

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 Rhode Island College in the City of Providence on Tuesday, the Fifth day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty One.**

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Volume 148, No. 2

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Second 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 4:08 o'clock P.M.

## ROLL CALL

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 37 Senators present and 1 Senator absent as follows:

**PRESENT – 37:** The Honorable President Dominick Ruggiero, and Senators, Acosta, Algiere, Anderson, Archambault, Bell, Burke, Calkin, Cano, Coyne, de la Cruz, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goldin, Goodwin, Kallman, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Mack, McCaffrey, Mendes, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Seveney, Sosnowski, Valverde.

**ABSENT – 1:** Senator Ciccone.

## INVOCATION

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

(See Appendix for Invocation)

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

**APPROVAL OF RECORD**

The Senate Journal of the First Legislative Day of the 2021 proceedings is read in part.

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

**NEW BUSINESS****Senate Bill No. 1**

**BY** Quezada, Ruggerio, McCaffrey, Goodwin, Cano, Miller, Gallo, Goldin, Valverde, Seveney  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MINIMUM WAGES (Gradually increase the minimum wage from eleven dollars and fifty cents (\$11.50) per hour to fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per hour, over 4 years.)  
{LC548/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Labor.

**Senate Bill No. 2**

**BY** Goodwin, Ruggerio, McCaffrey, Lawson, Euer, Gallo, Felag, Coyne, Cano, Burke  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- NURSING HOME STAFFING AND QUALITY CARE ACT (Mandates minimum staffing levels and standards for quality care for nursing homes and their residents.)  
{LC362/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

**Senate Bill No. 3**

**BY** Sosnowski, McCaffrey, Goodwin, Gallo, Felag, Coyne, Lawson, Cano, Acosta, DiPalma  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES (Prohibits insurance companies from varying the premium rates charged for a health coverage plan based on the gender of the individual policy holder, enrollee, subscriber, or member.)  
{LC417/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

**Senate Bill No. 4**

**BY** Miller, Goldin, Valverde, Goodwin, Felag, Coyne, Burke, Cano, Seveney, Lawson  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- THE TELEMEDICINE COVERAGE ACT (Amends the provisions of the telemedicine coverage act and provide coverage for telemedicine under Rhode Island Medicaid.)  
{LC597/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

**Senate Bill No. 5**

**BY** Miller, Pearson, Lawson, Kallman, Lombardo, Mack, DiPalma, Quezada, Euer, Bell  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE (Requires individual health insurers, large group health insurers and small employer health insurers to provide coverage for ten (10) categories of essential health benefits listed in the act.)  
{LC360/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

**Senate Bill No. 6**

**BY** Lombardi, McCaffrey, Lombardo, Goodwin, Algieri, de la Cruz, Felag, Coyne, Burke, Cano  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - RIGHTS OF NURSING HOME PATIENTS (Department of health to promulgate rules and regulations for essential caregivers at nursing homes during a declared emergency.)  
{LC492/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

**Senate Bill No. 7**

**BY** Ruggerio, Goodwin, McCaffrey, Miller, Lombardo, Coyne, Quezada, Kallman, Cano, Lawson  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THE HOSPITAL CONVERSION ACT (Provides a one year moratorium on hospital conversions involving for-profit corporations as acquiree or acquiror.)  
{LC544/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

**Senate Bill No. 13**

**BY** Goodwin, Ruggerio, McCaffrey, Gallo, Cano, Pearson, Bell, Goldin, Mack, Coyne  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION (Provides that the council on elementary and secondary education would not grant approval for the creation or expansion of any new charter school until after the 2023-2024 school year.)  
{LC433/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Education.

**Senate Bill No. 14****BY** McCaffrey, de la Cruz**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS - SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES (Allows the governor to designate any person to solemnize a marriage within the state of Rhode Island on a particular day and within a particular city or town.)

{LC596/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary

**Senate Resolution No. 15****BY** McCaffrey, Raptakis, Gallo, Goodwin**ENTITLED**, JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE -- PROCEDURE TO FILL VACANCY IN OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, ATTORNEY GENERAL OR GENERAL TREASURER (This joint resolution would present to the electors a Rhode Island constitutional amendment which would create a procedure to fill vacancies in the offices of secretary of state, attorney general or general treasurer.)

