STATE TRAFFIC COMMISSION TO INSTALL A TRAFFIC LIGHT IN THE TOWN OF JOHNSTON

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Constitutional and Regulatory Issues

Also:

Senate Resolution No. 153

BY Senator Maselli

ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE STATE TRAFFIC COMMISSION TO INSTALL A TRAFFIC LIGHT IN THE TOWN OF JOHNSTON (traffic light at the intersection of Nardolillo Street and Plainfield Pike (Route 14))

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Constitutional and Regulatory Issues

Also:

Senate Bill No. 154

BY Senators Raptakis, Maselli, McCaffrey, Cote, Breene

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- REGULATION OF SALES (holders of Class A licenses would maintain, and produce on demand, records of receipts and invoices for the purchase of alcoholic beverages)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Constitutional and Regulatory Issues

Also:

Senate Bill No. 155

BY Senators Metts, Pichardo, Perry, Doyle, Jabour

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RENAMING THE RHODE ISLAND JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER (rename the Juvenile Detention Center as the "Roosevelt Benton Youth Assignment Center) {LC1077/1}

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Constitutional and Regulatory Issues

Also:

Senate Bill No. 156

BY Senator McCaffrey

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- RETAIL SALE OF GASOLINE (mandate retailers of gasoline to maintain a compressed air pump at no cost to a consumer during business hours)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Corporations

Also:

Senate Bill No. 157

BY Senators Raptakis, Blais, Breene, Maselli, McCaffrey

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION (school departments and school committees to accept donations, gifts or grants for specific purposes)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Education

Also:

Senate Bill No. 158

BY Senators McCaffrey, Walaska

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- BURIAL OF VETERANS (eliminate the twenty (20) year National Guard service computation requirement)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance

Also:

Senate Bill No. 159

BY Senators McCaffrey, Walaska

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO SALES AND USE TAXES - LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (reduce the sales tax and the use tax from seven percent (7%) to six (6%))

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance

Also:

Senate Bill No. 160**BY** Senators McCaffrey, Walaska**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (exempt books and other reading material from sales and use taxes)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance

Also:

Senate Bill No. 161**BY** Senators Ciccone, Tassoni, Badeau, DaPonte, McCaffrey**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - EMPLOYMENT SECURITY - BENEFITS (eliminate Social Security benefits from being considered as "disqualifying income" in the determination of individual eligibility for unemployment benefits)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance

Also:

Senate Bill No. 162**BY** Senators Maselli, Miller, Connors, Gallo, Lanzi**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION (all public schools to provide full-time kindergarten programs as of August 20, 2010)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance

Also:

Senate Bill No. 163**BY** Senators McCaffrey, Walaska**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (prohibit the lessor of a leased motor vehicle from charging a lessee any sales or use tax on that portion of lease payment that is comprised of taxes payable by the lessor on the leased motor vehicle)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance

Also:

Senate Bill No. 164**BY** Senator Levesque C**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION (exempt the town of Portsmouth from the maximum tax levy in 2007 the year it performs a full tax revaluation) {LC1086/1}

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance

Also:

Senate Bill No. 165**BY** Senators McCaffrey, Walaska**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PERSONAL INCOME TAX -- VETERAN PENSIONS
(exempt pensions of veterans from the Rhode Island personal income tax)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance

Also:

Senate Bill No. 166**BY** Senators Pichardo, Tassoni, Gallo, Perry**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- BREAST CANCER ACT
(provide additional funding for breast cancer screening) {LC1004/1}

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance

Also:

Senate Bill No. 167**BY** Senators Maselli, Raptakis, Tassoni, Jabour**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PERSONAL INCOME TAX (exempt the first \$20,000 of military retirement income from federal adjusted gross income)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance

Also:

Senate Bill No. 168**BY** Senators Maselli, Raptakis, Tassoni**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION (provide for a \$2,000 tax exemption for retired federal employees)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance

Also:

Senate Bill No. 169**BY** Senators Metts, Pichardo, Levesque C, Perry, Doyle**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION - PERSONAL INCOME TAX - EARNED INCOME CREDIT (increase the refundable state earned income credit from 15% to 100%)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance

Also:

Senate Bill No. 170**BY** Senators Raptakis, Blais**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- FIRE DISTRICT (maximum levy)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance

Also:

Senate Bill No. 171**BY** Senators Montalbano J, Connors**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION VETERANS EXEMPTIONS -- LINCOLN

(exemption on property from \$4,000 to \$10,000)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance

Also:

Senate Bill No. 172**BY** Senators Raptakis, Sosnowski, Blais, Maselli, Gallo**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- SANITATION IN FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS (restrict the use of artificial trans fat in food prepared/served by food businesses and food service establishments)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Also:

Senate Bill No. 173**BY** Senators Gallo, Fogarty P, Goodwin, Connors, Levesque C**ENTITLED**, AN ACT BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY (license requirements) {LC1197/1}

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Also:

Senate Bill No. 174**BY** Senators Felag, Alves, McCaffrey, Badeau**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- VITAL RECORDS (allow for the issuance of certificates of birth resulting in stillbirth)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Also:

Senate Bill No. 175**BY** Senator Blais**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- MEDICAL DEVICES (prohibit health care providers from reusing certain medical devices consent of patient)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Also:

Senate Bill No. 176**BY** Senators Blais, Sosnowski, McCaffrey, Perry**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- INTRACTABLE PAIN TREATMENT (limitations of a practitioner's authority in dispensing controlled substances) {LC1027/1}

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Also:

Senate Bill No. 177**BY** Senators Tassoni, Ciccone, Doyle, Pichardo**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE - SMALL EMPLOYER HEALTH INSURANCE AVAILABILITY ACT (basic health plans for small employers with employees under the age of 30)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Also:

Senate Bill No. 178**BY** Senators Tassoni, Ciccone, Doyle, Pichardo**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE (repeal the individual health insurance statutes and include it in the statute on small employer health insurance)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Also:

Senate Bill No. 179**BY** Senators Raptakis, Blais, Breene, Maselli, Tassoni**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- RHODE ISLAND DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES (would make fire districts subject to the same limitation provisions governing a maximum tax levy on taxpayers as cities and towns)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Housing and Municipal Government

Also:

Senate Bill No. 180**BY** Senator Felag**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (require that new lots created in the town of Warren after the assessment date be assessed and prorated as of the date of approval by the planning board)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Housing and Municipal Government

Also:

Senate Bill No. 181**BY** Senators Issa, McBurney, DaPonte, Doyle**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO THE PAWTUCKET WATER SUPPLY BOARD (new lots created in the town of Warren after the assessment date be assessed and prorated as of the date of approval by the planning board) {LC1043/1}

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Housing and Municipal Government

Also:

Senate Bill No. 182**BY** Senators McCaffrey, Walaska**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- SEWER CHARGE REGULATED (subject city and town sewer fees to the approval of the public utilities commission)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Housing and Municipal Government

Also:

Senate Bill No. 183**BY** Senators Blais, Breene, Maselli, Raptakis**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS (exempt any person who at the time of purchase is exchanging a functional concealable firearm as part of or the entire purchase price to another concealable firearm from the requirement of obtaining a basic pistol/revolver safety certificate)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 184**BY** Senators Blais, Breene**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS (prohibit cities and towns from providing the name, address or date of birth of any person who has applied for a license or permit to carry a concealed pistol or revolver)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 185

BY Senators Blais, Maselli, Breene

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS (eliminate the application requirement and 7 day waiting period from the current section to those rifle and/or shotgun transactions which are essentially merely an exchange)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 186

BY Senators Raptakis, Sheehan, Blais, Maselli, McCaffrey

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY (require all RId buses to be installed with passenger security cameras and would require that all new drivers of RId buses have a BCI criminal records check)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 187

BY Senators Blais, Breene, Maselli, Raptakis

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS (exempt certain persons including those issued protective orders from the weapons safety requirements of this chapter)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 188

BY Senators Bates, Sosnowski, Perry

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE (repeal the provisions of the general laws that prohibit health insurance 1 coverage for induced abortions for all contracts including those policies covering state and municipal employees)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 189

