# State of Rhode Island

# Journal of the Senate

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.

Volume 150, No. 25	Thursday, May 18, 2023	Twenty-Fifth Legislative Day
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The Senate meets pursuant to adjournment and is called to order by the Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio, President of the Senate, at 4:18 o'clock P.M.

#### **ROLL CALL**

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 37 Senators present and 0 Senators absent as follows:

**PRESENT – 37:** The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Bell, Britto, Burke, Cano, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

#### ABSENT – 0:

#### **INVOCATION**

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

(See Appendix for Invocation)

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

#### **APPROVAL OF RECORD**

The Senate Journal of the Twenty-Third Day of the 2023 proceedings is read in part.

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

#### COMMUNICATIONS

The Honorable President of the Senate presents the following communications:

SENATOR FRANK LOMBARDO, III District 25

10 Anson Brown Road Johnston, Rhode Island 02919

Room 318 Rhode Island State House Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RESIDENCE: 401-270-1379 OFFICE: 401-276-5599 FAX: 401-222-2967

sen-lombardo@rilegislature.gov



State of Rhode Island

# Senate Chamber

CHAIRPERSON Committee on Housing & Municipal Governmer

> Committee on Labor

> Committee on Commerce

Committee on Rules, Government Ethics & Oversight

May 18, 2023

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

Dear Mr. President:

Please be advised that on Thursday, May 18, 2023, I will be absent from Senate Session due to illness.

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

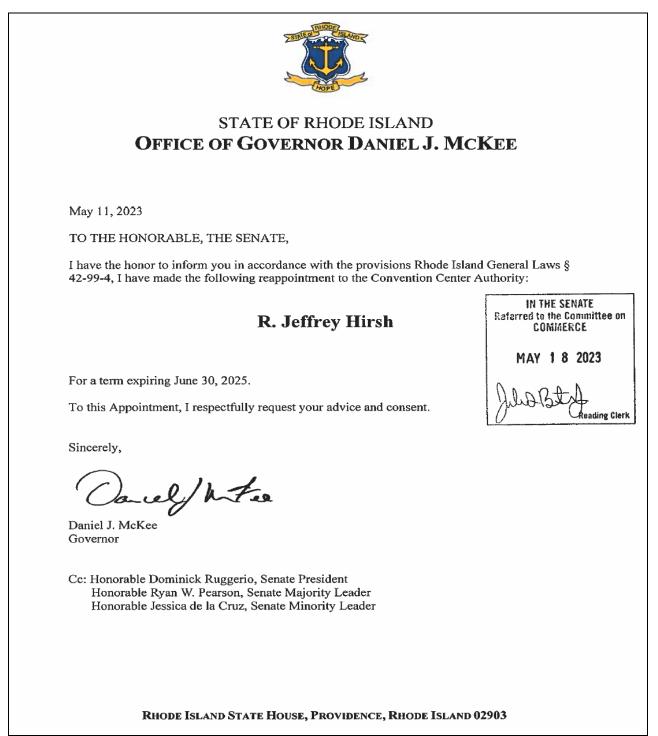
Sincerely,

Frank Lombardo III Senator District - 25

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

#### **APPOINTMENTS BY THE GOVERNOR**

The Honorable President presents the following communication from His Excellency, The Governor, transmitting the following appointments and requesting the advice and consent of the Senate thereto:



Referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce.



### STATE OF RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

May 17, 2023

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE,

I have the honor to inform you in accordance with the provisions of Section § 42-64.14-6 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following appointment to the I-195 Redevelopment Commission:

#### Vincent R. Masino

Vice Robert Davis

For a term expiring October 3, 2027.

