

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 first day of January in the year of Our Lord two thousand and eight.

Volume 135, No.24 Wednesday, March 12, 2008 Twenty-fourth Legislative Day

The Senate meets pursuant to adjournment and is called to order by the Honorable John C. Revens, Jr., President Pro Tempore of the Senate, at 4:10 o'clock P.M.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 36 Senators present and 1 Senator absent as follows:

PRESENT – 36: Senators Algieri, Alves, 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 – 1: Senator Montalbano

INVOCATION

The Honorable President Pro Tempore, by unanimous consent, presents Senator Pichardo, to deliver the invocation.

(See Appendix for Invocation)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

APPROVAL OF RECORD

The Senate Journal of the Twenty-third Legislative Day of the 2008 proceedings is read in part.

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

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Senator Alves, from the Committee on Finance, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measures:

Senate Bill No. 2414 as amended

BY Senators Alves, Algieri, Goodwin, Paiva-Weed, Levesque C

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- HEALTH INSURANCE -- COPAYMENTS

(would require health insurance carriers to reimburse hospitals for certain uncollected member copayments and deductibles/It would also place conditions upon the variation of adjusted community rates applied by small employer carriers) {LC1627/1}

Read and ordered to be placed on the Calendar.

Also:

House Bill No. 7007 SUB A

BY Williamson, Serpa

ENTITLED, AN ACT AMENDING THE DISTRESSED AREAS ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION ACT {LC244/1/A}

Read and ordered to be placed on the Calendar.

NEW BUSINESS

Senate Bill No. 2849

BY Senators Montalbano J, Moura, Algieri, Sosnowski, Raptakis

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS (create long-term contracting standards for the development of renewable energy) {LC1688/1}

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Corporations

Also:

Senate Bill No. 2850

BY Senators Montalbano J, Sosnowski, Walaska, Bates, Algieri

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS - PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(require public buildings owned by the state to purchase or generate a sixteen percent (16%) of their electricity from renewable energy resources by January 1, 2020) {LC2464/1}

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Corporations

Also:

Senate Bill No. 2851**BY** Senators Montalbano J, Miller, Algieri, Sosnowski, Raptakis**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD (establish net metering to measure the difference between electricity delivered by an electrical distribution company and electricity generated by a solar or wind net metering facility) {LC2465/1}

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Corporations

Also:

Senate Bill No. 2852**BY** Senators Montalbano J, Algieri, Walaska, Levesque C, Bates**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - RHODE ISLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (develop an organizational structure to provide Rhode Island with the full benefits of cost-effective renewable energy development) {LC2466/1}

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Corporations

Also:

Senate Bill No. 2853**BY** Senators Sosnowski, Paiva-Weed, McCaffrey, Gibbs, Felag**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY (require RI Resources Recovery Corporation to recycle yard waste materials at the highest and best use. It would also ban the disposal of yard waste at the central landfill on January 1, 2009) {LC1861/1}

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture

Also:

Senate Bill No. 2854**BY** Senators Paiva-Weed, Perry, Goodwin, Gibbs, Miller**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN (amend the RIte Track by increasing the qualifying family income levels from 250% to 300% of the federal poverty level/adding to those qualified to receive benefits under the program noncitizen children who are lawfully residing in the US) {LC1662/1}

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance

Also:

Senate Bill No. 2855**BY** Senators Sosnowski, Lenihan, Sheehan, McCaffrey, Raptakis**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION - SEPARATION OF POWERS - COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (change how members to the

Coastal Resource Management Council are appointed to comply with the Separation of Powers Constitutional Amendment)

Read and referred to the Senate Committee on Government Oversight

CONSENT CALENDAR

In order for the day is taken up as follows:

1 2008-S 2847

BY Algieri

ENTITLED, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF
THE CHARTER OF THE NICK VUONO CHARITY FUND, INC.

Upon motion of Senator Paiva Weed, seconded by Senator Algieri, the following measures on today's Consent Calendar, by unanimous consent, are read and passed, upon a roll call vote with 30 Senators voting in the affirmative and 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS- 30: Senators Algieri, Alves, Bates, Blais, Breene, Ciccone, Connors, Cote, Doyle, Felag, Fogarty, Gallo, Gibbs, Issa, Jabour, Lanzi, Lenihan, Levesque, Maselli, McBurney, McCaffrey, Metts, Miller, Paiva Weed, Perry, Raptakis, Ruggerio, Sheehan, Sosnowski, Tassoni.

NAYS- 0:

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 Goodwin announces that the Committee on Constitutional and Regulatory Issues will meet today, at the rise of the Senate, in Room 211 of the State House.

Senator Gallo announces that the Committee on Education will meet today, at the rise of the Senate, in Room 310 of the State House.

Senator Sosnowski announces that the Committee on Environment and Agriculture will meet today, at the rise of the Senate, in the Senate Lounge of the State House.

Senator Felag announces that the Committee on Finance will meet tomorrow, at 3:00 o'clock P.M. in Room 211 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 310 of the State House.

Senator Levesque announces that the Committee on Judiciary will meet tomorrow, at the rise of the Senate, in Room 313 of the State House.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Senator DaPonte, seconded by Senator Algieri, the Senate adjourns at 4:16 o'clock P.M.

GABRIEL REI
Deputy Clerk of the Senate

Appendix

INVOCATION

SENATOR JUAN M. PICHARDO

Lord, with your guidance, may we be kind in our judgments, diligent in our wisdom, and humble in our power. Amen.

Appendix

CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008:

1 2008-S 2414 as amended

BY Alves

**ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- HEALTH INSURANCE
-- COPAYMENTS**

Committee on Finance recommends passage as amended.

2 2008-H 7007 SUB A

BY Williamson

**ENTITLED, AN ACT AMENDING THE DISTRESSED AREAS ECONOMIC
REVITALIZATION ACT**

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

GABRIEL REI
Deputy Clerk of the Senate