

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

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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 First day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Nineteen.**

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Volume 146, No.27

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

Twenty Seventh Legislative Day

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The Senate meets pursuant to adjournment and is called to order by the Honorable Dominick J. Ruggiero, President of the Senate, at 4:10 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 Ruggiero, and Senators, Algieri, Archambault, Bell, Ciccone, Conley, Coyne, Crowley, de la Cruz, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goldin, Goodwin, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Lynch Prata, McCaffrey, McKenney, Metts, Miller, Murray, Morgan, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Satchell, Seveney, Sosnowski, and Valverde.

**ABSENT – 3:** Senators Cano, Nesselbush, and Sheehan.

**INVOCATION**

The Honorable President, by unanimous consent, presents Father Andrew George, to deliver the invocation.

(See Appendix for Invocation)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

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

**APPROVAL OF RECORD**

The Senate Journal of the Twenty Sixth Legislative Day of the 2019 proceedings is read in part.

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

**GUESTS**

Upon the suggestion of Senator Crowley and by Unanimous consent, The Honorable President of the Senate, welcomes to the Chamber members of the Central Falls Mayor's Youth Council, Todd Deslauriers, Josaline Pineda, Janelie Ordonez, Jacqueline Jimenez and Lorraine Quintero. Also from the Pawtucket Boys and Girls Club Saoirse Hazard, and Jim Hoyt.

Upon the suggestion of Senator Quezada and by Unanimous consent, The Honorable President of the Senate, welcomes to the Chamber Jaychele Schenck, Adriana Rodriguez, and Maddie Aceituno.

Upon the suggestion of Senator Miller and by Unanimous consent, The Honorable President of the Senate, welcomes to the Chamber J. R. Kenny.

Upon the suggestion of Senator Euer and by Unanimous consent, The Honorable President of the Senate, welcomes to the Chamber from the Newport Boys and Girls Club, Kiara Noka, and Joe Pratt.

Upon the suggestion of Senator Paolino and by Unanimous consent, The Honorable President of the Senate, welcomes to the Chamber Nasir Daleg, and Gary Rebello.

Upon the suggestion of Senator Lawson and by Unanimous consent, The Honorable President of the Senate, welcomes to the Chamber Charlie Tsonos, David Capobianco, and Erin Gilliatt.

Upon the suggestion of Senator Lynch Prata and by Unanimous consent, The Honorable President of the Senate, welcomes to the Chamber Olivia Martinelli, and Lara D'iantano.

Upon the suggestion of Senator Quezada and by Unanimous consent, The Honorable President of the Senate, welcomes to the Chamber Olga Maldonado, Nicole Duphresne, Jyarmaris Gomes, Jomarlis Romios, and Vandoia Tiern.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The Honorable President of the Senate presents the following communications:

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations****Senate Chamber**

March 26, 2019

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

Dear President Ruggiero:

Please be advised and let the record reflect that I will be absent from the Chamber Tuesday, Mach 26, 2019.

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

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations****Senate Chamber**

March 26, 2019

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

Dear Mr. President:

Please be advised and let the record reflect that I will be absent from the Chamber Tuesday, Mach 26, 2019 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,

Donna M. Nesselbush  
Senator – District 15

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**



**Senate Chamber**

March 26, 2019

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

Dear Mr. President:

Please be advised and let the record reflect that I will be absent from the Chamber Tuesday, Mach 26, 2019.

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

Sincerely,

James C. Sheehan  
Senator – District 36

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

**FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

A message from the House of Representatives transmits with announcements of passage of the following message:

**House Bill No. 5278 SUB A****BY** Abney

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAX--NON-COLLECTING RETAILERS, REFERRERS, AND RETAIL SALE FACILITATORS ACT (Extends the requirement to collect sales tax to remote sellers in a way that conforms to a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision making it easier for states to compel collection/sales tax from retailers who do not have a physical presence in their state.)  
{LC1249/A/1}

From the House of Representatives to the Senate Calendar.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES****COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT**

Chairman Lombardo, from the Committee on Housing and Municipal Government, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measure:

**Senate Bill No. 630****BY** Crowley

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AN AMENDMENT TO THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF CENTRAL FALLS (Validates and ratify amendments to the Home Rule Charter of the city of Central Falls which were adopted and approved by the electors of the city on November 6, 2018.)  
{LC1772/1}

From the Committee on Housing and Municipal Government to the Calendar.

