

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 sixth day of January in the year of Our Lord two thousand and fifteen.

Volume 142, No.17

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Seventeenth Legislative Day

The Senate meets pursuant to adjournment and is called to order by the Honorable M. Teresa Paiva Weed, President of the Senate, at 4:32 o'clock P.M.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 33 Senators present and 5 Senators absent as follows:

PRESENT – 33: The Honorable President Paiva Weed and Senators Algieri, Archambault, Ciccone, Conley, Cote, Coyne, DaPonte, DiPalma, Doyle, Felag, Fogarty, Gee, Goldin, Goodwin, Jabour, Kettle, Lombardi, Lynch, McCaffrey, Metts, Miller, Morgan, Nesselbush, O'Neill, Ottiano, Picard, Pichardo, Raptakis, Ruggerio, Satchell, Sosnowski, Walaska.

ABSENT – 5: Senators Crowley, Gallo, Lombardo, Pearson, Sheehan.

INVOCATION

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

(See Appendix for Invocation)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

APPROVAL OF RECORD

The Senate Journal's of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Legislative Day's of the 2015 proceedings are read in part.

Upon suggestion of Senator Metts and by unanimous consent, further reading of the Journal's are dispensed with and the Journal approved as recorded.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Honorable President presents the following communications:

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

February 25, 2015

The Honorable M. Teresa Paiva Weed
President of the Senate
State House, Room 318
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Madam President,

Please be advised that I will be unable to attend the Senate Session today, Wednesday, February 25, 2015 due to illness.

Warmest personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

James C. Sheehan
Senator – District 36

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

Also:

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

February 25, 2015

The Honorable M. Teresa Paiva Weed
President of the Senate
318 State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear President Paiva Weed:

Please be advised and let the record reflect that due to family illness, I will be absent from the chamber on Wednesday, February 25, 2015.

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

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Senator Elizabeth A. Crowley
Senate District 16

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

Also:

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

February 25, 2015

The Honorable M. Teresa Paiva Weed
President of the Senate
State House, Room 318
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Madam President,

Please be advised and let the record reflect that I will be absent from the Chamber due to illness.

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

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Warmest personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

Hanna M. Gallo
Senator – District 27

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

Also:

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

February 23, 2015

The Honorable M. Teresa Paiva Weed
President of the Senate
State House, Room 318
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Madam President,

Please be advised and let the record reflect that I will be absent from the Chamber on Wednesday-Thursday, February 25-26, 2015 as I will be out of town.

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

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Warmest personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

Ryan W. Pearson
Senator – District 19

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

NEW BUSINESS

Senate Resolution No. 363

BY Felag, Ottiano, DiPalma, Jabour

ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING AND THANKING KATHRYN E. RYAN FOR HER MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE WITH THE FRIENDS OF TIVERTON LIBRARIES BOARD

{LC1806/1}

Senator Felag requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Felag moves passage, seconded by Senators DiPalma and Ottiano.

The act is read and passed, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote with 31 Senators voting in the affirmative and 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS- 31: The Honorable President Paiva Weed and Senators Algieri, Archambault, Ciccone, Conley, Cote, Coyne, DaPonte, DiPalma, Doyle, Felag, Fogarty, Goldin, Goodwin, Jabour, Kettle, Lombardi, Lynch, McCaffrey, Metts, Miller, Morgan, Nesselbush, O'Neill, Ottiano, Picard, Pichardo, Raptakis, Ruggerio, Satchell, Walaska.

NAYS- 0:

Also:

Senate Resolution No. 364

BY Metts, Paiva Weed, Ruggerio, Algieri, Pichardo

ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY AS "BLACK HISTORY MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

{LC1925/1}

Senator Metts requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Metts moves passage, seconded by Senators Algieri, Archambault, Ciccone, Conley, Cote, Coyne, DaPonte, DiPalma, Doyle, Felag, Fogarty, Gee, Goldin, Goodwin, Jabour, Kettle, Lombardi, Lynch, McCaffrey, Metts, Miller, Morgan, Nesselbush, O'Neill, Ottiano, Picard, Pichardo, Raptakis, Ruggerio, Satchell, Sosnowski and Walaska.

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

Also:

Senate Bill No. 365

BY Fogarty

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS --

EXCAVATION NEAR UNDERGROUND UTILITY FACILITIES -- COSTS (Provides all costs incurred by municipal corporations associated with temporary permanent relocation of utility infrastructure such as public utility poles during public works projects within municipal rights-of-way would be borne by the public utility.)