BY Senators Felag, Paiva-Weed, Levesque C

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS - LOCAL CANVASSING AUTHORITY (prevent employees of local canvassing authorities from serving on local canvassing boards)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 190

BY Senators McCaffrey, Walaska

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- NOMINATION PAPERS (provide that nomination papers would not be necessary for any candidate for any election in which there are no other declared candidates for that particular office)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 191

BY Senators Raptakis, Walaska, Blais, DaPonte, Maselli

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- INTERNET ACCESS AND ADVERTISING

BY Senators FACSIMILE (allow a recipient of an unsolicited fax, or the attorney general on the recipients behalf, to bring a civil action in superior court if the recipient had previously notified the sender of their request not to receive such faxes)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 192

BY Senators McCaffrey, Walaska

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CAUSES OF ACTION -- SURETY BONDS (create a new civil cause of action for a surety's bad faith refusal to pay a claim made under any bond of suretyship)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 193

BY Senator McCaffrey

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY (clarify that a cause of action exists against the state of RI by state employees and other parties seeking to enforce rights to certain federal statutes where the US Congress has indicated its intent that said federal statutes be applicable to the states)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 194**BY** Senators Metts, Pichardo, Levesque C, Perry, Jabour**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- EXPUNGEMENT OF CRIMINAL RECORDS (allow judges the discretion to expunge the felony record of an individual after 5 years from the completion of their sentence/, provided one or more extraordinary circumstances exist)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 195**BY** Senators Blais, Maselli, Breene, Raptakis**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS (expand the license or permit to carry a pistol or revolver to include people who have been issued protective orders)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 196**BY** Senator Blais**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT (provide that regulations promulgated through the Administrative Procedures Act are not effective until they are made available electronically to the public) {LC1033/1}

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 197**BY** Senator McCaffrey**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- POLICE OFFICERS (include airport police officers in the policeman's bill of rights and would also grant to them certain privileges granted to other law enforcement officers)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 198**BY** Senators Gibbs, Bates, Perry, Miller, Pichardo**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- HEALTHCARE FOR CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN (funding, under the RIté Start Program, for abortions necessary to preserve the life of the mother, or in the case of pregnancies resulting in rape or incest)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 199**BY** Senators McCaffrey, Walaska**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- SEXUAL ASSAULT (severe penalty for a person who commits a sexual assault on a person ten (10) or more years younger than himself or herself)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 200**BY** Senators Blais, Breene, Algieri**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS (prohibit wearing or carrying weapon of the kind commonly known as a billy, bludgeon, baton, stun- gun or any razor or knife of any description having a blade of more than three inches in length)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 201**BY** Senator Issa**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS (join Rhode Island in an agreement interstate compact to elect the president and vice president by national popular vote.)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 202**BY** Senators Perry, Pichardo, Miller, Sosnowski, Moura**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO MARRY (broaden the definition of persons eligible to marry to include persons of the same gender)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 203**BY** Senators Felag, Bates**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES (Richard Huddleston Baker to join Amanda Green and Andrew Helming in ma)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 204**BY** Senators Doyle, Tassoni, Ruggerio**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- PAINTBALL (regulate the sale and transportation of paintball guns) {LC1005/1}

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 205**BY** Senators Perry, Pichardo, Metts, Sosnowski, McCaffrey**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- SEXUAL ASSAULT (4 exceptions to be considered by the judge in allowing evidence of complainant's sexual conduct or communication prior or subsequent to an offense of sexual assault)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 206**BY** Senators Perry, Pichardo, Metts, Goodwin, Miller**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OPEN MEETINGS (change the definition of "public body" as it relates to libraries)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 207**BY** Senators Metts, Pichardo, Levesque C, Perry**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT (reduce the minimum sentences for crimes involving controlled substances)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 208**BY** Senators Ciccone, Tassoni, Badeau, DaPonte, Walaska**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS (define the phrase "in good standing" to assist the attorney general's office in determining when city and town police forces, who have retired after 20 years of service may be issued a license or permit by the attorney general to carry a firearm) {LC1040/1}