To this Appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

IN THE SENATE Referred to the Committee on COMMERCE

MAY 1 8 2023

eading Clerk

Sincerely,

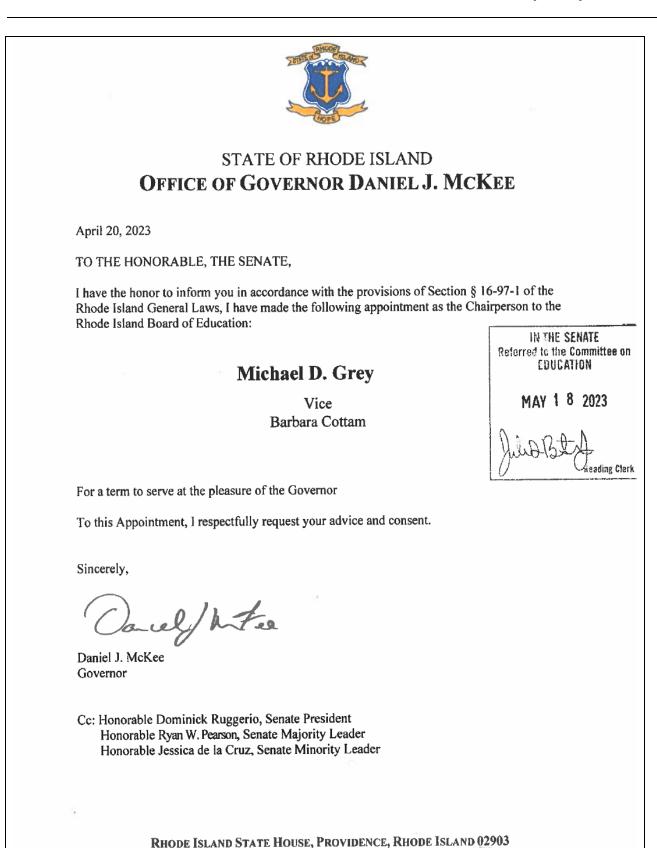
and/hte

Daniel J. McKee Governor

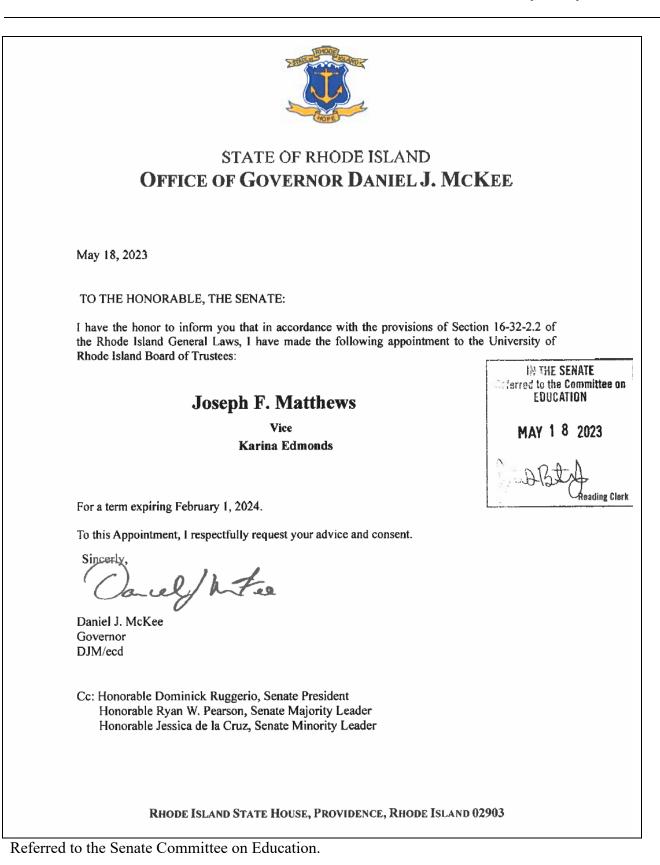
Cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President Honorable Ryan W. Pearson, Senate Majority Leader Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

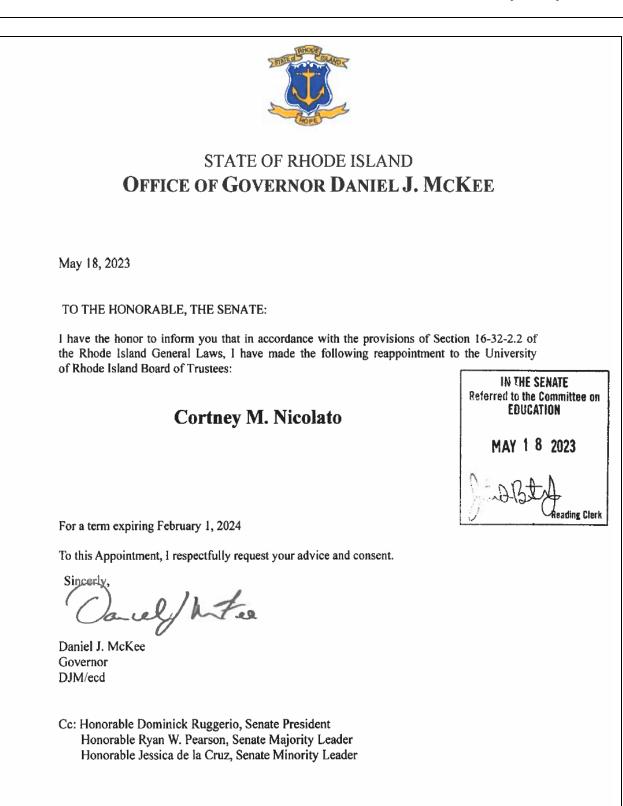
#### RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce.