{LC1707/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Commerce.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 366

BY Picard

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND SUPERINTENDENTS (Provide for the establishment of a virtual education plan by school districts with the approval and consent of the commissioner of elementary and secondary education.)

{LC1543/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Education.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 367

BY Sosnowski, Goldin, Ottiano, Nesselbush, Satchell

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS (Prohibits unhealthy food and beverage school advertising in schools and certain corporate incentive/promotional programs.)

{LC1287/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Education.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 368

BY Sosnowski

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION - PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM PROTECTION (Makes a number of changes in the procedure for the remittance and disbursement of water charges.)

{LC1383/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Environment and Agriculture.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 369

BY Sosnowski, Conley, Goldin

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THE RHODE ISLAND CESSPOOL ACT OF 2007 (Amend the Rhode Island cesspool act of 2007 by phasing out cesspools.)

{LC1666/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Environment and Agriculture.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 370

BY Pichardo, Jabour, Metts

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- BUSINESS TAX CREDIT (Creates a tax credit for businesses that provide English language classes for its non-English speaking employees.) {LC1691/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Finance.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 371

BY Ciccone, Lombardi, Walaska, Felag

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- MERIT SYSTEM (Restores longevity payments of five percent (5%) of base salary for employees after ten (10) years of service and increases to ten percent (10%) of base salary after twenty (20) years of service.)

{LC1407/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Finance.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 372

BY Ciccone, Lombardi, Archambault, DiPalma, DaPonte

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- MEDICARE EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREES (Reverts back from the most recent changes in the general laws concerning the method process for which the state pays for medical coverage for Medicare-eligible state and teacher retirees.)

{LC1060/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Finance.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 373

BY Felag, Ciccone, Walaska

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- DRY DOCK FACILITIES (Expands the means by which marine facility operators may achieve service of written notice of liens on vessels, would permit a facility operator to bid at any subsequent sale, and would provide for the issuance of new title.)

{LC1578/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Resolution No. 374

BY Pichardo, Jabour, Metts

ENTITLED, JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$140,000 TO URBAN VENTURES (Appropriates one hundred forty thousand dollars (\$140,000) to Rhode Island Commerce Corporation to be granted to Urban Ventures to implement activities assisting small businesses within the state.)

{LC1690/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Finance.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 375**BY** Pichardo, Metts

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAM (Establishes tobacco control program and raises taxes imposed on cigarettes.)
{LC1394/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Finance.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 376**BY** Fogarty, Satchell, DiPalma, Goldin, Coyne

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION - RENEWABLE ENERGY TAX CREDIT (Provides for a residential renewable energy systems tax credit.)
{LC1713/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Finance.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 377**BY** Goldin, Miller, Crowley, Metts, Pichardo

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION--SALES AND USE TAXES -- LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (Imposes a 10% supplemental firearms ammunition tax upon the sale of firearms and ammunitions, with the funds collected from tax to be distributed to municipal police departments.)
{LC657/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Finance.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 378**BY** Paiva Weed, Goodwin, Miller, Lynch, Ottiano

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - RHODE ISLAND FAMILY HOME VISITING ACT (Establishes "The Rhode Island Family Home Visiting Act.")
{LC1619/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Also:

Senate Resolution No. 379**BY** Sosnowski, Nesselbush, Miller, Algieri, Satchell

ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO ADVOCATE FOR RESTORING FUNDING FOR NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY
{LC1841/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 380

BY Walaska, Morgan, Ruggerio

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - GENERATION - TRANSPORTATION - STORAGE - TREATMENT - MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE (Requires hospitals and pharmacies to provide sharps containers for public use.)

{LC1542/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 381

BY Miller, Goldin

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION - IMMUNIZATIONS (Removes the religious beliefs exemption from the requirement that all pupils in a public or private school in this state be immunized and/or tested for communicable diseases.)

{LC1395/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 382

BY Goldin, Ottiano, Nesselbush, Miller

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN NETWORK ACCESS AND ADEQUACY ACT (Establishes criteria by which the office of the health insurance commissioner shall review and regulate the adequacy of health plan networks.)

{LC1300/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 383

BY Fogarty, Cote, Nesselbush

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (Increases from three (3) to six (6) years the interval of time within which a city or town must conduct an update of its last real property revaluation.)

{LC1711/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Housing and Municipal Government.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 384**BY** DaPonte, Walaska, Goldin, Coyne, DiPalma**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- RHODE ISLAND CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES REPORTING (Candidates for state and local office from qualifying to run for office if they have outstanding campaign reports or fines. It would clarify filing requirements and improve campaign compliance reporting.)

