

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

JOURNAL
-OF THE-
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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 eighteen.

Volume 145, No. 30

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

Thirtieth Day

The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence, Wednesday, March 28, 2018 and is called to order at 4:19 o'clock P.M., by the Honorable Nicholas A. Mattiello, Speaker.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 72 members present and 3 members absent as follows:

PRESENT – 72 The Honorable Speaker Mattiello and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Almeida, Amore, Azzinaro, Barros, Bennett, Blazejewski, Canario, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Corvese, Costantino, Craven, Cunha, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Filippi, Fogarty, Giarrusso, Handy, Hearn, Hull, Jacquard, Johnston, Kazarian, Keable, Kennedy, Knight, Lancia, Lima, Lombardi, Maldonado, Marshall, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McKiernan, McLaughlin, McNamara, Mendonca, Messier, Morgan, Morin, Nardolillo, Newberry, O'Brien, O'Grady, Perez, Phillips, Price, Quattrocchi, Ranglin-Vassell, Regunberg, Roberts, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shanley, Shekarchi, Slater, Solomon, Tanzi, Tobon, Ucci, Vella-Wilkinson, Walsh, Williams, Winfield

ABSENT – 3: Representatives Coughlin, Fellela, Nunes.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents Representative Vella-Wilkinson who delivers the Invocation and leads the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

(For Invocation, see Appendix, this Journal.)

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Representative Vella-Wilkinson introduces Cheryl Albright to sing the National Anthem.

Representative Casimiro presents Cheryl with a bouquet of flowers.

APPROVAL OF RECORD

By unanimous consent, the House Journal of Tuesday, March 27, 2018, is approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative David A. Coughlin is unable to attend session today, Wednesday, March 28, 2018.

Representative Deborah A. Fellela is unable to attend session today, Wednesday, March 28, 2018 due to a family obligation out of state.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Honorable Senate transmits with announcement of passage, of the following measure:

Senate Bill No. 2741

BY DaPonte

ENTITLED, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER OF EASTLAND BUILDERS, INC. {LC5294/1}

03/28/2018 Referred to House Corporations

NEW BUSINESS**House Resolution No. 8003**

BY Regunberg, Carson, Donovan, Casimiro, Vella-Wilkinson

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT IN NATIONAL GRID FOR ITS INCREASING RATES AND SERVICE CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDING THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENERGY DISTRIBUTION BE TRANSFERRED TO NOT-FOR-PROFIT ENTITIES {LC5269/1}

03/28/2018 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

House Bill No. 8004

BY McKiernan, O'Brien, Craven, McEntee, Williams

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - EMPLOYMENT SECURITY - BENEFITS (Increases the maximum weekly unemployment benefit rate to the higher of fifty-seven and one-half percent (57.5%) of the average weekly wages paid to workers in the prior calendar year or six hundred sixteen dollars (\$616) per week.) {LC5313/1}

03/28/2018 Introduced, referred to House Labor

House Bill No. 8005

BY Williams, Almeida, Walsh, Tobon, Ranglin-Vassell

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - AUTOMATED SCHOOL-ZONE-SPEED-ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM (Requires the use of yellow, flashing school zone speed signs and require written warning citations for first offenses, a fine up to forty-five dollars (\$45) for second offenses and referral to the traffic tribunal for all subsequent offenses.) {LC5274/1}

03/28/2018 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 8006**BY** Perez, McEntee, Solomon, Fellela, Ucci**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- WITNESSES (Provides that an LEP interpreter shall not be compelled to testify in any civil or criminal action wherein communication is privileged pursuant to statutory or common law.) {LC5317/1}

03/28/2018 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary

House Bill No. 8007**BY** Filippi, Morgan, Quattrocchi, Giarrusso, Roberts**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PERSONAL INCOME TAX--DEDUCTION FOR MAINTAINING RESIDENCE (Permits persons over the age of 65 to deduct from adjusted gross income the cost of maintaining a personal residence, up to \$7,500.) {LC5290/1}

03/28/2018 Introduced, referred to House Finance

CALENDAR

From the Calendar are taken:

IN ORDER FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2018:**1. 2018-H 7196****BY** Corvese**ENTITLED**, AN ACT AMENDING THE CHARTER OF NORTH PROVIDENCE

Committee on Municipal Government recommends passage.

Leader Shekarchi moves to recommit the act. There is no objection.

Read and recommitted to the Committee on Municipal Government

2. 2018-H 7768**BY** McNamara**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE SANDRA FEINSTEIN - GAMM THEATRE AND WISHING THEM WELL ON THEIR MOVE TO JEFFERSON BOULEVARD IN WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND

Committee on Municipal Government recommends passage.