**NEW BUSINESS****Senate Resolution No. 730****BY Raptakis, Euer, Ruggerio, Gallo, Nesselbush****ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION CELEBRATING MARCH 25, 2019, AS THE  
198TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY****{LC2223/1}**

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Raptakis requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Raptakis moves passage, seconded by Senators, Algieri, Archambault, Bell, Ciccone, Conley, Coyne, Crowley, de la Cruz, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goldin, Goodwin, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Lynch Prata, McCaffrey, McKenney, Metts, Miller, Murray, Morgan, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Rogers, Satchell, Seveney, Sosnowski, and Valverde.

The resolution is read and passed upon a voice vote.

**GUESTS**

Upon the suggestion of Senator Gallo and by Unanimous consent, The Honorable President of the Senate, welcomes to the Chamber Father Andrew G. George, Father Nicholas Lanzaourakis, Koula Rouqas, Joanna Andreopoulou, Eleni Trikoulis, Liliana Trikoulis, and Theofanis Mankos.

Upon the suggestion of Senator Euer and by Unanimous consent, The Honorable President of the Senate, welcomes to the Chamber Father Aaron Walker and his family, Rev. Dr. Georgeeconomou, Eleni Anagnostopouloo, Smaragda Eliopoulou, and Morianne Menas.

Upon the suggestion of Senator Raptakis and by Unanimous consent, The Honorable President of the Senate, welcomes to the Chamber Dillon Williams, Dr. Ioannis Miaoulis, George Gialzouridas, Nick Cambros Esq. and Father George Economouli. Also Mario Kontomerkos and his wife Helise, and children Christian, Matthias, and Theodora.

Upon the suggestion of Senator McCaffrey and by Unanimous consent, The Honorable President of the Senate, welcomes to the Chamber the wife of Senator Raptakis, Dr. Donna Raptakis.

**CONSENT CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019:**

- 1. 2019-S 641**  
**BY** McCaffrey  
**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 16, 2019, TO THE "HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
  
Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
- 2. 2019-S 717**  
**BY** DiPalma  
**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF "PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
  
Ordered on the Consent Calendar.
- 3. 2019-S 718**  
**BY** McKenney  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER OF W.D. SCHOCK CO., INC.  
  
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 –31:** The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators, Algieri, Archambault, Bell, Ciccone, Coyne, Crowley, de la Cruz, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goldin, Goodwin, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Lynch Prata, McCaffrey, McKenney, Metts, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Rogers, Satchell, Seveney, and Valverde.

**NAYS – 0:**



## CALENDAR

## IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019:

**1.     *The Reappointment of Courtney Hawkins as Director of the Department of Human Services***

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

Senator Miller moves that the advice and consent of the Senate be given this appointment, seconded by Senators, Algieri, Archambault, Bell, Ciccone, Conley, Coyne, Crowley, de la Cruz, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goldin, Goodwin, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Lynch Prata, McCaffrey, McKenney, Metts, Miller, Murray, Morgan, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Satchell, Seveney, Sosnowski, and Valverde.

Senator DiPalma discusses the appointment.

The advice and consent of the Senate is given, by unanimous consent, on a roll call vote, with 34 members voting in the affirmative, and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

**YEAS –34:** The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators, Algieri, Archambault, Bell, Ciccone, Conley, Coyne, Crowley, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goldin, Goodwin, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Lynch Prata, McCaffrey, McKenney, Metts, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Satchell, Seveney, Sosnowski, and Valverde.

**NAYS – 0:**

**GUESTS**

Upon the suggestion of Senator Sosnowski and by Unanimous consent, The Honorable President of the Senate, welcomes to the Chamber the newly appointed Director Courtney Hawkins, parents of Director Hawkins Richard and Muffy Hawkins, and daughter Emilia Veliz.