{LC1810/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 385**BY** Fogarty**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROBATE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE - UNCLAIMED INTANGIBLE AND TANGIBLE PROPERTY (Allows law enforcement agencies to keep the proceeds from confiscated property for law enforcement purposes.)

{LC1708/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 386**BY** Fogarty**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- ARREST (Adds juvenile program workers and shift coordinators of the department of children, youth, and families to the definition of peace officer.)

{LC1712/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 387**BY** Pichardo, Jabour, Metts**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE IN CRIME FIGHTING (Prohibits law enforcement or other state or local agency from inquiring into a complainant's or witness's immigration status if such person is the complaining party or witness to a violation of state or local law.)

{LC1689/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 388**BY** Morgan, Kettle**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- POLL OPENING TIMES (Removes the exemption that the town of Richmond had received, which allowed its polls to open at 9 a.m., rather than 7 a.m., for special and primary elections.)

{LC1551/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 389

BY Goldin, Metts, Pichardo, Conley, Jabour

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - SENTENCING TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT PAROLE (Prohibits the imposition of life without parole to persons under the age of eighteen (18) at the time an offense is committed.)
{LC1565/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 390

BY Pichardo, Jabour, Metts, Goldin, Nesselbush

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - WRONGFUL ARREST - MISTAKEN IDENTITY (Requires the sealing and destruction of all arrest records and indices of arrest for those persons who are wrongfully arrested or detained by any law enforcement agency.)
{LC1699/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 391

BY Ciccone, Nesselbush, Pichardo, DaPonte

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' LICENSES (Allows the DMV to issue driving privilege licenses and permits to applicants unable to establish lawful presence in the U.S. and they can't be used for identification purposes.)
{LC1550/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 392

BY Fogarty, Ottiano, Satchell, Doyle

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES - RETIREMENT SYSTEM - CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS (Allows retired state employee nurses to work as professors in the nursing program at a state college. It would allow them to work seventy-five (75) days or one hundred fifty (150) half days before their pension payments would be suspended.)

{LC1790/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Labor.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 393**BY** Sosnowski, Jabour, Felag, McCaffrey, Algieri**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY - JOINT COMMITTEE ON NAMING NEW BUILDINGS (Names the new center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences at the University of Rhode Island the "The Richard E. Beupre Center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences.")

{LC1554/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 394**BY** Sosnowski, Jabour, Walaska, McCaffrey, Algieri**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY - RENAMING THE INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING PROGRAM HOUSE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND (Names the International Engineering Program House located at the University of Rhode Island, the "John Grandin IEP House.")

{LC1555/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs.

Also:

Senate Resolution No. 395**BY** Sosnowski**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING KENNETH J. BURKE UPON ACHIEVING THE PROVIDENCE ENGINEERING SOCIETY'S 2015 HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

{LC1838/1}

Read and ordered to be placed on the Consent Calendar.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 396**BY** Lynch, Pichardo, Metts, Pearson**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS- MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (Provides that any minority business enterprise that is certified by the Small Business Act shall be deemed certified by the department of administration as a minority business enterprise.) {LC1535/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Commerce.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 397**BY** Sosnowski**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND REGULATORY REFORM ACT (Sets forth specific responsibilities of the director of the office of regulatory reform and would mandate that every city and town designate, in writing, a regulatory liaison with the office.) {LC1926/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Commerce.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 398

BY Archambault, Jabour, Lombardi, Conley, Raptakis

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - MOTOR VEHICLE REPARATIONS ACT (Creates a rebuttable presumption of vehicle owner's knowledge that a vehicle did not comply with financial security requirements.)

{LC1031/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Commerce.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 399

BY Metts, Ruggerio, DaPonte, Pichardo, Jabour

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - REGULATORY POWERS OF ADMINISTRATION (Prohibits utility rate increases in excess of two and one-half percent (2.5%) over any twenty-four (24) month period.)

{LC1574/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Commerce.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 400

BY Jabour, Metts, Lombardi, Archambault, Pichardo

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION - PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATION TAX (Excludes from the calculation of gross receipt taxes for public service corporations, the energy charge that exceeds the standard rate offer in effect on December 31, 2014.)

{LC1675/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Commerce.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 401

BY O'Neill, Satchell, Metts, Nesselbush, Kettle

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION - CURRICULUM (Requires the department of elementary and secondary education, pursuant to rules promulgated by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, to develop curricular material on financial literacy.)