{LC758/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary

**Senate Bill No. 16****BY** Miller, Goodwin, McCaffrey, Archambault, Lombardi, Ciccone, Quezada, Lombardo, Sosnowski, Murray**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - HARM REDUCTION CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PILOT PROGRAM (Creates pilot program to establish harm reduction centers where use of pre-obtained controlled substances may occur under supervision of health care professionals)

{LC618/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services

## COMMUNICATIONS

SENATOR  
DOMINICK J. RUGGERIO  
District 4

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

Room 318  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

TEL: (401) 222-6655  
FAX: (401) 222-2967  
sen-ruggerio@rilegislature.gov

January 12, 2021

The Honorable Senate  
Senate Chamber  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

To the Honorable, the Senate:

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Interim Senate Rules, I am making the following appointments to the Senate Standing Committees:

***Senate Committee on Commerce***

Senator V. Susan Sosnowski – Chair  
Senator Roger A. Picard – Vice Chair  
Senator Tiara T. Mack – Secretary  
Senator Kendra Anderson  
Senator Hanna M. Gallo  
Senator Meghan E. Kallman  
Senator Frank Lombardo, III  
Senator Cynthia M. Mendes  
Senator Elaine J. Morgan

***Senate Committee on Education***

Senator Sandra C. Cano – Chair  
Senator Hanna M. Gallo – Vice Chair  
Senator Ana B. Quezada – Secretary  
Senator Jeanine Calkin  
Senator Louis P. DiPalma  
Senator Ryan W. Pearson  
Senator Thomas J. Paolino  
Senator James A. Seveney

***Senate Committee on Environment & Agriculture***

Senator Dawn M. Euer – Chair  
Senator Alana DiMario – Vice Chair  
Senator Stephen R. Archambault – Secretary  
Senator Cynthia Armour Coyne  
Senator Joshua Miller  
Senator Meghan E. Kallman  
Senator Gordon E. Rogers  
Senator Bridget G. Valverde

***Senate Committee on Finance***

Senator Ryan W. Pearson – Chair  
Senator Louis P. DiPalma – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Senator Walter S. Felag, Jr. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
Senator Thomas J. Paolino – Secretary  
Senator Jonathon Acosta  
Senator Sandra C. Cano  
Senator Frank A. Ciccone, III  
Senator Melissa A. Murray  
Senator James A. Seveney  
Senator V. Susan Sosnowski

***Senate Committee on Health & Human Services***

Senator Joshua Miller – Chair  
Senator Bridget G. Valverde – Vice Chair  
Senator Valarie J. Lawson – Secretary  
Senator Samuel W. Bell  
Senator Jeanine Calkin  
Senator Alana DiMario  
Senator Gayle L. Goldin  
Senator Thomas J. Paolino

***Senate Committee on Housing & Municipal Government***

Senator Frank Lombardo, III – Chair  
Senator Meghan E. Kallman – Vice Chair  
Senator Gordon E. Rogers – Secretary  
Senator Kendra Anderson  
Senator Hanna M. Gallo  
Senator Tiara T. Mack  
Senator Roger A. Picard

***Senate Committee on Judiciary***

Senator Cynthia Armour Coyne – Chair  
Senator Stephen R. Archambault – Vice Chair  
Senator Leonidas P. Raptakis – Secretary  
Senator John P. Burke  
Senator Dawn M. Euer  
Senator Frank S. Lombardi  
Senator Ana B. Quezada  
Senator Gordon E. Rogers

***Senate Committee on Labor***

Senator Frank A. Ciccone, III – Chair  
Senator Frank S. Lombardi – Vice Chair  
Senator John P. Burke – Secretary  
Senator Jessica de la Cruz  
Senator Gayle L. Goldin  
Senator Frank Lombardo, III  
Senator Roger A. Picard  
Senator V. Susan Sosnowski

***Senate Committee on Rules, Government Ethics & Oversight***

Senator Louis P. DiPalma – Chair  
Senator James A. Seveney – Vice Chair  
Senator Meghan E. Kallman – Secretary  
Senator Jonathon Acosta  
Senator Stephen R. Archambault  
Senator Frank A. Ciccone, III  
Senator Jessica de la Cruz  
Senator Dawn M. Euer  
Senator Frank Lombardo, III

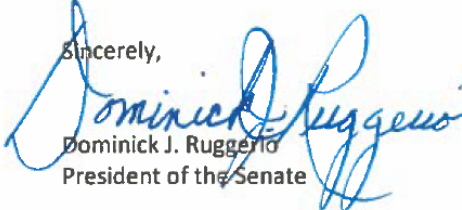
***Senate Committee on Special Legislation & Veterans' Affairs***

Senator Walter S. Felag, Jr. – Chair  
Senator Melissa A. Murray – Vice Chair  
Senator Valarie J. Lawson – Secretary  
Senator Samuel W. Bell  
Senator Cynthia M. Mendes  
Senator Elaine J. Morgan  
Senator Leonidas P. Raptakis  
Senator James A. Seveney

