

## State of Rhode Island

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# Journal of the Senate

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**JANUARY SESSION of the General Assembly begun and held at the State House in the City of Providence on Tuesday, the Third day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.**

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Volume 150, No. 4

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Fourth Legislative Day

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

### ROLL CALL

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 35 Senators present and 3 Senators absent as follows:

**PRESENT – 35:** The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Bell, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

**ABSENT – 3:** Senators Cano, Goodwin, and Lombardo.

### INVOCATION

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

(See Appendix for Invocation)

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

**APPROVAL OF RECORD**

The Senate Journal of the Second Legislative Day of the 2023 proceedings is read in part.

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

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Upon suggestion of Senator Valverde and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Pam Galli.

Upon suggestion of Senator Murray and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Pastor Wendy Van Orden.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The Honorable President of the Senate presents the following communications:

State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

January 24, 2023

The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio  
President of the Senate  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 24, 2023.

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

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

  
Robert Britto  
Senator District #18

RB/nc

cc Mr. John Fleming, Secretary of the Senate

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

## State of Rhode Island

SENATOR  
**HANNA M. GALLO**  
*President Pro Tempore*  
District 27

285 Meshanicut Valley Parkway  
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

Room 318  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

OFFICE 401-276-5563  
FAX 401-222-2967

sen-gallo@rilegislature.gov



## Senate Chamber

VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
Committee on Education

Committee on Commerce

Committee on  
Housing & Municipal Government

January 24, 2023

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 24, 2023.

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

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Hanna M. Gallo in cursive script.  
Hanna M. Gallo  
Senator – District 27

HMG/tm

cc: John Fleming, Secretary of the Senate

## State of Rhode Island

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



## Senate Chamber

CHAIRPERSON  
Committee on  
Housing & Municipal Government

Committee on  
Labor

Committee on  
Commerce

Committee on Rules,  
Government Ethics & Oversight

January 24, 2023

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

Dear Mister President,

Please be advised that I will be absent from the chamber on Tuesday January 24th. 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 that reads "Frank Lombardo III".

Frank Lombardo III  
District 25

FL/sn

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

**APPOINTMENTS BY THE GOVERNOR**

The Honorable President of the Senate presents the following communication from His Excellency, The Governor, transmitting the following appointments and requesting the advice and consent of the Senate thereto:



ROBERT M. FERRIERI  
CHIEF JUDGE

**Workers' Compensation Court of Rhode Island**  
**Garragh Judicial Complex**  
**One Dorrance Plaza**  
**Providence, RI 02903**

January 18, 2023

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

I have the honor and the privilege to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of G.L. 28-30-4, as amended, entitled Workers' Compensation Administrator – Appointment – Powers and Duties, I have made the following appointment as Administrator of the Rhode Island Workers' Compensation Court:

**NICK DIFILIPPO OF NARRAGANSETT**

To this appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Ferrieri  
*Chief Judge*

cc: Daniel J. McKee, Governor  
Honorable Paul A. Suttell, Chief Justice, Rhode Island Supreme Court  
Honorable Dominick J. Ruggiero, Senate President  
Honorable Ryan W. Pearson, Senate Majority Leader  
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader  
Honorable Dawn Euer, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Honorable Associate Judges, Rhode Island Workers' Compensation Court  
Rhode Island Ethics Commission

Referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE**

January 18, 2023

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Section § 42-64.34-1 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following appointment as the Secretary of Housing:

**Stefan I. Pryor**

To this appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McKee  
Governor  
DJM/ecd

- cc: Honorable Sabina Matos, Lieutenant Governor
- Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the House
- Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President
- Honorable Michael Chippendale, House Minority Leader
- Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader
- Rhode Island Ethics Commission
- Legislative Press Bureau
- Law Revision Office
- Appointment Member

IN THE SENATE  
 Referred to the Committee on  
 HOUSING AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

JAN 24 2023

*Julia B. [Signature]*  
 Reading Clerk

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Housing and Municipal Government.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE**

January 19, 2023

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE,

I have the honor to inform you in accordance with the provisions of Section §42-55-4 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following appointment to **RI Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation**.