{LC1427/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Education.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 402**BY** Satchell, Metts, Picard, Conley, Goldin**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- PROTECTING STUDENT PRIVACY ON SCHOOL-OWNED TECHNOLOGY (Establishes certain student privacy rights in regard to take-home technology devices from school.)

{LC1454/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Education.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 403**BY** Pichardo, Satchell, Metts, Nesselbush, Lynch**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION - CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS (Allows those with 2 or more years of college education to serve as substitute teachers in their field for no more than 40 days in any one assignment in a school year.)

{LC1610/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Education.

Also:

Senate Resolution No. 404**BY** Pichardo, Jabour, Metts, Nesselbush, DaPonte**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION CREATING "THE OCEAN STATE WORLD LANGUAGE LEARNING COMMISSION" TO STUDY THE IMPACT OF THE STATE'S SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA ON LANGUAGE LEARNERS (Creates a 19 member commission known as "The Ocean State World Language Learning Commission" to study the impact of the state funding formula on language learners, and who would report back by January 28, 2016, and expire on March 25, 2016.)

{LC1389/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Education.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 405**BY** Fogarty, Satchell, Ottiano, Nesselbush, McCaffrey**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (Creates a new position in the fish and wildlife division of DEM and place oversight of freshwater lakes, streams and ponds in that position within the division of fish and wildlife.)

{LC1716/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Environment and Agriculture.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 406**BY** DiPalma, DaPonte, Coyne, Archambault, Kettle**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT (Increases to 15 the membership of the Rhode Island Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council.)
{LC1749/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Environment and Agriculture.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 407

(by request)

BY Algieri, Morgan**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- RESIDENTIAL MINING SAFETY (Directs the department of environmental management and the state fire marshal to regulate mining and blasting near residential areas and schools.)
{LC359/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Environment and Agriculture.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 408**BY** Sosnowski**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION - DRINKING WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM PROTECTION (Classifies the two (2) types of water quality protection funds and provide for the administration of the funds deposited therein.)
{LC1384/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Environment and Agriculture.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 409**BY** Sosnowski, Conley, Walaska, Jabour, DiPalma**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (Grants PUC authority to consider all utility profit in broader review to determine gas/electric utility rate of return (profit) and caps performance based profits.)
{LC1511/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Environment and Agriculture.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 410**BY** Sosnowski, Conley, Walaska, Fogarty**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- RHODE ISLAND ENERGY RESOURCES ACT (Requires office energy resources to assemble task forces to report on development of alternative fuel markets/least cost procurement for delivered fuels with recommendations to the governor by January 31, 2016.) {LC1673/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Environment and Agriculture.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 411

BY Jabour, Lombardi, Archambault, DiPalma, McCaffrey

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS -- CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (Adds hoarding of animals to the list of cruelty to animal offenses. This act would take effect upon passage.) {LC1541/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Environment and Agriculture.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 412

BY Jabour, Lombardi, Archambault, McCaffrey

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY- NUMBER OF CATS ALLOWED (Limits the number of cats per household to ten (10) without special permission.) {LC1588/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Environment and Agriculture.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 413

BY Kettle, Ottiano, Algieri, Gee, Morgan

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- ABLE ACCOUNTS (Establishes private savings (ABLE) account for qualifying disabled persons wherein monies grow tax free and used for qualifying expenses per Section 529A of Internal Revenue Service Code.) {LC1466/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Finance.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 414

BY Pichardo, Goldin, Metts, Goodwin, Ottiano

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION - CIGARETTE TAX (Expands the definition of cigarettes for tax purposes to cover any roll of tobacco including "little cigars" and snuff products.) {LC1760/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Finance.

Also:

Senate Resolution No. 415

BY DiPalma, Ottiano, DaPonte, Miller, Felag

ENTITLED, JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY MOTOR FUEL TAX (Creates an 8 member commission whose purpose is to study and make recommendations on the elimination of the motor fuel tax, and who would report back to the general assembly no later than March 1, 2016, and whose life would expire on May 1, 2016.) {LC1815/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Finance.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 416

BY Sosnowski, Walaska, Coyne, McCaffrey, Gee

ENTITLED, AN ACT WATERS AND NAVIGATION - COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL - THE RHODE ISLAND LOCAL AGRICULTURE AND SEAFOOD ACT (Establishes a dedicated funding stream for the "Local Agriculture and Seafood Grants Program", and expands the program to include support to the fishing community to fully participate in the development of fisheries management policies and regulations.)