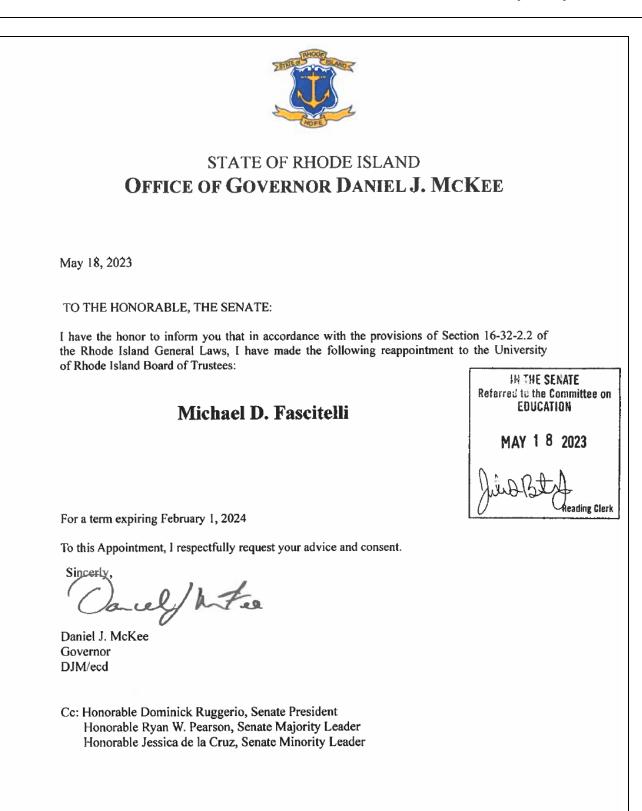


Referred to the Senate Committee on Education.

