

# State of Rhode Island

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# JOURNAL

-OF THE-

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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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. 23

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Twenty-third Day

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The House of Representatives meets at the State House in Providence, Wednesday, March 29, 2023, and is called to order at 4:32 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, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Giraldo, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, , Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart and Vella-Wilkinson.

**ABSENT** – 9: Representatives Carson, Felix, Fogarty, Handy, Lima, Quattrocchi, Slater, Tanzi, Voas.

## INVOCATION

The Honorable Speaker presents Representative Shallcross Smith 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 28, 2023, is approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

March 29, 2023

Communication from Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi

**I have appointed the following to serve on the Education Commission of the States, pursuant to the Interstate Compact for Education:**

Representative Joseph McNamara

**I have nominated the following to the National Conference of State Legislatures' Task Force on Military & Veterans Affairs:**

Representative Marvin Abney

**I have nominated the following to the National Conference of State Legislatures' Non-Degree Credentials Working Groups:**

Representative David Bennett

Representative Mary Duffy Messier

Representative Teresa Ann Tanzi is unable to attend session today, Wednesday, March 29, 2023.

Representative Scott A. Slater is unable to attend session today, Wednesday, March 29, 2023.

Representative Lauren H. Carson is unable to attend session today, Wednesday, March 29, 2023.

Representative Leonela Felix is unable to attend session today, Wednesday, March 29, 2023.

Representative Kathleen A. Fogarty is unable to attend session today, Wednesday, March 29, 2023.

Representative Brandon T. Voas is unable to attend session today, Wednesday, March 29, 2023.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES  
TRANSFER OF BILLS****COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS**

Chairman Shanley, for the Committee on State Government and Elections, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of transfer to the Committee on Health and Human Services:

**House Bill No. 5185**

**BY** Cortvriend, Hull, Donovan, Spears, Dawson, Knight, Noret, Solomon, Tanzi, Felix  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- POLICE OFFICERS--COMMISSION ON STANDARDS AND TRAINING (Requires police officers commission on standards and training to provide training and instructions for officers and trainees to more accurately identify complaints involving persons with cognitive or communication-related disabilities.) {LC197/1}

03/29/2023 Committee transferred to House Health & Human Services

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE SENATE**

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

**Senate Bill No. 3**

**BY** Ruggerio, Goodwin, Felag, Gallo, Murray, Ciccone, Miller, Raptakis

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- VIDEO LOTTERY GAMES, TABLE GAMES AND SPORTS WAGERING (Amends the definitions of "collegiate sports or athletic event" and "sporting event" within the chapter on "video lottery games, table games and sports wagering".) {LC569/1}

03/29/2023 Referred to House Finance

**Senate Bill No. 206 as amended**

**BY** DiPalma

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN TO ISSUE NOT TO EXCEED \$190,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, NOTES AND OTHER EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF A MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL AND THE RENOVATION, IMPROVEMENT, ALTERATION, REPAIR, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF SCHOOL FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE TOWN AND ALL ATTENDANT EXPENSES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, DEMOLITION, ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL AND LANDSCAPING COSTS; PROVIDED THAT, THE AUTHORIZATION SHALL BE REDUCED BY THE AMOUNT OF CERTAIN GRANTS RECEIVED FROM STATE BOND PROCEEDS, FROM THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OR FROM THE RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY (Authorizes the town of Middletown to issue not more than \$190,000,000 in bonds and notes to finance school construction and renovation.) {LC1484/1}

03/29/2023 Referred to House Finance

**Senate Bill No. 685**

**BY** Acosta, Quezada, Britto, Mack, Euer, Gu, Picard, Pearson, Cano, Ujifusa

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- GENERAL PROVISIONS (Further delineates the definitions of felony, misdemeanor and petty misdemeanor.) {LC2550/1}

03/29/2023 Referred to House Judiciary

**NEW BUSINESS****House Bill No. 6217**

**BY** Spears, McEntee

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- THE RHODE ISLAND CANNABIS ACT -- LICENSED CANNABIS CULTIVATORS {LC2575/1}

03/29/2023 Introduced, referred to House Corporations

**House Bill No. 6218****BY** Casey**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE – INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE (Defines step therapy and prohibit certain groups and agreements from requiring prior authorization or a step therapy protocol when prescribing certain medications.) {LC2569/1}