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 209**BY** Senators Bates, Cote, Fogarty P, Walaska, McCaffrey**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY (establish that duly authorized land trusts for preservation of open spaces for public use are not subject to adverse possession) {LC1032/1}

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 210 (by request)**BY** Senator Badeau**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- THE OPEN CONTRACTING ACT (prohibit certain contract specifications issued by public bodies soliciting bids on public works projects)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Also:

Senate Bill No. 211**BY** Senator McCaffrey**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- ARBITRATION OF LABOR CONTROVERSIES (establish a Rhode Island public policy that arbitration of labor controversies be the preferred alternative dispute resolution mechanism)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Labor

Also:

Senate Bill No. 212 (by request)**BY** Senator Badeau**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS - ELECTRICIANS (allow for relief apprentice(s) on any project provided and application is applied for and approved by division of professional regulations) {LC1019/1}

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Labor

Also:

Senate Bill No. 213 (by request)**BY** Senator Badeau**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- ELECTRICIANS LICENSES (require RI reciprocity privileges be extended to electricians and issuing persons who hold current licenses in other states which have the same licensing requirements as RI) {LC1018/1}

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Labor

Also:

Senate Bill No. 214**BY** Senators Metts, Pichardo**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS IN TRADE AND INDUSTRY (permit one apprentice in each trade to work under direct supervision of a licensed journeyman in that trade)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Labor

Also:

Senate Bill No. 215**BY** Senators Ruggerio, Goodwin, Tassoni, Ciccone, Maselli**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- WORKERS' COMPENSATION -- BENEFITS (change the base wage calculation from 75% to 85% under the workers' compensation law)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Labor

Also:

Senate Bill No. 216**BY** Senators Ruggerio, Goodwin, McCaffrey, Issa, Tassoni**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- WORKERS' COMPENSATION -- BENEFITS (raise workers' compensation payments for specific injuries)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Labor

Also:

Senate Bill No. 217**BY** Senators Ruggerio, Goodwin, Jabour, McCaffrey, Tassoni**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION -- MEDICAL SERVICES (transportation costs for employees that travel to receive workers' compensation health care services)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Labor

Also:

Senate Bill No. 218**BY** Senators Ruggerio, Goodwin, McCaffrey, Issa, Doyle**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- WORKERS' COMPENSATION - BENEFITS (employees right to choose an initial treating physician)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Labor

Also:

Senate Bill No. 219**BY** Senators Ruggerio, Goodwin, McCaffrey, Jabour, Maselli**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION -- GENERAL PROVISIONS
(change definition of special employers under workers' compensation)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Labor

Also:

Senate Bill No. 220**BY** Senators Ruggerio, Goodwin, Maselli, Moura, McCaffrey**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION -- BENEFITS (examination
by physician no earlier than 4 month intervals after the injury)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Labor

Also:

Senate Bill No. 221**BY** Senators Ruggerio, Goodwin, Moura, DaPonte, Ciccone**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS (repeal section of
the law relating to continuation of workers' compensation benefits for partial incapacity)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Labor

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 Committee on Finance will meet on Tuesday, February 6, 2007, at the rise of the Senate, in Room 211 of the State House.

Senator Levesque announces that the Committee on Judiciary will meet on Tuesday, February 6, 2007, at 3:30 o'clock P.M. in Room 313 of the State House.

Senator DaPonte announces that the Committee on Rules will meet today, at the rise of the Senate, in Room 211 of the State House.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Senator Ruggerio, seconded by Senator Algiere, and upon suggestion of Senator DaPonte the Senate adjourns at 4:29 o'clock P.M. in memory of Helen A. Sullivan of East Providence.

RAYMOND T. HOYAS, JR.
Secretary of the Senate

Appendix

INVOCATION

SENATOR HANNA M. GALLO

Dear God, we ask that you be with us today in our thoughts and actions as we try to work for the benefit of all our constituents. Amen.

Appendix

CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2007:

1 2007-S 63

BY Algieri

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- GENERAL
POWERS

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends passage.

2 2007-S 92

BY Sosnowski

ENTITLED, AN ACT VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE
CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends passage.

3 2007-S 93

BY Algieri

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- TOWN OF WESTERLY

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends passage.