***Permanent Joint Committee on State Lottery***

Senator Maryellen Goodwin  
Senator Frank A. Ciccone, III  
Senator Thomas J. Paolino  
Senator Melissa A. Murray

Sincerely,



Dominick J. Ruggiero  
President of the Senate

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

The Honorable President of the Senate presents the following communication:

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
SENATE CHAMBER**

January 12, 2021

The Honorable Senate

I have the honor to inform you that I administered on this twelfth day of January, A.D. 2021 the oath of office to Frank A. Ciccone of Providence as Senator of District 07.

Respectfully yours,

Nellie M. Gorbea  
Secretary of State

Placed on file

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Senate Resolution No. 8**

**BY** Euer, Kallman, Ruggerio, McCaffrey, Goodwin, Miller, Felag, Coyne, Burke, Cano  
**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND  
INSURRECTION COMMITTED AT THE SEAT OF OUR COUNTRY'S DEMOCRACY AND  
CALLING FOR THE REMOVAL OF PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP  
{LC523/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Euer requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Euer moves passage, seconded by Senators McCaffrey, Goodwin, Gallo, Miller, DiMario, Cano, Raptakis, Seveney, Lombardi, Mack, Pearson, Quezada, Lombardo, Kallman, Felag, Costa, Coyne, Mendes, Lawson, Murray, Anderson, and Sosnowski.



The act is read and passed upon a voice vote.

Senators Euer, Lawson, Kallman, Cano, and Murray discuss the resolution.

**Senate Resolution No. 9**

**BY** Ruggerio, Lawson, Coyne, Felag, Burke, Raptakis, Rogers, de la Cruz, Paolino, Quezada  
**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE  
PASSING OF THE HONORABLE WILLIAM A. CASTRO  
{LC553/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Lawson requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Lawson moves passage, seconded by Senators Gallo, Archambault, Euer, Lombardi, DiMario, Lombardo, Mendes, Burke, Algieri, Mack, Coyne, Valverde, DiPalma, Goldin, Bell, Rogers, Quezada, McCaffrey, and Goodwin.

The act is read and passed upon a rising vote.

**Senate Resolution No. 10**

**BY** Coyne, Ruggerio, Algieri, Felag, Raptakis, Burke, Miller, Rogers, Paolino, de la Cruz  
**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE  
PASSING OF WILLARD "BILL" RAPPLEYE  
{LC531/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Coyne requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Coyne moves passage, seconded by Senators McCaffrey, Goodwin, Felag, Quezada, Lombardi, Picard, Algieri, Burke, Bell, Lawson, Raptakis, Seveney, DiPalma, Mendes, Anderson, and Murray.

The act is read and passed upon a rising vote.

**Senate Resolution No. 11**

**BY** Lawson, Coyne, Mendes, Felag, Burke, Rogers, Raptakis, Paolino, de la Cruz, Picard  
**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON THE  
PASSING OF NANCY J. AMORE  
{LC628/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration

Senator Lawson requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Lawson moves passage, seconded by Senators McCaffrey, Goodwin, Anderson, Lombardo, Sosnowski, Costa, Quezada, Lombardi, Mack, Picard, Algieri, Paolino, Rogers, Mendes, Murray, Coyne, Sewveney, and Calkin.

The act is read and passed upon a rising vote.

**Senate Resolution No. 12**

**BY** Paolino, Felag, Burke, Coyne, Rogers, de la Cruz, Picard, Lombardo, Lawson, Anderson  
**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING  
OF CAPTAIN PETER A. ADAM  
{LC658/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Paolino requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Paolino moves passage, seconded by Senators McCaffrey, Mendes, Gallo, DiMario, Quezada, Pearson, Lombardi, Mack, Algieri, Calkin, Euer, Seveney, DiPalma, and Coyne.

The act is read and passed upon a rising vote.

**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 Goodwin announces that the Senate will meet on Tuesdays during January.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon the Motion of Senator Goodwin, seconded by Senator Algieri, and upon suggestion of Senator Goodwin, the Senate adjourns at 4:54 o'clock P.M. in memory of The Honorable William A. Castro, Willard "Bill" Rappleye, Nancy J. Amore, and Captain Peter A. Adam.

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

**Appendix**

**INVOCATION**

**SENATOR HANNA M. GALLO**

Almighty God, bless those who serve in this Senate. Inspire us with your truth, surround us with your love, and fill us with your grace. Amen.