03/29/2023 Introduced, referred to House Health &amp; Human Services

**House Bill No. 6219****BY** Slater**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- RETAIL LICENSES (Exempts the property located at 777 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island from the provisions of this section in order to hold a Class BV license.) {LC2686/1}

03/29/2023 Introduced, referred to House Municipal Government &amp; Housing

**House Bill No. 6220****BY** Casey**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE – INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE (Requires insurance plan chapters 18, 19, 20, and 41 of title 27 the Rhode Island medical assistance program, chapter 8 of title 40 and any contract thereto, to separately reimburse, at prevailing fee schedule, for long-acting injectable medications.) {LC2567/1}

03/29/2023 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 6221****BY** Messier, Alzate, Kazarian, Cruz, Henries, Stewart, Shallcross Smith**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- FOUNDATION LEVEL SCHOOL SUPPORT (Authorizes the state to enter into certain financing agreements with the Rhode Island health and educational buildings corporation.) {LC2616/1}

03/29/2023 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Bill No. 6222****BY** Cortvriend, McGaw**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- STATE AID (Provides state aid to municipalities in the amount of thirty-nine million dollars (\$39,000,000) based on population and increased annually by the increase in the consumer price index (CPI).) {LC2615/1}

03/29/2023 Introduced, referred to House Finance

**House Resolution No. 6223****BY** Cortvriend, Edwards, Donovan, Speakman, Knight, Finkelman, McGaw, Abney**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION TO ANNUALLY PREPARE A WRITTEN REPORT OR ANNUALLY INCLUDE AND UPDATE INFORMATION ON THE RIDE WEBSITE REGARDING SCHOOL FUNDING FOR EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT {LC2679/1}

03/29/2023 Introduced, referred to House Finance

## CALENDAR

From the Calendar are taken:

**IN ORDER FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023:****1. 2023-H 5769****BY** Corvese**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- PARKING FACILITIES AND PRIVILEGES

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

Chairman Shanley moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski  
Representatives Biah, Abney, Cortvriend, Spears, Minority Leader Chippendale and Representative Corvese.

Chairman Shanley discusses the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 66 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 66: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Giraldo, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Vella-Wilkinson.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**2. 2023-H 5607****BY** Edwards**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

Committee on State Government & Elections recommends passage.

Chairman Shanley moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski,  
Representatives Casey, Edwards, Biah, and Vella-Wilkinson.

Chairman Shanley and Representative Phillips discuss the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 60 members voting in the affirmative and 6 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 60: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Finkelman, Giraldo, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Place, Potter, Rea, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Vella-Wilkinson.

NAYS - 6: Representatives Cardillo, Fenton-Fung, Morgan, Nardone, Phillips, Roberts.

RECUSED - 0:

**3. 2023-H 5348**

**BY Ackerman**

**ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- RESTROOM ACCESS ACT**

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Chairwoman Donovan moves passage of the act, seconded by Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Azzinaro, Baginski, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Cardillo, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Giraldo, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kislak, Lombardi, McNamara, Morales, Morgan, Noret, Potter, Roberts, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Speakman, Spears, Vella-Wilkinson.

Chairwoman Donovan and Minority Leader Chippendale discuss the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 66 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 66: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Giraldo, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Vella-Wilkinson.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

**4. 2023-H 5687**

**BY Kislak**

**ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS -- MENTAL HEALTH LAW**

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Chairwoman Donovan moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski. Representatives Potter, Casey, Kislak, Bennett, Spears, Cotter, Cortvriend, Edwards, Deputy Speaker Hull, Whip Kazarian and Representative Vella-Wilkinson.

Chairwoman Donovan, Representatives Morgan, Kislak and Corvese discuss the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote, 60 members voting in the affirmative and 6 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 60: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Casey, Casimiro, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Giraldo, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Vella-Wilkinson.

NAYS - 6: Representatives Chippendale, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Rea, Roberts.

RECUSED - 0:

**5. 2023-H 5597**

**BY** McEntee

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HIGHWAYS -- ABANDONMENT BY TOWNS

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

Chairman Casey moves passage of the act, seconded by Majority Leader Blazejewski, Representatives McEntee, Bennett, and Whip Kazarian.