{LC1302/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Finance.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 417

BY Felag, Miller, Goldin, Sosnowski, Goodwin

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- CARBON PRICING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT ACT OF 2015 (Imposes an excise tax on all fossil fuels entering the state for the purpose of funding a "clean energy fund.")

{LC1285/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Finance.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 418

BY Ottiano, Felag, Jabour, Lynch, DiPalma

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (Exempts purple heart recipients and honorably discharged veterans who were engaged in active combat or fighting in any war or armed conflict from paying user fees at any state beaches, parks, and recreational areas.)

{LC1686/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Finance.

Also:

Senate Resolution No. 419

BY Miller

ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO EXAMINE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING THE CARE OF POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION

{LC1872/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 420**BY** McCaffrey, Pichardo, Goldin, Felag, Walaska**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - LICENSING OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES (Limits the compensation paid to certain employees of health care facilities to an amount determined by the director to represent an average compensation level for their respective positions.)

{LC1163/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 421**BY** Doyle, Fogarty, Nesselbush, Lynch**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE - ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES (Requires all health insurance contracts, plans, or policies to provide coverage for the services of clinical pharmacist practitioners.)

{LC1241/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 422

(by request)

BY Ottiano**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO UTILIZATION REVIEW - TRANSPARENCY IN PROSPECTIVE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (Requires transparency in the criteria used by utilization review agents.)

{LC1455/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 423**BY** Ottiano, Miller, Nesselbush, Satchell**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS - THE INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT (Establishes Rhode Island's membership in the interstate medical licensure compact. It details the procedure to be followed in order to allow physicians to become licensed in multiple states, while ensuring the safety of patients.)

{LC1397/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 424**BY** Ottiano, Goodwin, Felag, DiPalma**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - LEAD HAZARD MITIGATION (Makes a change in the definition of housing presumed to be in compliance with lead-safe laws.)

{LC1362/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 425

(by request)

BY Algieri, Morgan**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- GENERAL POWERS (Authorizes the town of Charlestown to regulate excavation and extraction activity within the town.)

{LC1860/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Housing and Municipal Government.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 426**BY** Sosnowski, Conley, Walaska, Ottiano, Archambault**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES (Requires municipalities to include in their comprehensive plans a process to permit accessory agriculture operations.)

{LC1750/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Housing and Municipal Government.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 427**BY** Felag, Walaska**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION - LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (Clarifies Warren need not perform update until 2019, and every three years thereafter until revaluation in 2025.)

{LC1916/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Housing and Municipal Government.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 428**BY** Ciccone, Felag, Lombardi, Jabour, Doyle**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY - RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT (Requires full payment for all back rent upon stay of execution in landlord/tenant action and establishes rights relating to removal of tenant's personal property when execution is obtained by default.) {LC1424/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 429

BY Felag

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS - GENERAL STATE OFFICERS (Enables the general assembly in grand committee to fill a vacancy in the office of the lieutenant governor.)
{LC1571/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 430

BY Ciccone, Felag, Lombardi, Jabour, Doyle

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT (Sets forth a process for tenants to retrieve their abandoned personal property from former dwelling units and the placement in storage of a tenant's personal property.)
{LC1456/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 431

BY Nesselbush, Ciccone

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES - EXPLOSIVES AND FIREWORKS; HEALTH AND SAFETY - FIREWORKS AND PYROTECHNICS (Amends and repeals certain provisions of the Rhode Island general laws so as to prohibit the sale of consumer fireworks to the general public.) {LC1544/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 432

BY Archambault, Lombardi, Metts, McCaffrey, Jabour

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - EXPUNGEMENT OF CRIMINAL RECORDS (Excludes certain offenses from the expungement statute allows non first time offenders to apply for a hearing to seek expungement.) {LC490/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 433

BY Goldin, Ottiano, Nesselbush

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS - BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND DISCIPLINE (Renders restrictive covenants in employment agreements with physicians void and unenforceable.)
{LC1876/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 434

BY Pichardo, Jabour, Goldin, Metts, Nesselbush

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - RESIDENT DRIVER AUTHORIZATION (Allows for the issuance of a special driver's license to persons unable to provide a social security number or other information.)

{LC1098/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 435

BY Felag

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES - CITY HOUSING AUTHORITIES (Requires prospective elderly tenants for federally subsidized housing get a FBI criminal records check.)