**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, and to the Honorable House of Representatives forthwith.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Senator Felag announces that the Committee on Finance will meet today, at the rise of the Senate in Room 313 of the State House.

Senator Archambault announces that the Committee on Judiciary will meet today at the rise of the Senate in Room 310 of the State House.

Senator Goldin announces that the Committee on Health and Human Services will meet today at the rise of the Senate in Senate Lounge of the State House.

Senator Coyne announces that the Committee on Environment and Agriculture will meet tomorrow at the rise of the Senate in Room 211 of the State House.

Senator Quezada announces that the Committee on Commerce will meet today at the rise of the Senate in Room 212 of the State House.

Senator Valverde announces that the Women's Caucus will meet Thursday, March 28, 2019 at the rise of the Senate in the Library of the State House.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon the Motion of Senator Goodwin seconded by Senator McCaffrey, the Senate adjourns at 4:42 o'clock P.M.

**ROBERT L. RICCI**  
Secretary of the Senate

**Appendix****INVOCATION****FATHER ANDREW GEORGE**

Oh Lord Almighty, we raise our heart, mind, and soul to You in Prayer. As we commemorate the annunciation of the Virgin Mary, along with the observance of the War of Independence for the nation of Greece in the modern era, 1821 inaugurated on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Which has become in our current days a celebration of Greek and American democracy. We adore You as our Creator on this day as you enter the womb of Your blessed mother. Setting in motion the beginning of our salvation and freedom of enslavement to sin. We offer thanksgiving prayers as well for the regeneration and liberation of the nation of Greece from its political enslavement. Which reestablished democratic principals in the Motherland of democracy. Show us all to be worthy of this freedom. Strengthen us in safeguarding it, and preserve us in peace in harmony. Let us be reminded as well of our individual freedoms, which is affirmed in our oneness with Christ our Lord in adherence to his teachings, which are the same yesterday as they are today and forever. Furthermore we pray for the elected officials for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, and the members of this Chamber. Protect, guard, and guide each of them and their families, bless them with good health, and sound minds that they may lead us in the right direction as they serve and minister to its citizens. For You are the source of life, the protector, and savior. We ascribe glory to you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit no and forever, and ages and ages.

**Appendix**

**CALENDAR**

**IN ORDER FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019:**

- 1. 2019-H 5305**  
**BY Williams**  
**ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - RHODE ISLAND UNINSURED PROTECTION FUND**

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

Appendix

CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019:

1. **2019-S 630**  
**BY** Crowley  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AN AMENDMENT TO  
THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF CENTRAL FALLS

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends passage.

2. **2019-H 5278 SUB A**  
**BY** Abney  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- SALES AND USE TAX--NON-  
COLLECTING RETAILERS, REFERRERS, AND RETAIL SALE FACILITATORS  
ACT

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

**198<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**Tuesday, March 26, 2019**

**Opening Remarks**

Nicholas Lambros, Esquire  
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Cranston  
  
The Honorable Leonidas P. Raptakis, State Senator

**Invocation & Greeting**

Father Andrew George  
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Cranston

**The National Anthems of the  
United States and Greece**

Audience

**Greetings**

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo  
  
The Honorable Stratos Efthymiou  
Consul General of Greece  
  
Rhode Island General Officers  
Congressional Delegation  
Rhode Island State Senate  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
Rhode Island City & Town Mayors

**Federation of Hellenic-American  
Societies of New England**

Vasilios Kafkas, President

**Keynote Speakers**

Dr. Ioannis (Yannis) Miaoulis  
President/Director, Boston Museum of Science  
  
Mario Kontomerkos  
CEO, Mohegan Gaming & Entertainment

**Participating Parishes**

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Cranston  
Father Andrew George  
  
Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, Pawtucket  
Father Dr. Philip Zymaris  
  
St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church, Newport  
Father Aaron Walker

**Children's Presentation**

Children of participating parishes

**Benediction**

Father Nick Lanzourakis  
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Cranston

**Reception**

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Cranston  
175 Oaklawn Avenue, Cranston, RI  
6:00pm