Chairman Casey, Representatives Morgan, and McEntee discuss the act.

Read and passed, on a roll call vote 65 members voting in the affirmative and 1 member voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 65: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Giraldo, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Vella-Wilkinson.

NAYS - 1: Representative Morgan.

RECUSED - 0:

**6. 2023-S 683****BY DiMario****ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES**

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

Chairwoman McEntee moves passage of the act, seconded by Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Caldwell, Cardillo, Casey, Casimiro, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Giraldo, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Phillips, Rea, Sanchez, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Vella-Wilkinson.

Chairwoman McEntee discusses the act.

Read and passed, in concurrence, on a roll call vote 66 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 66: The Honorable Speaker Shekarchi and Representatives Abney, Ackerman, Ajello, Alzate, Azzinaro, Baginski, Batista, Bennett, Biah, Blazejewski, Boylan, Brien, Caldwell, Cardillo, Casey, Casimiro, Chippendale, Cortvriend, Corvese, Costantino, Cotter, Craven, Cruz, Dawson, DeSimone, Diaz, Donovan, Edwards, Fellela, Fenton-Fung, Finkelman, Giraldo, Henries, Hull, Kazarian, Kennedy, Kislak, Knight, Lombardi, Marszalkowski, McEntee, McGaw, McNamara, Messier, Morales, Morgan, Nardone, Newberry, Noret, O'Brien, Perez, Phillips, Place, Potter, Rea, Roberts, Sanchez, Serpa, Shallcross Smith, Shanley, Solomon, Speakman, Spears, Stewart, Vella-Wilkinson.

NAYS - 0:

RECUSED - 0:

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

**GUESTS**

Representative Donovan welcomes to the House Chamber Brain Injury Association of Rhode Island Executive Director Debra Sharpe, Colleen McCarthy, Nancy Baker, Chris DerVartanian, Neil Sharpe, Christine Parenti, Carole Mahoney and Maurice Lee in recognition of Brain Injury Awareness Month.

**NOW PRESIDING**

At 4:55 o'clock P.M., the Honorable Speaker Shekarchi yields the rostrum to the Honorable Deputy Speaker Hull.



**GUESTS**

Representative Boylan welcomes to the House Chamber Pauline Getzoyan, Vice President of Holocaust and Genocide Education Commission, who is here raising awareness for Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Month.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Representative Speakman welcomes to the House Chamber Emma Hanson. Who is interning for the Education Committee.

Vice-Chairman Noret announces that the Committee on Education will meet today, at the rise of the House, in Room 101 of the State House.

Chairman Bennett invites all members to attend the Thrive Behavioral Legislative Breakfast this Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, from 7:45 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., at the Hillsgrove Clubhouse Warwick.

Vice-Chairman Phillips announces that the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources will meet tomorrow, at 4:00 o'clock P.M., in the House Lounge of the State House.

Chairman Solomon announces that the Committee on Corporations will meet tomorrow, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 101 of the State House.

Whip Kazarian invites all members to attend the Rhode Island Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Month event tomorrow, Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 p.m. in the State House Library.

Minority Leader Chippendale recognizes March as Developmental Disability Awareness Month.

Chair Corvese announces that the Committee on Labor will meet today, at the rise of the House, in the House Lounge of the State House.

Majority Leader Blazejewski announces there is no House session tomorrow. There will be three committees that will be held at 4:00 p.m.: Corporations in Room 101, Environment and Natural Resources in the House Lounge and the Finance Subcommittee on Public Safety in Room 35.

Next week, the House will be meeting in session on both Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, both at 4:00 p.m.

**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION****House Resolution No. 6224**

**BY** Sanchez, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Fenton-Fung, Diaz, Edwards, Cortvriend, Bennett, Shallcross Smith

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF JOVANNI EMILIO DEL GIUDICE {LC2756/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Sanchez discusses the resolution. Deputy Speaker Hull offers his condolences to the family.

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

**House Resolution No. 6225**

**BY** Sanchez, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Ajello, Fenton-Fung, Edwards, Diaz, Cortvriend, Bennett

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF YASMARY ASHANTY VALDERA {LC2758/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Sanchez discusses the resolution. Deputy Speaker Hull offers his condolences to the family.