{LC1680/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Resolution No. 436

BY Morgan, Kettle, Gee, Lombardi, O'Neill

ENTITLED, JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE, PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS--A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (MAJORITY VOTE REQUIREMENT THROUGH INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING FOR GENERAL OFFICERS' ELECTION) (Proposed constitutional amendment that would require all winning candidates for general office and general assembly elections receive a majority of the votes, with an instant runoff voting system if no initial majority of votes is received.)

{LC1620/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 437

BY Jabour, Lombardi, Archambault, McCaffrey

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY (Prohibits a landlord at the commencement of a tenancy, to charge a prospective tenant more than one month's rent and a security deposit equal to two (2) months' rent.)

{LC1590/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 438**BY** Morgan, Kettle, Gee, Lombardi, Raptakis**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ACT -- DRUG TESTING (This act would authorize random drug screening as a condition for continued public assistance, and would provide a mechanism for re-testing those who fail the test.)
{LC1685/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 439**BY** Morgan, Kettle, Algieri, Raptakis, Nesselbush**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT (Increases the assessment collected from persons convicted of or placed on probation for domestic violence from one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) to two hundred twenty-five (\$225) dollars.) {LC1460/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 440**BY** Jabour, Metts, Pichardo, Lombardi, Archambault**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY - RESIDENTIAL SECURITY DEPOSITS (Allows landlords to withhold from a security deposit paid by a vacating tenant, reasonable cleaning and trash disposal expenses they have incurred.)
{LC1589/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 441**BY** Ruggerio, Miller, Goodwin, Goldin, Jabour**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - ELECTRONIC MARIJUANA-DELIVERY SYSTEMS (Defines and regulates the use of electronic marijuana delivery system products.) {LC989/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 442**BY** Archambault, Jabour, Lombardi, Raptakis, Conley**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MOTOR VEHICLE REPARATIONS ACT (Enhances the penalties for driving a motor vehicle without proof of financial responsibility.)
{LC1030/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 443

BY Jabour, Lombardi, Archambault, McCaffrey

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY - FORM OF CONVEYANCES (Takes effect upon passage and would apply to all deeds with the words "special warranty" in their title, and/or the words "special warranty covenants" in the body thereof.)

{LC1584/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 444

BY Jabour, Lombardi, Archambault

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- FORM AND EFFECT OF CONVEYANCES (Validates the conveyance of real estate interests where the instrument of conveyance contains a minor defect.)

{LC1586/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Judiciary.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 445

BY Fogarty, Ciccone, Lombardi, Satchell

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES - INJURED AIRPORT FIREFIGHTERS (Entitles airport corporation rescue and firefighters to obtain injured in the line of duty benefits, if so qualified and would include injuries sustained while performing services for the executive military staff.)

{LC1714/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Labor.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 446

BY McCaffrey, Ciccone, Satchell, Jabour

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- ARBITRATION -- CONTINUANCE OF CONTRACTUAL PROVISIONS (Requires that the contractual provisions contained in a collective bargaining agreement with certified school teachers and municipal employees would continue until a successor agreement has been reached between the parties.)

{LC1332/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Labor.

Also:

Senate Resolution No. 447**BY** Fogarty, Lynch, Ottiano

ENTITLED, JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (GENERAL ASSEMBLY) (Presents to the electors a Rhode Island Constitutional Amendment requiring all senators, representatives and general officers to contribute twenty percent (20%) of their health insurance premiums.) {LC1718/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 448**BY** Sosnowski

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - STATE EMBLEMS (Designates the American burying beetle to be the official state insect.) {LC1804/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 449**BY** Jabour, Sosnowski

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES (Permits the division of motor vehicles to create a special registration plate for state public colleges and universities.) {LC1581/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 450**BY** Felag, Doyle, Walaska, Jabour, Lombardi

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES (Permits the division of motor vehicles to create a special registration plate for private colleges and universities within the state.) {LC1825/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 451**BY** Pichardo, Jabour, Metts, Lynch, Satchell

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES--SPECIAL PLATE FOR LUPUS FOUNDATION NEW ENGLAND (Authorizes the issuance of a special license plate for Lupus Foundation New England.) {LC1683/1}

Read and ordered to the Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs.

Also:

Senate Bill No. 452

BY Metts

ENTITLED, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER OF NEWBELL, INC.

{LC1857/1}

Read and ordered to be placed on the Consent Calendar.

CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015:

1. 2015-S 150

BY Lynch

ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE RULES OF THE SENATE

Committee on Rules recommends passage.