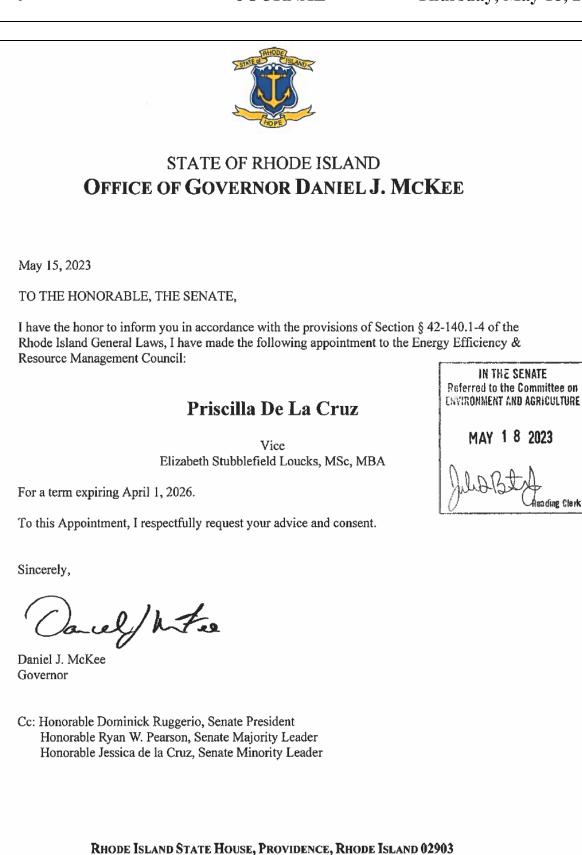




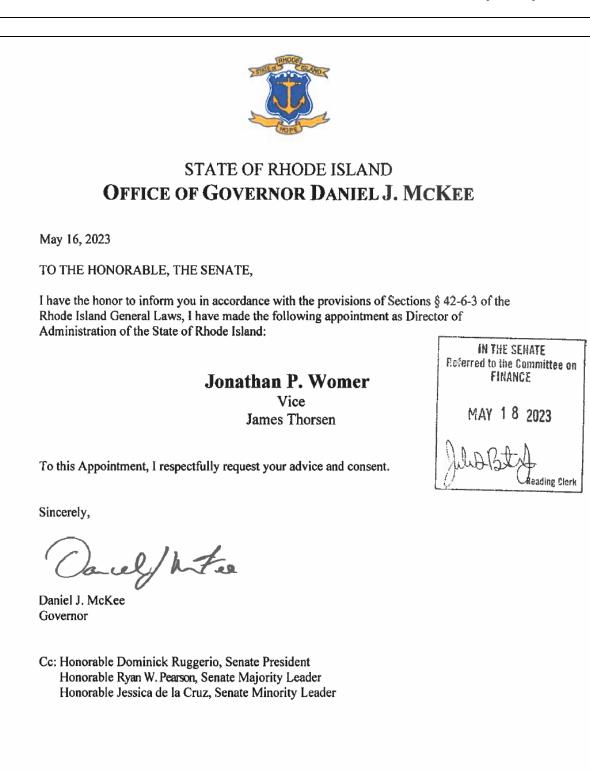
Referred to the Senate Committee on Education.



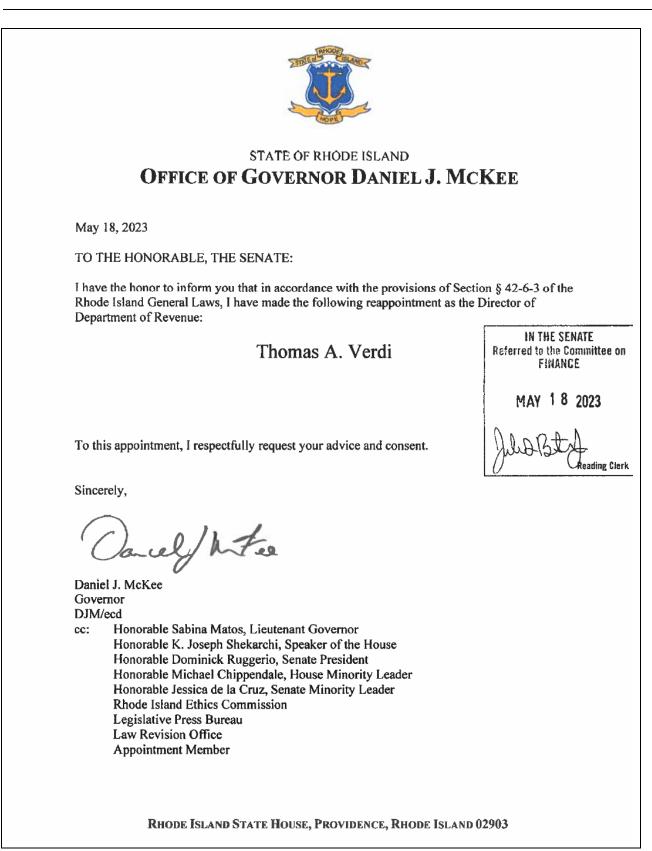
Referred to the Senate Committee on Education.



Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture.