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

**House Resolution No. 6226**

**BY** Azzinaro, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Kazarian, Casimiro, Casey, Edwards, Bennett, Vella-Wilkinson

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION THANKING AND HONORING AMERICA AND RHODE ISLAND'S VIETNAM WAR VETERANS FOR THEIR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE ON "VIETNAM VETERANS DAY" {LC2712/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Chairman Azzinaro requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Chairman Azzinaro discuss the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 6227**

**BY** Boylan, Kazarian, Kislak, Knight, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Ackerman, Finkelman, Biah, Cruz  
**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL TO BE "HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2425/1}

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

There is no objection.

Representative Boylan and Deputy Speaker Hull discuss the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 6228**

**BY** Donovan, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Ajello, Fenton-Fung, Edwards, Diaz, Cortvriend, Bennett

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MARCH OF 2023, TO BE "BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2629/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Chairwoman Donovan requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Chairwoman Donovan discusses the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 6229**

**BY** Donovan, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Ajello, Edwards, Diaz, Cortvriend, Bennett, Shallcross Smith

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING GRACE BOLDUC ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AS A PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT AFTER THIRTY-THREE YEARS OF DEDICATED AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE {LC2700/1}

With the agreement of the majority and the minority, Chairwoman Donovan requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

There is no objection.

Chairwoman Donovan and Deputy Speaker Hull discuss the resolution.

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

**House Resolution No. 6230**

**BY** Blazejewski, Chippendale

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS {LC2742/1}

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 Chippendale, by unanimous consent, on a voice vote.

**House Resolution No. 6231**

**BY** Blazejewski, Chippendale

**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES {LC2741/1}

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 Chippendale, by unanimous consent, on a rising vote.

**RULE 7D**

**The following bills were received pursuant to Rule 7D:**

Representative Diaz-An Act relating to State Affairs and Government - Corrections Department

Representative Kazarian-An Act relating to Education -Certification of Teachers

Representative Lombardi-An Act relating to Insurance- Accident and Sickness Insurance Policies

Representative McEntee-An Act relating to Motor Vehicles Tax

An Act relating to Public Utilities and Carries – Rhode Island Public Transit Authority

By unanimous consent, the House returns to:

**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.)

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Chairman McNamara, for the Committee on Education, reports back the following measures, with recommendation of passage:

**House Bill No. 5010**

**BY** McNamara, Shallcross Smith, Fenton-Fung, Noret, Donovan

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE -- THE PROMOTING ACCESS TO INCREASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR ALL

STUDENTS ACT (Requires that services provided by school social workers and certified school psychologists be included as health care related services eligible for federal Medicaid

reimbursement.) {LC41/1}

03/31/2023 Placed on House Calendar (04/04/2023)

**House Bill No. 5339**

(Dept. of Education (RIDE))

**BY** Donovan

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- EDUCATION SERVICES TO VERY YOUNG CHILDREN (Amends applicability and operational requirements of the chapter on Education Services to Very Young Children.) {LC1159/1}

03/31/2023 Placed on House Calendar (04/06/2023)

**House Bill No. 5544**

(Dept. of Education (RIDE))

**BY** Donovan, Cortvriend, Spears

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND SUPERINTENDENTS (Amends the provisions of law relative to eligibility for attendance for kindergarten students.) {LC1614/1}

03/31/2023 Placed on House Calendar (04/06/2023)

**House Bill No. 5545**

(Dept. of Revenue)

**BY** Voas, Potter, Diaz, Alzate

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL (Requires that certain quarterly reports required to be filed by district charter schools, mayoral academies and independent charter schools be submitted to the commissioner of elementary and secondary education.) {LC1709/1}

03/31/2023 Placed on House Calendar (04/04/2023)

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

Chairman Craven, for the Committee on Judiciary, reports back the following measures, with recommendation of passage:

**House Bill No. 5701 SUB A**

(Judiciary)

**BY** Noret, Craven, Phillips, Casimiro, Corvese, Hull, Kazarian, Casey, Brien, Baginski

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MISCELLANEOUS RULES (Clarifies that the use of a wireless communication device for the purpose of navigation must be while the device is mounted or otherwise affixed to the vehicle and not held in the motorist's hand.) {LC1153/A/2}

