

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

Volume 149, No. 1

Tuesday, January 4, 2022

First Legislative Day

The Senate meets pursuant to adjournment and is called to order by the Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio, President of the Senate, at 5:41 o'clock P.M.

ROLL CALL

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 30 Senators present and 8 Senators absent as follows:

PRESENT – 30: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Anderson, Archambault, Burke, Calkin, Coyne, de la Cruz, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goodwin, Kallman, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McCaffrey, Mendes, Miller, Murray, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Seveney, Sosnowski, Valverde, Zurier.

ABSENT – 8: Senators Algieri, Bell, Cano, Ciccone, Lombardo, Morgan, Paolino, Rogers.

INVOCATION

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

(See Appendix for Invocation)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Honorable President of the Senate presents the following communications:

SENATOR SANDRA CANO District 8 302 Pullen Avenue Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02861 Room 209 Rhode Island State House Providence, Rhode Island 02903 RESIDENCE: 401-228-4557 OFFICE: 401-276-5561 FAX: 401-222-4263 sen-cano@rilegislature.gov	State of Rhode Island  Senate Chamber	CHAIRWOMAN Committee on Education Committee on Finance
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January 4, 2022

The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio
President of the Senate
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street, 3rd Floor, Room 318
Providence, RI 02903

Dear President Ruggerio:

Please be advised and let the record reflect that I will be absent from the Chamber Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

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

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Sandra C. Cano
Senator District #8

SC/nc

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

SENATOR
FRANK LOMBARDO, III
District 25

10 Anson Brown Road
Johnston, Rhode Island 02919

Room 318
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RESIDENCE: 401-270-1379
OFFICE: 401-276-5599
FAX: 401-222-2967

sen-lombardo@rilegislature.gov

State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

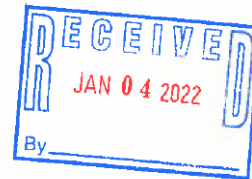
CHAIRPERSON
Committee on
Housing & Municipal Government

Committee on
Labor

Committee on
Commerce

Committee on Rules,
Government Ethics & Oversight

January 4, 2022



The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio
President of the Senate
Room 318, State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Mr. President:

Please be advised and let the record reflect that I will be absent from the Chamber on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

I would appreciate your recording my letter in the appropriate Senate Journal. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

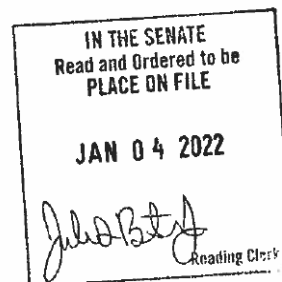
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Lombardo, III".

Frank Lombardo, III
Senator – District 25

FL/tm

cc: John Fleming, Jr., Secretary of the Senate



Read and ordered to be placed on file.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S OPENING DAY ADDRESS

(See Appendix for Senate President's Opening Day Address)

NEW BUSINESS**Senate Bill No. 2005****BY** Gallo

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES (Allows Dr. Ryan Matthew Marnane to join Jessica St. John and Matthew DiCristofaro in marriage on or about January 15, 2022, within the Town of Middletown, Rhode Island.)
{LC3250/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Gallo requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Gallo moves passage, seconded by Senators McCaffrey, Goodwin and Felag.

The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 30 members voting in the affirmative, 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS – 30: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Anderson, Archambault, Burke, Calkin, Coyne, de la Cruz, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goodwin, Kallman, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McCaffrey, Mendes, Miller, Murray, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Seveney, Sosnowski, Valverde, Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

Senate Bill No. 2006**BY** Ciccone, Cano, Goodwin, Acosta, Zurier, Anderson, Calkin, Mack, Lawson, DiMario

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' LICENSE -- SAFE ROADS AND MANDATORY INSURANCE (Requires an applicant for a license to provide a valid social security number. This act creates an alternative ID driving license for applicants without a social security number who are able to establish proof of Rhode Island residency.)
{LC3513/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 2007