Senator Lynch moves passage, seconded by Senators Lombardi, Goodwin and McCaffrey.

Senator Lynch seconded by Senators Doyle, Lombardi and Algieri, offers the following written motion to amend.

FLOOR AMENDMENT

TO

2015 -- S 0150

SENATE RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE RULES OF THE SENATE

Madam President:

I hereby move to amend 2015 -- S 0150, entitled "SENATE RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE RULES OF THE SENATE", as follows:

1. On page 6, line 33, by deleting the language "Except by majority vote, no".
2. On page 6, line 33, by reinstating the deleted language "No".

Respectfully submitted,
SENATOR LYNCH

The motion to amend prevails 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 Paiva Weed and Senators Algieri, Archambault, Bates, Ciccone, Conley, Cool Rumsey, Cote, DaPonte, DiPalma, Doyle, Felag, Fogarty, Goldin, Goodwin, Hodgson, Jabour, Kettle, Lombardi, Lynch, McCaffrey, Metts, Miller, Nesselbush, O'Neill, Ottiano, Picard, Pichardo, Raptakis, Ruggerio, Satchell, Sosnowski, Walaska.

NAYS- 0:

Senator Lynch moves passage of the act, as amended, seconded by Senators Algieri and Ruggerio.

The act is read and passed, by unanimous consent, as amended, 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 Paiva Weed and Senators Algieri, Archambault, Bates, Ciccone, Conley, Cool Rumsey, Cote, DaPonte, DiPalma, Doyle, Felag, Fogarty, Goldin, Goodwin, Hodgson, Jabour, Kettle, Lombardi, Lynch, McCaffrey, Metts, Miller, Nesselbush, O'Neill, Ottiano, Picard, Pichardo, Raptakis, Ruggerio, Satchell, Sosnowski, Walaska.

NAYS- 0:

2. 2015-S 37

BY Raptakis

ENTITLED, AN ACT IN AMENDMENT OF AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE HOPKINS HILL ROAD FIRE DISTRICT

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends passage.

Senator Raptakis moves passage, seconded by Senator Kettle.

The act is read and passed, 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 Paiva Weed and Senators Algieri, Archambault, Bates, Ciccone, Conley, Cool Rumsey, Cote, DaPonte, DiPalma, Doyle, Felag, Fogarty, Goldin, Goodwin, Hodgson, Jabour, Kettle, Lombardi, Lynch, McCaffrey, Metts, Miller, Nesselbush, O'Neill, Ottiano, Picard, Pichardo, Raptakis, Ruggerio, Satchell, Sosnowski, Walaska.

NAYS- 0:

3. 2015-S 38

BY Kettle

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO THE TOWN OF COVENTRY

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends passage.

Senator Kettle moves passage, seconded by Senator Raptakis.

The act is read and passed, 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 Paiva Weed and Senators Algieri, Archambault, Bates, Ciccone, Conley, Cool Rumsey, Cote, DaPonte, DiPalma, Doyle, Felag, Fogarty, Goldin, Goodwin, Hodgson, Jabour, Kettle, Lombardi, Lynch, McCaffrey, Metts, Miller, Nesselbush, O'Neill, Ottiano, Picard, Pichardo, Raptakis, Ruggerio, Satchell, Sosnowski, Walaska.

NAYS- 0:

4. 2015-S 96

BY Sheehan

ENTITLED, AN ACT VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF NORTH KINGSTOWN

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends passage.

Senator Pichardo moves passage, seconded by Senator Sosnowski.

The act is read and passed, 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 Paiva Weed and Senators Algieri, Archambault, Bates, Ciccone, Conley, Cool Rumsey, Cote, DaPonte, DiPalma, Doyle, Felag, Fogarty, Goldin, Goodwin, Hodgson, Jabour, Kettle, Lombardi, Lynch, McCaffrey, Metts, Miller, Nesselbush, O'Neill, Ottiano, Picard, Pichardo, Raptakis, Ruggerio, Satchell, Sosnowski, Walaska.

NAYS- 0:

5. 2015-S 98

BY Morgan

ENTITLED, AN ACT VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF RICHMOND

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends passage.

Senator Morgan moves passage, seconded by Senator Sosnowski.

The act is read and passed, 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 Paiva Weed and Senators Algieri, Archambault, Bates, Ciccone, Conley, Cool Rumsey, Cote, DaPonte, DiPalma, Doyle, Felag, Fogarty, Goldin, Goodwin, Hodgson, Jabour, Kettle, Lombardi, Lynch, McCaffrey, Metts, Miller, Nesselbush, O'Neill, Ottiano, Picard, Pichardo, Raptakis, Ruggerio, Satchell, Sosnowski, Walaska.

