

State of Rhode Island

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 fifth day of January in the year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty-one.

Volume 148, No. 17

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

Seventeenth Day

The House of Representatives meets at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Providence, Tuesday, April 6, 2021, and is called to order at 4:03 o'clock P.M., by the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 66 members present and 9 members absent as follows:

PRESENT – 66: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Barros, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Craven, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Filippi, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hawkins, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Lima C., McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Price, Quattrocchi, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tanzi, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson and Williams.

ABSENT – 9: Representatives Alzate, Chippendale, Knight, Lima S., Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McLaughlin, Ranglin-Vassell, Roberts.

INVOCATION

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

(For Invocation, see Appendix, this Journal.)

APPROVAL OF RECORD

By unanimous consent, the House Journal of Tuesday, March 30, 2021, is approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Alzate is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, April 6, 2021.
Representative McLaughlin is unable to attend session today, Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

CALENDAR

From the Calendar are taken:

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021:

- 1. 2021-H 5073**
BY McNamara
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SECURING THE FINANCIAL FUTURE FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT

Committee on Education recommends passage.

Chairman McNamara moves passage of the act, seconded by Representatives Carson, Phillips, Amore, Speakman, O'Brien, Hawkins, Biah, Donovan, Abney, Majority Leader Blazejewski, Noret, Craven, Caldwell, Cardillo, Costantino, McEntee, Cortvriend, Handy, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Fogarty, Cassar, Deputy Whip Ackerman, Hull Bennett, Kislak, Minority Leader Filippi, Henries, Bennett, Giraldo, Solomon, Casimiro, Potter, Whip Kazarian, Diaz, Ruggiero, McGaw, Messier, Nardone, Felix, and Perez.

PROXY VOTES

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces pursuant to rule 47B authorizing Proxy Votes he has 5 to be recorded in the affirmative: Representatives Alzate, Knight, Lombardi, McLaughlin, and Ranglin-Vassell.

Minority Leader Filippi announces pursuant to rule 47B authorizing Proxy Votes he has 2 to be recorded in the affirmative: Whip Chippendale and Representative Roberts.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 73 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 73: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Azzinaro, Baginski, Barros, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Cardillo, Carson, Casey, Casimiro, Cassar, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Craven, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Filippi, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Hawkins, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lima C., Lombardi, McEntee, McGaw, McLaughlin, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Price, Quattrocchi, Ranglin-Vassell, Roberts, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tanzi, Tobon, Vella-Wilkinson, Williams.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

2. 2021-S 78 SUB A

BY Euer

**ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- 2021
ACT ON CLIMATE**

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A in concurrence.

Chairman Bennett moves passage of the act, seconded by Representatives Carson, Speakman, Henries, Donovan, Morales, Ruggiero, Majority Leader Blazejewski, Abney, McEntee, Cortvriend, Handy, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, Fogarty, Cassar, Edwards, Kislak, McNamara, Hull, Giraldo, Potter, Felix, Whip Kazarian, McGaw, Messier, Diaz, and Tanzi.

PROXY VOTES

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces pursuant to rule 47B authorizing Proxy Votes he has 4 to be recorded in the affirmative: Representatives Alzate, Knight, Lombardi, Ranglin-Vassell, and 1 recorded in the negative: Representative McLaughlin.

Minority Leader Filippi announces pursuant to rule 47B authorizing Proxy Votes he has 2 to be recorded in the negative: Whip Chippendale and Representative Roberts.

The bill marked Substitute "A" is read and passed in concurrence and the original bill indefinitely postponed, on a roll call vote, 51 members voting in the affirmative and 21 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 51: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Amore, Baginski, Barros, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Carson, Casimiro, Cassar, Cortvriend, Craven, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Felix, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Fogarty, Giraldo, Handy, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, O'Brien, Potter, Ranglin-Vassell, Ruggiero, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Slater, Solomon, Speakman, Tanzi, Tobon.

NAYS - 21: Representatives Azzinaro, Casey, Chippendale, Corvese, Costantino, Filippi, Hawkins, Lima C., McLaughlin, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, Perez, Phillips, Place, Price, Quattrocchi, Roberts, Vella-Wilkinson, Williams.

RECUSED - 0:

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Speaker Shekarchi and Chairman McNamara speak in memory of Gregory Lynch and express their deepest condolences to the family.

Representative Henries wishes her grandfather endearingly known as “Poppy”, a very Happy 79th Birthday!

Speaker Shekarchi wishes Representative Henries' grandfather, a Happy Birthday.

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces as a reminder, the House will be meeting tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. at the Vets. The schedule change was made because the Vets is unavailable for use on Thursday. So again, session will be on Wednesday, not Thursday, this week!

Please email your proxy votes to either Leader Blazejewski or Leader Filippi no later than 3:30 p.m. on the day of the floor votes. If there is a consent calendar, please indicate how you wish to vote on the consent calendar as well.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

House Resolution No. 6195

BY Cassar, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kislak, Filippi, Fellela, Donovan, Ajello

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE WEEK OF APRIL 5TH THOUGH APRIL 11TH OF 2021, AS "NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2613/1}

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

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Cassar, seconded by Speaker Shekarchi and Majority Leader Blazejewski and many others, by, unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 6196

BY Casimiro, Shekarchi, Blazejewski

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING APRIL OF 2021, AS "CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND URGING ALL RHODE ISLANDERS TO SUPPORT EFFORTS THAT PROMOTE CHILDREN'S PSYCHOLOGICAL, PHYSICAL, AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT {LC2608/1}

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

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Casimiro, seconded by Speaker Shekarchi and Majority Leader Blazejewski and many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 6197