BY Euer, Coyne, Quezada, McCaffrey, Goodwin, Sosnowski, Miller, Archambault, Pearson, Gallo

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- SECRETARY OF STATE -- LET RI VOTE ACT (Allows voting by mail without needing an excuse/improves voter roll cleanup/allows applying for mail ballots through online system/allows nursing home residents to receive mail ballot applications automatically/codifies mail ballot drop box requirements.)
{LC3182/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 2008

BY Kallman, Euer, Valverde, Lawson, DiMario, DiPalma, Zurier

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES (Increases the per-unit fee for affordable single family homes to seventy five thousand dollars (\$75,000) and allow municipalities to transfer in-lieu payments upon receipt or within ten (10) years.)
{LC3214/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 2009

BY Kallman, Murray, Euer, Valverde, Sosnowski, Lawson, DiMario, DiPalma, Zurier

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME HOUSING (Provides for increases in the amount of foundation level school support that a community would receive, based upon a community's ability to meet and surpass its minimum low- and moderate-income housing requirements.)
{LC3216/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 2010

BY Raptakis, Lombardi, Sosnowski, Anderson, Ciccone, DiMario, Burke

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES
{LC3337/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 2011**BY** Raptakis, Lombardi, Sosnowski, Anderson, Ciccone, DiMario, Burke**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSES -- VIOLATIONS

{LC3334/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 2012**BY** Raptakis, Lombardi, Sosnowski, Anderson, DiMario, Burke**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES (Extends the "lookback" period for repeat offenses involving driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs under § 31-27-2 and for repeat offenses related to failure or refusal to submit to chemical tests under § 31-27-2.1 from 5 years to 10 years.)

{LC3332/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 2013**BY** Kallman, Acosta, Anderson, Quezada, Euer, Valverde, Sosnowski, Lawson, DiMario, DiPalma**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Requires cities and towns to implement affordable housing requirements upon all developers of tax stabilization applications for developments of more than five (5) housing units based upon median income as defined by HUD.)

{LC3220/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 2014**BY** Kallman, DiMario, Murray, Valverde, Ruggerio, Burke, Ciccone, DiPalma, Euer, Miller**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCE -- RHODE ISLAND SECURE CHOICE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PROGRAM ACT (Establishes the Rhode Island secure choice retirement savings program as a public corporation managing IRA-type investments. Requires employers to offer the program to employees or be subject to a \$250 penalty per employee.)

{LC3217/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

Senate Bill No. 2015

BY Kallman, Euer, DiMario, Ruggerio, Goodwin, Burke, Miller, Valverde, Cano, Murray
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY (Prohibits the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) from imposing any fares and/or charges for service provided to the general public.)
{LC3215/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

CONSENT CALENDAR

In order for the day is taken up as follows:

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022:

1. **2022-S 2001**
 BY Ruggerio
 ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING SENATOR GAYLE L. GOLDIN FOR HER SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

 Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
2. **2022-S 2002**
 BY Euer
 ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE RAYMOND J. SULLIVAN, JR.

 Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
3. **2022-S 2003**
 BY Euer
 ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING ITS DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF MOLLY FALCONER DE RAMEL

 Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
4. **2022-S 2004**
 BY Ruggerio
 ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF RUSSELL CHARLES DANNECKER

 Ordered on the Consent Calendar.

Upon motion of Senator McCaffrey, seconded by Senator Algieri, the following measures on today's Consent Calendar, by unanimous consent, are read and passed, upon a roll call vote:

YEAS – 30: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Anderson, Archambault, Burke, Calkin, Coyne, de la Cruz, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goodwin, Kallman, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McCaffrey, Mendes, Miller, Murray, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Seveney, Sosnowski, Valverde, Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Archambault announces that the Rhode Island Redistricting Committee will meet tomorrow at 5:00 o'clock P.M.