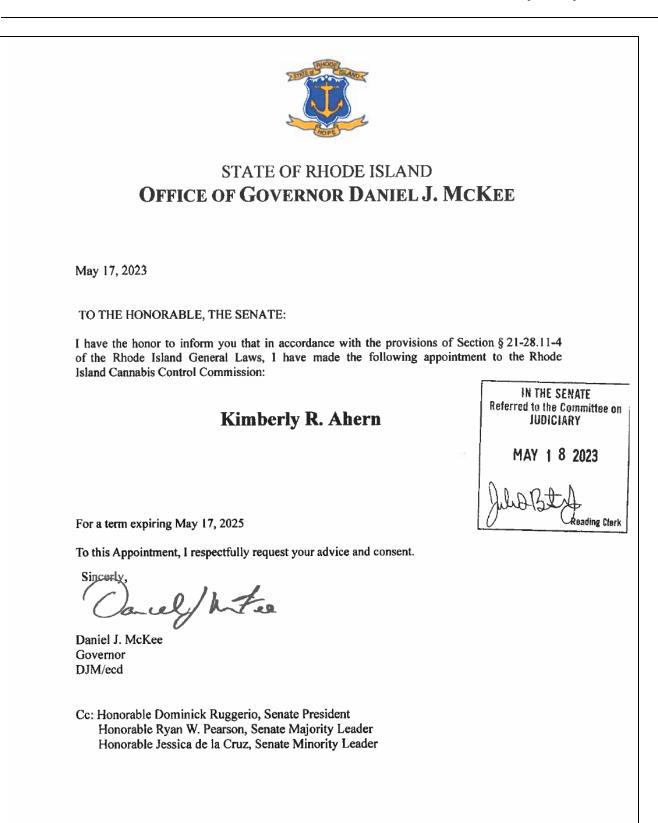


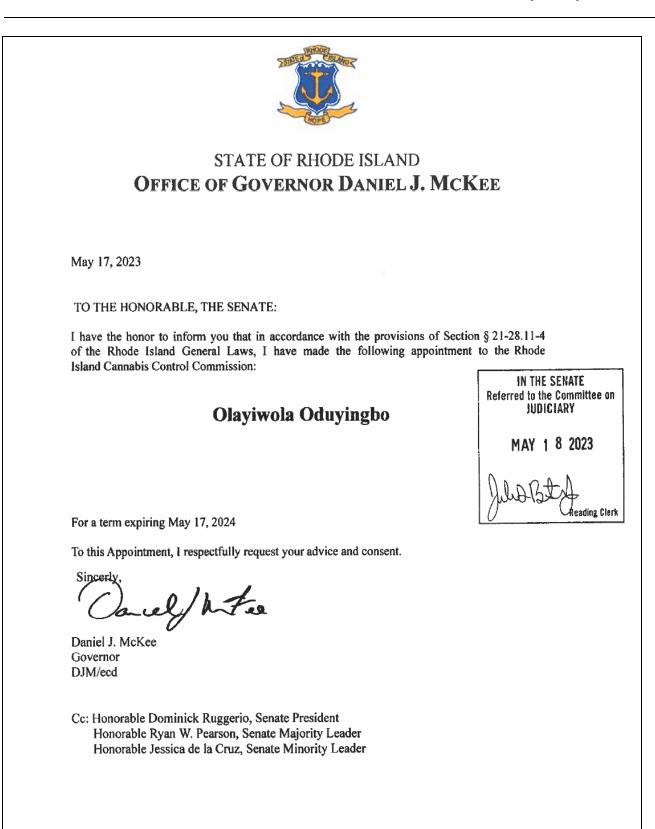
Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

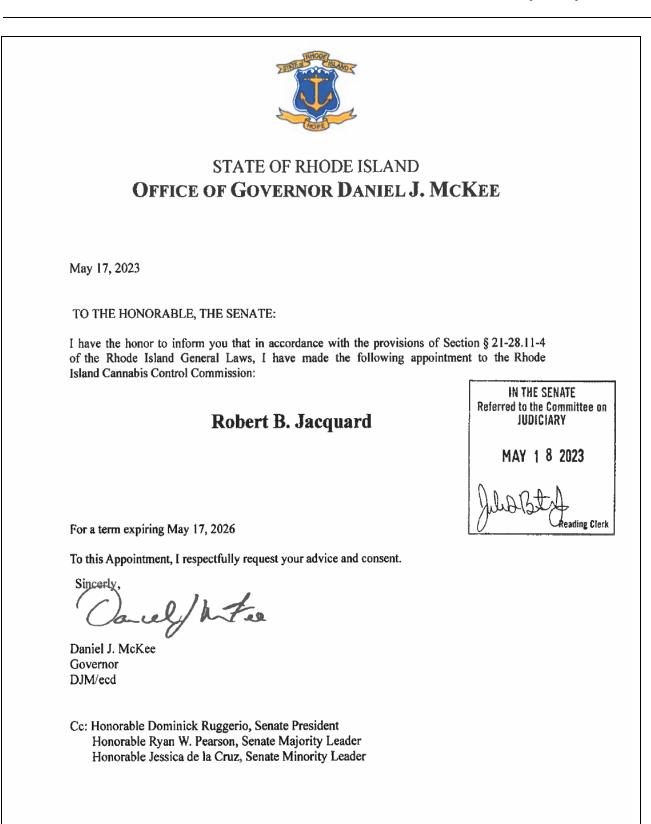


Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.