03/31/2023 Placed on House Calendar (04/04/2023)

**House Bill No. 5920**

(Judiciary)

**BY** Slater

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT (Amends the statutory penalties for a second and third possession of marijuana offense to conform to the penalties promulgated in the Rhode Island cannabis act.) {LC2416/1}

03/31/2023 Placed on House Calendar (04/04/2023)

**House Bill No. 5921**

(Judiciary)

**BY** Slater**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT (Amends the statutory penalties for possession of marijuana offenses to conform to the penalties promulgated in the Rhode Island cannabis act.) {LC2415/1}

03/31/2023 Placed on House Calendar (04/04/2023)

**COMMITTEE ON LABOR**

Chairman Corvese, for the Committee on Labor, reports back the following measure, with recommendation of passage:

**House Bill No. 5929****BY** Tanzi, Boylan, Cruz, Speakman, Donovan, Vella-Wilkinson, Felix, Hull, Spears, Potter**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES (Forbids an employer to require an employee to execute a nondisclosure agreement or non-disparagement agreement, regarding alleged violations of civil rights or criminal conduct, as a condition of employment.) {LC2142/1}

03/31/2023 Placed on House Calendar (04/04/2023)

**COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING**

Chairman Casey, for the Committee on Municipal Government and Housing, reports back the following measures, with recommendation of passage:

**House Bill No. 5602 SUB A****BY** Slater, Diaz, Potter, Cruz, Brien, Solomon, Bennett, Felix, Hull, Lombardi J**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (Enables all municipalities to offer tax amnesty for two (2) separate sixty (60) day periods during fiscal years 2024 or 2025 for the waiver of interest and penalties on overdue tangible tax payments.) {LC1589/A/1}

03/31/2023 Placed on House Calendar (04/06/2023)

**House Bill No. 5713****BY** Noret, Casimiro, Finkelman, Baginski, Costantino, Corvese, Shallcross Smith, Marszalkowski, DeSimone, Nardone**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (Allows the waiver of interest on overdue taxes for commercial properties.) {LC1990/1}

03/31/2023 Placed on House Calendar (04/06/2023)

**House Resolution No. 6088**

**BY** Speakman, Giraldo, Shekarchi, Kazarian, Cotter, Knight, Cruz, Cortvriend, Casey, Potter  
**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES AND AMENDING THE PURPOSE, NAME, AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING ACT (This resolution would expand the purpose, amend the name and membership, and extend the reporting and expiration dates of the Commission from April 12, to June 7, 2025, and would expire on June 28, 2025.) {LC1417/1}  
03/31/2023 Placed on House Calendar (04/06/2023)

**House Resolution No. 6089**

**BY** Giraldo, Speakman, Shekarchi, Solomon, Donovan, Biah, Chippendale  
**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES, AND REQUIRING REAPPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE ENTIRE AREA OF LAND USE, PRESERVATION, DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT, AND REGULATION (Extends the reporting and expiration dates and requires a letter of continued interest to the speaker for reappointment of membership, to the commission to study the entire area of land use from 6/8/23 to 6/8/25 and would expire on 6/30/25.) {LC2010/1}  
03/31/2023 Placed on House Calendar (04/06/2023)

**Senate Bill No. 314**

**BY** Valverde, DiMario  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF NORTH KINGSTOWN (Validates and ratify amendments to the Home Rule Charter of the town of North Kingstown, which amendments were adopted and approved by the electors of the town of North Kingstown on November 8, 2022.) {LC1358/1}  
03/31/2023 Placed on House Calendar (04/04/2023)

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES  
TRANSFER OF BILLS****COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

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

**House Bill No. 6011**

**BY** Vella-Wilkinson, Morales, Noret, Lima, Solomon  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- GUN SAFE TAX CREDIT (Creates a tax credit for 50% of the cost of a qualified gun safe/vault/cabinet, not to exceed \$5,000 even if purchased prior to effective date of the tax credit; exempts the devices from the sales tax; all provisions expire/sunset 2 yrs. after passage.) {LC2044/1}  
03/31/2023 Committee transferred to House Judiciary

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE SENATE**

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

**Senate Bill No. 240 SUB A**

**BY** Lawson, Britto, Lauria

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (Allows the town of East Providence to adopt a new tax rate applicable to Class 2 property that shall not exceed by two hundred percent (200%) the rate applicable to Class 1 property.)