NAYS- 0:

6. 2015-S 171**BY** Coyne**ENTITLED**, AN ACT VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF BARRINGTON

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends passage.

Senator Coyne moves passage, seconded by Senators Archambault, Felag and Cote.

The act is read and passed, 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 Paiva Weed and Senators Algieri, Archambault, Bates, Ciccone, Conley, Cool Rumsey, Cote, DaPonte, DiPalma, Doyle, Felag, Fogarty, Goldin, Goodwin, Hodgson, Jabour, Kettle, Lombardi, Lynch, McCaffrey, Metts, Miller, Nesselbush, O'Neill, Ottiano, Picard, Pichardo, Raptakis, Ruggerio, Satchell, Sosnowski, Walaska.

NAYS- 0:

TRANSMITTAL

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

(See Appendix for List)

GUESTS

Upon suggestion of Senator O'Neill and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Joanne Forti, Mentor and Advisor, Unity Ball, Cassandra Cavallaro, Co-Chair, Unity Ball and Megan Lefebure, Co-Chair, Unity Ball.

Upon suggestion of Senator Metts and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Cheryl Burrell, Associate Director at the Office of Diversity Equality and Opportunity, Michelle L. Walker, South Side Community Land Trust, Aretha Gibbs, Community Advocate and Tom Whitten.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Cote announces that the Chamber of Commerce will meet tomorrow, at the rise of the Senate, in the Bell Area of the State House.

Senator Nesselbush announces that the Committee on Health and Human Services will meet tomorrow, 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 Ruggerio wishes Senator DaPonte a belated Happy Birthday.

Senator Ruggerio wishes Senator Doyle a belated Happy Birthday.

Senator Ruggerio wishes Senator Ottiano a belated Happy Birthday.

Senator Ruggerio wishes Senator Felag a belated Happy Birthday.

Senator Ruggerio wishes the Senate Director of Communications Greg Pare a Happy Birthday today.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Senator Goodwin seconded by Senator Algieri the Senate adjourns at 4:52 o'clock P.M.

JOSEPH R. BRADY
Secretary of the Senate

Appendix**INVOCATION****SENATOR HAROLD M. METTS**

Dear Lord, In this age of conflict, bind us together with cords of love that cannot be broken. Help us to remember you love for us; the love we have for you; and the love we are to have for each other. Your love will help us to embrace righteousness and diversity. Your love will increase our awareness and make us more accepting of the contributions made by all groups that were already here, or brought to these shores willingly or unwillingly, that made our state and nation great. Lord, help us to develop a deeper appreciation for each other. Lord help us to live up to the ideals espoused in our sacred documents. And help us to fully understand Psalm 133:1 that reads, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." This we pray in Jesus Name! Amen.

Appendix**CONSENT CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015:****1. 2015-H 5198****BY** Kennedy**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND TAIWAN, ENHANCING BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS, AND SUPPORTING TAIWAN IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

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

2. 2015-S 395**BY** Sosnowski**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING KENNETH J. BURKE UPON ACHIEVING THE PROVIDENCE ENGINEERING SOCIETY'S 2015 HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

3. 2015-S 452**BY** Metts**ENTITLED**, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER OF NEWBELL, INC.

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

6th Annual Joint Legislative Black History Month Heritage Celebration

Words of Welcome	The Honorable Harold M. Metts
Invocation	The Reverend Dr. Janice Byers Kingdom Seekers Fellowship International
National Anthem	Belinda L. Philippe, Soloist Urban League of Rhode Island
Introduction of the Black & Latino Caucus Members	Representative Anastasia D. Williams
Welcome Remarks	Her Excellency Gina M. Raimondo Governor
African-American National Anthem	"Lift Every Voice and Sing" Cheryl Albright American Cancer Society, Inc.
Introduction of Speaker	The Honorable Juan M. Pichardo
Poetic Reading	Sarah Ashley Christian Spoken Word/Artist/Actress, Teacher
Guest Keynote Speaker	Dr. Warren Simmons Annenberg Institute for School Reform (AISR) at Brown University
Song Selection	Thomas P. Whitten (Retired) John Hope Settlement House
Benediction	The Reverend Dr. Janice Byers
Closing Music Selection	"We Shall Overcome"

Refreshments will follow in the Senate Lounge