#### **IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATIONS**

#### Senate Resolution No. 1025 BY Gallo ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY AS "BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC873/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator de la Cruz requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator de la Cruz moves passage, seconded by Senators Acosta, Britto, Burke, Cano, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a voice vote.

#### **GUESTS**

Upon the suggestion of Senator Gallo and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber from the Rhode Island Speech and Hearing Association; Ellen Connery, Nancy Cordy, Allison Taylor, Anne Ferraro, Sara McCarthy, and Pamela Zeller.

Senate Resolution No. 1026 BY de la Cruz ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING AND CELEBRATING "ARMED FORCES DAY" ON MAY 20TH, 2023, IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2934/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator de la Cruz requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator de la Cruz moves passage, seconded by Senators Acosta, Britto, Burke, Cano, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lombardi, McKenney, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Tikoian, Valverde, and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a voice vote.

#### GUESTS

Upon the suggestion of Senator de la Cruz and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Armed Forces Day Honorees: Captain Marc Sennick, United States Coast Guard, Major Susan A. Mastrostefano, United States Army, Sergeant Cameron Joseph Cyr, United States Marine Corps, Staff Sergeant Lauren Buxton, United States Marine Corps, Petty Officer Justin Smith, United States Navy, Builder Petty Officer Third Class John Wood, United States Navy, and Hospital Corpsman Second Class Bryan Escobar, United States Navy.

#### Senate Resolution No. 1027 BY Raptakis ENTITLED, SENATE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 19TH OF 2023 AS "GREEK PONTIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND {LC2955/1}

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 Acosta, Bell, Britto, Burke, Cano, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a voice vote.

#### **GUESTS**

Upon the suggestion of Senator Raptakis and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber from Pontian Society Panagia Soumela Boston Inc; President Georgios Gialtouridis, and Secretary Demetrios Kosmidis.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Senate Bill No. 1028

**BY** Murray, Gallo, Pearson, Miller, Valverde **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- UNFAIR DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ORGAN DONORS IN DISABILITY INCOME, LIFE AND LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE ACT (Adds a new chapter which defines "living donor" and prohibits insurers from denying health insurance, including disability insurance and long-term care disability insurance on the basis of individual's status as a "living donor".) {LC2313/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

#### IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023:

1. The Appointment of Howard M. Dulude, MBA, FHFMA (Representing the Hospital Association of Rhode Island) VICE Jean Marie Rocha, MPH to the Health Professional Loan Repayment Board for a term expiring March 31, 2025.

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

2. The Appointment of Ara A. Millette (Representing the Rhode Island State Nurses' Association) VICE Donna Policastro, APRN-BC to the Health Professional Loan Repayment Board for a term expiring March 31, 2025.

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

3. The Appointment of Stacy Paterno (Representing the Rhode Island Medical Society) VICE Steven R. DeToy to the Health Professional Loan Repayment Board for a term expiring March 31, 2025.

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

4. The Appointment of Jessica L. Skaltsis, MS RN CCM CHSE (Representing the Dean of the College of Nursing at the University of Rhode Island) VICE Mary C. Sullivan, Ph.D. to the Health Professional Loan Repayment Board for a term expiring March 31, 2025.

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

JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Pearson, seconded by Senator de la Cruz, the following measures on Today's Consent Calendar, by unanimous consent, are read and passed, upon a roll call vote:

YEAS – 37: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Bell, Britto, Burke, Cano, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

 $\mathbf{NAYS} - \mathbf{0}$ :

#### CALENDAR

#### IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023:

#### 1. The Appointment of Ashley Deckert as the Director of the Department of Children, Youth and Families

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 Pearson, Euer, Gallo, DiPalma, Britto, Lombardi, Zurier, Gu, Picard, Cano, McKenney, Lawson, DeLuca, Rogers, de la Cruz, Ujifusa, Tikoian, Valverde, Felag.

Senators Lawson, Bell, and de la Cruz discuss the appointment.

The advice and consent of the Senate is given, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote, with 37 members voting in the affirmative, and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS – 37: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Bell, Britto, Burke, Cano, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

#### **NAYS – 0:**

#### **GUESTS**

Upon the suggestion of Senator Miller and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Ashley Deckert, Director of the Department of Children, Youth and Families.