{LC1495/A/1}

03/31/2023 Referred to House Municipal Government & Housing

**Senate Bill No. 26**

**BY** Miller

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- HARM REDUCTION CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PILOT PROGRAM (Extends the expiration date of the Harm Reduction Center Advisory Committee and Pilot Program by two years, from March 1, 2024, to March 1, 2026.) {LC291/1}

03/31/2023 Placed on House Calendar (04/04/2023)

**Senate Bill No. 241**

**BY** Murray, Picard

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Authorizes the Woonsocket city council to increase the period of exemption or stabilization of taxes on qualifying property located in designated districts in the city from ten (10) years to twenty (20) years.) {LC1053/1}

03/31/2023 Placed on House Calendar (04/04/2023)

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 5:17 o'clock P.M. on motion of Representative Sanchez, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Jovanni DelGiudice and Yasmery Ashanty Valdera; on motion of Representative Corvese, and as a further mark of respect to the memory of Leonora Allaire seconded by Leaders Blazejewski and Chippendale the House adjourns, on a unanimous rising vote.

**Diane M. DePina**  
**Recording Clerk**



**APPENDIX**

**INVOCATION**

**REPRESENTATIVE MARY ANN SHALLCROSS SMITH**

Almighty God: We pray today for the members of this body who have been given the privilege and responsibility of conducting the people's business. Be with them this day, and every day as they serve the needs of their communities. Amen

**APPENDIX**

**TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR**

**Senate Bill No. 683**

**BY** DiMario

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

(Extends the moratorium on penalties related to COVID-19 modifications to food business or food service establishments to February 15, 2024.) {LC2630/1}

03/29/2023 Transmitted to Governor

**House Bill No. 5264 SUB A**

**BY** McEntee, Carson, Caldwell, Dawson, Craven, Batista, Finkelman, Vella-Wilkinson, Morales, Cortvriend

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

(Extends the moratorium on penalties related to COVID-19 modifications to food business or food service establishments to February 15, 2024.) {LC526/A/1}

03/29/2023 Transmitted to Governor

APPENDIX

## CALENDAR

## IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2023:

1. **2023-H 5010**  
**BY** McNamara  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE -- THE PROMOTING ACCESS TO INCREASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT  
  
Committee on Education recommends passage.
2. **2023-H 5545**  
**BY** Voas  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL  
  
Committee on Education recommends passage.
3. **2023-H 5929**  
**BY** Tanzi  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES  
  
Committee on Labor recommends passage.
4. **2023-H 5701 SUB A**  
**BY** Noret  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- MISCELLANEOUS RULES  
  
Committee on Judiciary recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A.
5. **2023-H 5920**  
**BY** Slater  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT  
  
Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.
6. **2023-H 5921**  
**BY** Slater  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT  
  
Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

7. **2023-S 26**  
**BY** Miller  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- HARM REDUCTION CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PILOT PROGRAM

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

8. **2023-S 241**  
**BY** Murray  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

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

9. **2023-S 314**  
**BY** Valverde  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF NORTH KINGSTOWN

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage in concurrence.

**IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023:**

1. **2023-H 6088**  
**BY** Speakman  
**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES AND AMENDING THE PURPOSE, NAME, AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING ACT

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

2. **2023-H 6089**  
**BY** Giraldo  
**ENTITLED**, HOUSE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE REPORTING AND EXPIRATION DATES, AND REQUIRING REAPPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE ENTIRE AREA OF LAND USE, PRESERVATION, DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT, AND REGULATION

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

3. **2023-H 5602 SUB A**  
**BY** Slater  
**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A.

**4. 2023-H 5713**

**BY** Noret

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES

Committee on Municipal Government & Housing recommends passage.

**5. 2023-H 5339**

**BY** Donovan

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- EDUCATION SERVICES TO VERY YOUNG CHILDREN

Committee on Education recommends passage.

**6. 2023-H 5544**

**BY** Donovan

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND SUPERINTENDENTS

Committee on Education recommends passage.

**Francis McCabe**  
Clerk of the House

**Friday, March 31, 2023**