Senator Calkin thanks all the members of the senate for all the support during her recovery.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon the Motion of Senator Goodwin, seconded by Senator Algieri, the Senate adjourns at 5:53 o'clock P.M. in memory of the Honorable Raymond J. Sullivan, Jr., Molly Falconer De Ramel and Russell Charles Dannecker.

JOHN E. FLEMING, JR.
Secretary of the Senate

Appendix**INVOCATION****SENATOR MICHAEL J. MCCAFFREY**

Almighty Father, as the New Year begins, let us continue the work of our previous session. We ask that You bestow a special blessing of good health and happiness on each member of this chamber and their families. Amen.

Opening Day Address to Chamber

January 4, 2022

**Dominick J. Ruggerio***President of the Senate*

It is a privilege to welcome all of you to the 2022 legislative session.

Serving as President of the Rhode Island Senate is the honor of a lifetime. Each and every member of this chamber shares an abiding commitment to improving the lives of their constituents.

A few moments ago, we concluded the most productive Senate session that I can remember – and I’ve been here for quite a few. Countless initiatives that the Senate had championed for years – sometimes decades – were enacted into law. I especially want to thank my leadership team, including Majority Leader Michael McCaffrey, Whip Maryellen Goodwin, and our committee chairs.

Rhode Island workers and families are better off because of your efforts.

- We passed a \$15 minimum wage;
- We created a dedicated funding stream for affordable housing, and banned housing discrimination based on source of income;
- We enacted the historic Act on Climate;
- We capped insulin co-payments and prohibited co-payments for colorectal cancer screenings;
- We required insurers to cover telemedicine;
- We made Rhode Island Promise permanent;
- We funded a statewide body camera program;
- We passed a strong Equal Pay Act and expanded family leave;
- We increased Rhode Island Works benefits for the first time in 30 years;

- And, for the first time, this chamber passed legislation to legalize adult cannabis use.

These issues were priorities for you and your colleagues, and working together, we delivered results.

But there is still unfinished business. Last year's bill to legalize cannabis included substantial measures to rectify the wrongs associated with a decades-long policy of prohibition.

Throughout this fall, Leader Michael McCaffrey and Chairman Joshua Miller continued to work with our colleagues in the House to negotiate a proposal that maintains the core principles of our proposal. Because of those efforts, I anticipate that General Assembly will legalize cannabis this session.

Last year, the Senate also passed legislation to bring our state to 100% renewable electricity by 2030. That is a bold but achievable goal that builds on the historic Act on Climate championed by Senator Dawn Euer. We need to see it enacted, and I know that Chairs Sosnowski and Euer have a bevy of proposals that further seek to remediate the impacts of Climate Change.

Last year, we allocated unprecedented federal funds to provide relief to hard hit Rhode Island workers and small businesses.

While we need to continue to meet immediate needs to help those struggling from the pandemic, the federal funding also provides our state with the opportunity to make transformational change.

More than a billion dollars in federal funds can be truly impactful for our small state. We will work to make transformational investments with these funds.

We will put Rhode Island on a path to achieve universal pre-k within five years.

We will reinvest in the "Care Economy," including through tuition forgiveness for those who enter fields such as nursing and teaching.

Beyond tuition forgiveness, we will work to strengthen our health care system, which was challenged before the pandemic and today is in crisis. The Senate has a commission exploring health and human service delivery, and we need to comprehensively reform everything from rates to service models.

We will consider a comprehensive package of climate jobs legislation, and shore up our water infrastructure ... replacing lead pipes, repairing deficient dams, and protecting against sea level rise.

We will continue to invest in longstanding Senate priorities, including affordable child care and affordable housing.

We will commit the resources needed to construct a girls' residential psychiatric treatment facility.

We will continue to support the small businesses that are the backbone of Rhode Island's economy.

Our priorities and accomplishments are always driven by all of you.

I look forward to continuing to work together with you, and towards a 2022 legislative session that is transformational for our state.