#### 2. 2023-S 107 BY Cano ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Senator Cano moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators Kallman, Burke, Gallo, Sosnowski, DiMario, Gu, Ujifusa, Quezada, Valverde, Raptakis, Lombardi, Miller, Acosta, Zurier, Picard, and Bell.

Senator Bell discusses the act.

The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 37 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

**YEAS – 37:** The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Bell, Britto, Burke, Cano, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

**NAYS – 0:** 

3. 2023-S 32

**BY** Valverde

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT --HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN--EQUALITY IN ABORTION COVERAGE

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

Senator Valverde moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators Euer, Kallman, Ujifusa, Lauria, Murray, Gallo, Mack, Gu, Zurier, Acosta, LaMountain, Bell, McKenney, Pearson.

Senators Mack, Cano, de la Cruz, Murray, Rogers, Valverde, DeLuca, Lauria, Quezada, Raptakis, Britto discuss the act.

The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 24 members voting in the affirmative and 13 members voting in the negative as follows:

**YEAS – 24:** The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Bell, Britto, Burke, Cano, DiMario, Euer, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Murray, Pearson, Quezada, Sosnowski, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

NAYS – 13: Senators Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiPalma, Felag, Lombardi, Lombardo, Morgan, Paolino, Picard, Raptakis, Rogers, and Tikoian.

#### 4. **2023-H 5006**

**BY** Kazarian **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT --HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN -- EQUALITY IN ABORTION COVERAGE

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

Senator Valverde moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators Euer, Kallman, Murray, Mack, DiMario, Sosnowski, Gallo, Cano, Ujifusa, Lauria, Bell, Pearson, Miller, Acosta, and Zurier.

The act is read and passed, in concurrence, upon a roll call vote, with 24 members voting in the affirmative and 13 members voting in the negative as follows:

**YEAS – 24:** The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Bell, Britto, Burke, Cano, DiMario, Euer, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Murray, Pearson, Quezada, Sosnowski, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

NAYS – 13: Senators Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiPalma, Felag, Lombardi, Lombardo, Morgan, Paolino, Picard, Raptakis, Rogers, and Tikoian.

#### 5. 2023-H 5379 BY Place ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HARRISVILLE FIRE DISTRICT

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

Senator de la Cruz moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators Rogers and DeLuca.

The act is read and passed, in concurrence, upon a roll call vote, with 35 members voting in the affirmative and 1 member voting in the negative as follows:

**YEAS – 35:** The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Britto, Burke, Cano, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

NAYS – 1: Senator Bell.

# 6. 2023-H 5780 BY Alzate ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES -- DRIVER PRIVILEGE CARDS AND PERMITS

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

Senator Britto moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators Euer, Felag, Mack, Gu, Gallo, Bell, LaMountain, Ujifusa, Quezada, Murray.

The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 31 members voting in the affirmative and 5 members voting in the negative as follows:

**YEAS – 31:** The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Bell, Britto, Burke, Cano, Ciccone, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Mack, McKenney, Miller, Murray, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

NAYS – 5: Senators de la Cruz, DeLuca, Morgan, Paolino, and Rogers.

#### TRANSMITTAL

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Kallman announces that the Senate Committee on Housing and Municipal Government will meet today at the rise of the senate in Room 212.

Senator Felag announces that the Senate Committee on Finance will meet today at the rise of the senate in Room 211.

Senator Raptakis announces that the Senate Committee on Judiciary will meet today at the rise of the senate in Room 313.

#### RECESS

Upon the Motion of Senator Pearson, seconded by Senator de la Cruz, the Senate stands in Recess at 5:45 o'clock P.M.

#### REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Chairwoman Euer, from the Committee on Judiciary, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measures:

The Appointment of Christopher J. Behan (Representing the City of Newport) to the Fort Adams Foundation for a term expiring January 31, 2026.

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

The Appointment of Christopher B. Zeeman (Representing the Fort Adams Trust Board of Directors) VICE Andrew Eric Offenberg to the Fort Adams Foundation for a term expiring January 31, 2026.

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

The Appointment of John S. Justo VICE Deborah Thomas to the Rhode Island Airport Corporation for a term expiring June 1, 2025.

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

#### House Bill No. 6329 BY Blazejewski ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES (Allows Puya Joseph Nili to join Jacqueline Azniv Kazarian and Chad Erik Austino in marriage on or about October 8, 2023, within the City of Providence, Rhode Island.) {LC2874/1}

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

#### **COMMITTEE ON LABOR**

Chairman Ciccone, from the Committee on Labor, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measures:

The Appointment of Darrell Waldron (Community Based Organization) VICE Cathy Doyle to the Governor's Workforce Board for a term expiring January 1, 2026.