Vice Chairwoman Ackerman moves passage of the resolution, seconded by Representatives Diaz, Bennett, Casimiro, and Vella-Wilkinson.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 71 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows.

YEAS - 71: The Honorable Speaker Mattiello and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Amore,

Azzinaro, Barros, Bennett, Blazejewski, Canario, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Corvese, Costantino, Craven, Cunha, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Filippi, Fogarty, Giarrusso, Handy, Hearn, Hull, Jacquard, Johnston, Kazarian, Keable, Kennedy, Knight, Lancia, Lima, Lombardi, Maldonado, Marshall, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McKiernan, McLaughlin, McNamara, Mendonca, Messier, Morgan, Morin, Nardolillo, Newberry, O'Brien, O'Grady, Perez, Phillips, Price, Quattrocchi, Ranglin-Vassell, Regunberg, Roberts, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shanley, Shekarchi, Slater, Solomon, Tanzi, Tobon, Ucci, Vella-Wilkinson, Walsh, Williams, Winfield.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

GUESTS

Representative Giarrusso welcomes to the House Chamber Isabella Garces winner of the middle school division of the VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest here today along with Amy Garces, Ruben Garces, Jayden Garces, Jaxon Garces, Lisa Burke, Ava Martinelli, Lucy Burke, William Burke, Carol Gonsalves, Dr. Laurie Beauvais, Brayden Dorsey, Leo Swider, Christine Begin, Gary Maddocks and Kasim Yarn, Director Veterans. **(For winning essay see Appendix of this Journal)**

NEW BUSINESS

House Resolution No. 8008

BY Giarrusso, Costantino, Winfield, Williams, O'Brien

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING ISABELLA GARCES FOR WINNING 1ST PLACE IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION OF THE VFW'S "PATRIOT'S PEN" ESSAY CONTEST IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC5284/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Representative Giarrusso requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Giarrusso seconded by Representatives Costantino and Winfield by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

Representative Williams and Speaker Mattiello congratulate Isabella.

RULE 7D

The following bills were received pursuant to Rule 7D:

Representative Edwards-An Act relating to on Site Waste Water Treatment and Licensing

Representative Carson-An Act relating to Taxation and Climate Resiliency

ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Abney announces that the Committee on Finance will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 35 of the State House.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

GUEST

Leader Shekarchi welcomes to the House Councilman Tim Howe from the city of Warwick.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

ANNOUNCEMENT

Leader Shekarchi wishes a Happy Birthday to Representative Mia Ackerman.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

RULE 7D

The following bill was received pursuant to Rule 7D:

Representative Price-An Act relating to the Fisheries Industry

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

GUESTS

Representative Price welcomes to the House Meghan Lapp, the Fisheries Liaison, and Richard Fuka, President of the Fisherman's Alliance.

NOW PRESIDING

At 4:38 o'clock P.M. the Honorable Speaker Mattiello yields the rostrum to the Honorable Deputy Speaker Lima.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

ANNOUNCEMENT

Representative Corvese and Deputy Speaker Lima wish secretary, Mary Black a Happy Birthday.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

GUESTS

Representative Vella-Wilkinson welcomes to the House RI Military Organization (RIMO) Board of Directors: Timothy Howe, Daniel Evangelista, Kimberly Wineman and Ed Vivieiros along with Sponsors of the Military Lounge at TF Green Airport: Cardi's Furniture-Nick Cardi, Ron Cardi, Peter Cardi; Karma Culture-Jeff Platt; Bradley Café-Michael Bradley; Cranston Firefighter-Captain Chuck Pollock; Frank Lombardi Law Associates P.C.-Senator Frank Lombardi; Seasons Markets-Tom Breckel; Pawtucket Red Sox-Michael Lyons; Rhode Island Airport Corp.-Alan Andrade; 5Ink Printing-Peter Izzi; Wonderland Smoke Shop-David Souza; Johna's Restaurant-Andrea Di Maio; Broadway Cigars-John Vernancio; Ocean State Cigars-Paul Joyal; Southern New England Defense Industry Alliance-Townley Knudson; Honey Dew Donuts-Dawn Longwill; and Cox Communications-David Gillis. Deputy Speaker Lima also welcomes them to the House, and thanks all who help Veterans and recognizes Daniel Evangelista.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

RULE 7D

The following bill was received pursuant to Rule 7D:

Representative Keable-An Act relating to Preservation of Families with Disabled Parents

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Keable announces that the Committee on Judiciary will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 205 of the State House.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

GUEST

Representative Ranglin-Vassell also welcomes to the House her constituent, Michael Bradley.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

RULE 7D

The following bills were received pursuant to Rule 7D:

Representative Serpa-An Act relating to Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation

Representative Phillips-An Act relating to Motor Vehicles- Registration of Vehicles
An Act relating to Motor Vehicles-CDL licenses

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

GUESTS

Representative Corvese also welcomes to the Chamber John Vernancio and Chuck Pollock.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

RULE 7D

The following bill was received pursuant to Rule 7D:

Representative Kennedy-An Act relating to Naming a Building after former Attorney General Julius Michaelson

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

ANNOUNCEMENT

Representative Hearn congratulates the Barrington Boys Hockey Team on winning their Division and the Barrington Girls Hockey Team for winning their Division.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

NEW BUSINESS

House Resolution No. 8009

BY Tanzi, McEntee, Fogarty, Shekarchi, Filippi

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THOMAS NERNEY {LC5323/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Representative Tanzi requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Tanzi seconded by and Representatives McEntee, Fogarty, Leader Shekarchi and Representative Filippi by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

ANNOUNCEMENT

Vice Chairman Canario announces that the Committee on Health, Education and Welfare will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 101 of the State House.

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

RULE 7D

The following bill was received pursuant to Rule 7D:

Representative Regunberg-An Act Urging Law Enforcement Officials to Recognize Neo-Nazi's as Terrorist Organizations

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

NEW BUSINESS

House Resolution No. 8010

BY Ruggiero, Mattiello, Shekarchi, Tanzi, Hearn

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING DEBORAH DEBARE FOR HER DEVOTED SERVICE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE RHODE ISLAND COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE {LC5365/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Representative Ruggiero requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Ruggiero seconded by Leader Shekarchi and by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

TRANSMITTAL

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

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

TRANSFER OF BILL

Chairman Keable, for the Committee on Judiciary, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of transfer to the Committee on Finance:

House Bill No. 7385

(Attorney General)

BY Messier, Johnston, Donovan, Morin**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY -- MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE AND SALE--
MEDIATION CONFERENCE (Repeals the July 1, 2018, sunset clause in Chapters 325 and 406 of the
2013 Public Laws in regard to § 34-24-3.2 "mediation conference prior to mortgage foreclosure.")
{LC3330/1}

03/28/2018 Committee transferred to House Finance

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:52 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Tanzi, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Thomas Nerney; seconded by Leaders Shekarchi and Morgan the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

Linda M. McElroy
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX

INVOCATION

REPRESENTATIVE CAMILLE F.J. VELLA-WILKINSON

Dear God: We ask you today to bestow a special blessing all those Veteran women and men who have dedicated their lives to serving our country. Their courage, sacrifice, and willingness to give so much of themselves to protect us all, deserves a special place in honor in all our hearts. Amen.

APPENDIX

CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2018:

1. **2018-H 7039**
BY Azzinaro
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- DEALERSHIPS

Committee on Corporations recommends passage.

Francis McCabe
Clerk of the House

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

APPENDIX

VFW PATRIOT'S PEN WINNING ESSAY

America's Gift

“Every person is a new door, to a different world”.

America's greatest gift to my generation is diversity. When someone asks your heritage, you don't simply say “American”. You list all the nationalities that you represent. As Americans, it's our responsibility to appreciate all the different people that create our beautiful nation. It's a gift to be able to learn from others. We're lucky to be a nation of more differences than similarities, and to me, that is amazing.

When America was first established as “The country where dreams come true”, more than 12 million immigrants entered America through Ellis Island. Their unique backgrounds and rich cultural differences enhanced and molded our country to what it is today. The diversity we share gives others around the globe hope for a better life. We are the example for the rest of world. My family's immigration journey ranges from Panama when my father was 18, Canada when my Great-Pepe was 19, and Italy when my Great Grandfather was a young boy. Although from different countries and set of circumstances that led these men here, they all shared one common thread, the belief for something better. I am proud of each of them and their stories. Without them being accepted here, my family would not be complete.

For years, our military has ensured that the original beliefs and liberties written long ago are protected. That every man is created equal, and everyone's entitled to happiness and a better life. They have fought against intolerance and injustice so we may continue to pursue our dreams. Today, the younger generation is even more accepting. We are the future to end intolerance. It will be our responsibility to continue spreading the message of inclusion. Our strength lies in what we can learn and build together, ideas we can share, and hope we can spread.

Our differences make us stronger as a country because we can empathize with so many others. In America we have freedom of religion, speech, and to choose what road takes us to happiness. We are diverse in our thoughts, beliefs, upbringings, and ideals. This young girl who is French Canadian, Italian, Panamanian, Colombian, Spanish, Jamaican, and African is proud of her differences. They make me who I am, and help me relate to others. Diversity is so important because it defines everything we believe in as Americans. Diversity is America's true gift to our generation.