

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.17

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Seventeenth Legislative Day

The Senate meets pursuant to adjournment and is called to order by the Honorable Joseph A. Montalbano, President of the Senate, at 4:25 o'clock P.M.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 34 Senators present and 4 Senators absent as follows:

PRESENT – 34: The Honorable President Montalbano and Senators Algieri, Bates, Blais, Breene, Ciccone, Connors, Cote, DaPonte, Doyle, Felag, Fogarty, Gallo, Gibbs, Goodwin, Issa, Jabour, Lenihan, Levesque, Maselli, McBurney, McCaffrey, Metts, Miller, Moura, Paiva Weed, Perry, Raptakis, Revens, Ruggerio, Sheehan, Sosnowski, Tassoni, Walaska.

ABSENT – 4: Alves, Badeau, Lanzi, Pichardo.

INVOCATION

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

(See Appendix for Invocation)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

APPROVAL OF RECORD

The Senate Journal of the Fifteenth Legislative Day of the 2007 proceedings is read in part.

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

GUESTS

Upon suggestion of Senator Ciccone and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Cub scout Pack 76, St. Augustine School, Providence, Christopher Balasco, Matthew Bouthillette, Kyle Fanion, Zachary Petrecca, Ethan Stover, Jeffrey Lisi Jr., Stephen Grivers, Patrick Bell, and Christopher Sweeney, along with many of their parents.

Upon suggestion of Senator Gibbs and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Ashley Diniz of Warren, who is a junior attending Salve Regina University.

COMMUNICATION

The Honorable President presents the following communication:

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
STATE HOUSE**

February 28, 2007

Honorable Joseph A. Montalbano
President of the Senate
318 State House
Providence, RI 02903

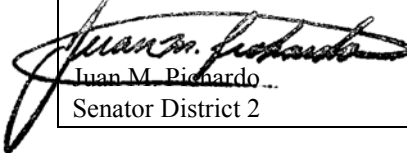
Dear Mr. President:

Please be advised that I will be out the country from February 19th to February 28th 2007, and therefore will be absent from the Senate session on February 27th and 28th, 2007.

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

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,


Juan M. Picardo...
Senator District 2

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

NEW BUSINESS

Senate Bill No. 783

BY Senators Felag, Bates

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES {LC1265/1}

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

House Bill No. 5239

BY Ehrhardt, Carter, Lally

ENTITLED, AN ACT AMENDING CHAPTERS 425 AND 530 OF THE PUBLIC LAWS OF 2006 AND AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF NORTH KINGSTOWN TO FINANCE RENOVATIONS, ALTERATIONS, ADDITIONS AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS AND/OR RELATED EQUIPMENT FOR THE WICKFORD MIDDLE AND THE DAVISVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND TO ISSUE NOT MORE THAN \$20,100,000 BONDS AND NOTES THEREFOR

Senator Sheehan requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Sheehan moves passage, seconded by Senator Lenihan.

The act is read and passed, in concurrence, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote with 33 Senators voting in the affirmative and 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS- 33: The Honorable President Montalbano and Senators Algieri, Bates, Blais, Breene, Ciccone, Connors, Cote, DaPonte, Doyle, Felag, Fogarty, Gallo, Gibbs, Goodwin, Issa, Jabour, Lenihan, Levesque, Maselli, McBurney, McCaffrey, Metts, Miller, Moura, Paiva Weed, Perry, Revens, Ruggerio, Sheehan, Sosnowski, Tassoni, Walaska.

NAYS- 0:

Also:

House Bill No. 5536

BY Ehrhardt, Carter, Lally

ENTITLED, AN ACT CONCERNING TAX RELIEF FOR THE ELDERLY CITIZENS OF NORTH KINGSTOWN {LC2401/1}

Senator Lenihan requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Lenihan moves passage, seconded by Senator Sheehan.

The act is read and passed, in concurrence, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote with 34 Senators voting in the affirmative and 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS- 34: The Honorable President Montalbano and Senators Algieri, Bates, Blais, Breene, Ciccone, Connors, Cote, DaPonte, Doyle, Felag, Fogarty, Gallo, Gibbs, Goodwin, Issa, Jabour, Lenihan, Levesque, Maselli, McBurney, McCaffrey, Metts, Miller, Moura, Paiva Weed, Perry, Raptakis, Revens, Ruggerio, Sheehan, Sosnowski, Tassoni, Walaska.

NAYS- 0:

TRANSMITTAL

By unanimous consent, all matters on the Secretary's desk are ordered to be transmitted to His Excellency, the Honorable Secretary of State the Governor or to the Honorable House of Representatives forthwith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Lenihan announces that the Committee on Government Oversight will meet today, at the rise of the Senate, in Room 313 of the State House.

Senator Sheehan announces that the Committee on Health and Human Services will meet today, at the rise of the Senate, in Room 212 of the State House.

Senator Doyle announces that the Committee on Housing and Municipal Government will meet tomorrow, at the rise of the Senate, in Room 212 of the State House.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Senator DaPonte, seconded by Senator Algieri, the Senate adjourns at 4:32 o'clock P.M.

RAYMOND T. HOYAS, JR.
Secretary of the Senate

Appendix

INVOCATION

SENATOR PAUL V. JABOUR

Almighty God, we ask that you aid us in putting forth our best efforts as leaders of our State, as we attempt to make Rhode Island a better place for our people to live. Amen.

Appendix**CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2007:**

- 1 Appointment of William E. Carnes, Jr. of Pawtucket VICE Associate Justice William Dimitri, Jr. as Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Superior Court.**

Committee on Judiciary recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this appointment.

- 2 2007-S 147 SUB A as amended**

BY Connors

ENTITLED, AN ACT ADOPTING THE RULES OF THE SENATE

Committee on Rules recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A as amended.

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2007:

- 1 2007-H 5143 SUB A**

BY Costantino

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION

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

RAYMOND T. HOYAS, JR.
Secretary of the Senate