**Stefan Pryor**

Vice  
Joshua Saal

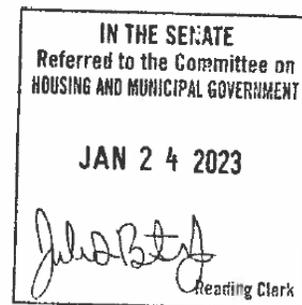
For a term expiring July 1, 2025

To this Appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McKee  
Governor

Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President  
Honorable Ryan Pearson, Senate Majority Leader  
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader



RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Housing and Municipal Government.

**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATIONS****Senate Resolution No. 43****BY** Ciccone**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 23-29, 2023, TO BE "CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETISTS WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
{LC789/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Ciccone requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Ciccone moves passage, seconded by Senators Acosta, Bell, Britto, Burke, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goodwin, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a voice vote.

**Senate Resolution No. 41****BY** Ruggerio**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF HELEN M. WILKERSON  
{LC717/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Pearson requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Pearson moves passage, seconded by Senators Acosta, Bell, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goodwin, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a rising vote.

**Senate Resolution No. 44****BY** de la Cruz, Paolino, Murray, DiPalma, Ruggerio, Tikoian**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE JAMES GORMAN HAGAN

{LC684/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator de la Cruz requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator de la Cruz moves passage, seconded by Senators Acosta, Bell, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goodwin, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a rising vote.

**Senate Resolution No. 45****BY** Miller**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF KARRIE ANN DISANTO

{LC722/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Miller requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Miller moves passage, seconded by Senators Acosta, Bell, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goodwin, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a rising vote.

**CONSENT CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023:****Senate Resolution No. 40****BY** de la Cruz, Rogers, Paolino, DeLuca**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF NANCY F. BINNS

{LC689/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

**Senate Resolution No. 42****BY** Cano, Gu, Ujifusa**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHINESE NEW YEAR "THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT"

{LC259/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

Upon motion of Senator Pearson, seconded by Senator de la Cruz, the following measures on Today's Consent Calendar, by unanimous consent, are read and passed, upon a roll call vote:

**YEAS – 32:** The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Bell, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

**NAYS – 0:****NOT VOTING -6:** Senators Britto, Cano, Gallo, Goodwin, Lombardo, Paolino.**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Senate Majority Leader Pearson would like to wish Senator Roger A. Picard a Happy Birthday on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>.

Senate Majority Leader Pearson would like to wish Senator Anthony P. DeLuca, II a Happy Birthday on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

**RECESS**

Upon the Motion of Senator Pearson, seconded by Senator de la Cruz, the Senate stands in Recess at 4:34 o'clock P.M. *in memory of Helen M. Wilkerson, James Gorman Hagan and Karrie Ann DiSanto.*

**NEW BUSINESS****Senate Resolution No. 46**

**BY** Zurier

**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION CREATING A SPECIAL SENATE COMMISSION TO STUDY NON-PLURALITY VOTING METHODS AND RUNOFF ELECTIONS FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND GENERAL OFFICER PRIMARIES (Creates a 7 member commission to study non-plurality voting and runoff elections for General Assembly and General Officer primaries, and report back to the President of the Senate by October 31, 2023, and expire on December 31, 2023)

{LC942/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Senate meets pursuant to recess and is called to order by the Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio, President of the Senate, on Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:08 o'clock P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon the Motion of Senator Pearson, seconded by de la Cruz, the Senate adjourns at 4:09 o'clock P.M.

**JOHN E. FLEMING, JR.**  
Secretary of the Senate

**Appendix**

**INVOCATION**

**SENATOR FRANK A. CICCONE, III**

As we reconvene in the Senate Chamber, let us once again contemplate our reasons for being here. Let us also ask of our Creator that he bestow special blessings today on us all and properly guide us in serving the people of our State. Amen.

**Appendix**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2023:**

**1. 2023-S 46**

**BY** Zurier

**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION CREATING A SPECIAL SENATE COMMISSION TO STUDY NON-PLURALITY VOTING METHODS AND RUNOFF ELECTIONS FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND GENERAL OFFICER PRIMARIES

Ordered on the Consent Calendar.