BY Ruggiero, Cortvriend, Carson, Abney, McNamara, McGaw, Batista, Azzinaro, Filippi, Blazejewski
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL, 2021, TO BE "THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD" IN RHODE ISLAND {LC2581/1}

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 Representatives Cortvriend, Carson, Abney, McNamara, McGaw, Batista, Azzinaro, Minority Leader Filippi, and Majority Leader Blazejewski, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 6198

BY Batista, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Ruggiero, Ackerman, McNamara, Perez, Morales, Costantino, Bennett
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL OF 2021, TO BE "FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2558/1}

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

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Batista, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 6199

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kennedy, Edwards, Kazarian, Fellela, Donovan, Carson
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN RHODE ISLAND AND TAIWAN, AND SUPPORTING ENHANCED BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS AND TAIWAN'S INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION {LC2639/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy, seconded by Speaker Shekarchi, and many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 6200

BY Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Fenton-Fung, Kennedy, Fellela, Donovan, Ajello
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SINCERE SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF FRANCIS A. DONAHUE, JR. {LC2625/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Speaker Shekarchi expresses his deepest condolences to Betty Ann Donahue and her whole family.

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy, seconded by Speaker Shekarchi, Majority Leader Blazejewski, and Representative Fenton-Fung, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

House Resolution No. 6201

BY Corvese, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, O'Brien, Fellela, Donovan, Ajello

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING LEO D. COVAS, ESQ., FOR HIS YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY {LC2606/1}

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

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Corvese, seconded by Speaker Shekarchi, Representative O'Brien, and Majority Leader Blazejewski, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 6202

BY Blazejewski, Filippi

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS {LC2636/1}

Majority Leader Blazejewski requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Majority Leader Blazejewski, seconded by Minority Leader Filippi, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 6203

BY Blazejewski, Filippi

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES {LC2637/1}

Majority Leader Blazejewski requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Majority Leader Blazejewski, seconded by Minority Leader Filippi, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

House Resolution No. 6204

BY Tobon, Felix, Barros, Alzate, Messier, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Fellela, Ajello

ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE UNTIMELY PASSING OF THE HONORABLE AMA AMPONSAH {LC2629/1}

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

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Tobon, seconded by the entire Pawtucket Delegation, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

House Resolution No. 6205

BY Diaz, Perez, Slater, Williams, Vella-Wilkinson, Amore, Shanley, Tobon, Kazarian, Ackerman
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2021, TO BE
"COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC973/1}

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

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Diaz, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

House Resolution No. 6206

BY Fenton-Fung, Baginski, Potter, Blazejewski, Shekarchi, Kazarian, Casimiro
ENTITLED, HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING APRIL 4-10, 2021, AS "NATIONAL
LIBRARY WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2538/1}

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

There is no objection.

Read and passed, on a motion of Representative Fenton-Fung, seconded by many others, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

RULE 7D

The following bills were received pursuant to Rule 7D:

Representative Amore-An Act relating to Higher Education

Representative Ajello-An Act relating to Fair Housing

Representative Fenton-Fung-An Act relating to Incentivizing Back to Work

Deputy Speaker Lima-An Act relating to Renaming TF Green Airport-International Airport

Speaker Shekarchi-An Act relating to Concerning Reapportionment

TRANSMITTAL

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

(For Transmittals to Governor, see Appendix of this Journal.)

DESK HELD OPEN

The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi announces that the desk will be held open.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:38 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Bennett, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Edward J. Cunningham; on motion of Representative Fellela, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Robert Trahan; on motion of Representative Fenton-Fung, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Francis A. Donahue, Jr.; on motion of Representative McNamara, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Gregory M. Lynch; on behalf of Pawtucket Delegation, on motion of Representative Tobon; and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Honorable Ama Amponsah seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Filippi the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

Diane M. DePina
Recording Clerk

APPENDIX

INVOCATION

REPRESENTATIVE JUSTINE A. CALDWELL

Dear Lord: We thank you for giving us the privilege of serving our citizens. Remind us to always treat our colleagues and constituents with the grace and dignity they deserve. Amen

APPENDIX

CONSENT CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021:

- 1. 2021-H 6176**
BY Potter
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

Committee on Special Legislation recommends passage.
- 2. 2021-H 6177**
BY Ackerman
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

Committee on Special Legislation recommends passage.
- 3. 2021-H 6190**
BY Carson
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

Committee on Special Legislation recommends passage.

Francis McCabe
Clerk of the House

Monday, April 5, 2021

APPENDIX**CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021:**

1. **2021-H 5568 SUB A**
 BY Lima
 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- SUBDIVISION OF LAND --
 ZONING ORDINANCES

 Committee on Judiciary recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and
 passage of Substitute A.

2. **2021-H 6014**
 BY Potter
 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - OFFICE OF STATE
 MEDICAL EXAMINERS

 Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

3. **2021-H 5626**
 BY Tobon
 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - PROPER MANAGEMENT
 OF UNUSED PAINT

 Committee on Environment and Natural Resources recommends passage.

4. **2021-H 6158**
 BY Shekarchi
 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

 Committee on Special Legislation recommends passage.

5. **2021-H 6178**
 BY Shekarchi
 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

 Committee on Special Legislation recommends passage.

Francis McCabe
Clerk of the House

Friday, April 2, 2021

APPENDIX

TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR

Senate Bill No. 78 SUB A

BY Euer, Ruggerio, McCaffrey, Goodwin, Sosnowski, Coyne, Cano, Murray, Valverde, Kallman

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- 2021 ACT ON CLIMATE (Establishes a statewide greenhouse gas emission reduction mandate.)

{LC1231/A/1}04/06/2021 Transmitted to Governor