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

# The Appointment of Lawrence E. Purtill VICE Derek M. Silva to the Rhode Island Labor Relations Board for a term expiring August 1, 2027.

Placed on the Calendar.

#### Senate Bill No. 825

**BY** Ruggerio, Pearson, Gallo, DiPalma, LaMountain, Tikoian **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- REAL JOBS RHODE ISLAND ACT (Establishes a real job Rhode Island program, which is an industry-led system to advance the skills of the state's workforce to grow the state's economy and increase sustainable employment for middle-class families.) {LC2618/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

#### COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL LEGISLATION AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Chairman Felag, from the Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measures:

#### Senate Bill No. 436

**BY** Felag, DiPalma, Lawson, Raptakis, Lauria, Murray, Valverde ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES --REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES (Unifies the weight limit of vehicles with special plates, including P.O.W. plates, National Guard plates, and disabled veteran plates, to 12,000 pounds.) {LC1809/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

**BY** Mack, Quezada, Britto, Acosta, Bell, Gu, Kallman, Murray, Euer, Burke **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO HOLIDAYS AND DAYS OF SPECIAL OBSERVANCE -- HOLIDAYS (Establishes June 19th as a state holiday, to be known as "Juneteenth National Freedom Day".) {LC1880/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

#### Senate Bill No. 667

**BY** Tikoian, Burke, LaMountain, Raptakis, Britto, Sosnowski, Gallo **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- OPERATORS' AND CHAUFFEURS' LICENSES (Requires an Automobile Association of America (AAA) program entitled "Shifting Gears: The Blunt Truth About Marijuana and Driving" to be added to the curriculum for driver education once it has been approved by the state board of education.) {LC2546/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

#### Senate Bill No. 748

(Veterans) BY Ciccone, Lombardo, Burke, Tikoian ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS --GENERAL PROVISIONS (Provides free admission to any state owned recreational facility for Gold Star families with exceptions for docking slips.) {LC2295/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

#### Senate Bill No. 749

(Veterans) BY Felag ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HOLIDAYS AND DAYS OF SPECIAL OBSERVANCE -- DAYS OF SPECIAL OBSERVANCE (Provides that the fifth day in April in each year be designated as "Rhode Island Gold Star Spouses Day" with appropriate exercises in public places and with flags flown at half-staff over the state house.) {LC1574/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

#### **COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Chairwoman Cano, from the Committee on Education, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measure:

#### Senate Bill No. 63

**BY** Murray, DiPalma, Valverde, Lauria, Quezada, Bell, Felag, McKenney, DiMario, Gu **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION OMBUD (Establishes the RI ombud for special education who ensures school districts throughout the state meet the minimum standards required to comply with the individualized education programs for students with disabilities.) {LC894/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

#### **NEW BUUSINESS**

#### Senate Resolution No. 1029

**BY** Felag, Pearson, Britto, F. Lombardi, Gallo, Raptakis, DiPalma, Sosnowski **ENTITLED,** JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$15,200,000 TO BE USED TO PURCHASE PFAS-FREE FIREFIGHTING GEAR (Authorizes the appropriation of the sum of \$15,200,000 to cities and towns to purchase firefighter and rescue personnel protective gear which is PFAS free.) {LC3047/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Finance.

#### Senate Bill No. 1030

**BY** Cano, DiPalma, Euer, Lawson, DiMario, Murray, Burke, Mack, Kallman, Britto **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- QUALITY SELF-DIRECTED SERVICES (Relative to the provision of home and community based services, provides for the merger of the Independent Provider Program into the Personal Choice Program so that the state has one self-directed program for direct support services.) {LC3039/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

#### Senate Bill No. 1031

**BY** Raptakis, Rogers **ENTITLED,** AN ACT VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF COVENTRY (Would validate and ratify amendments to the Home Rule Charter of the town of Coventry.) {LC3030/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

**BY** F. Lombardi, LaMountain, McKenney, Ujifusa, Zurier, Euer **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES (Amends certain general laws relative to zoning ordinance variances, special use permits, modifications thereto and also amends provisions relative to substandard lots of record and the merger of such lots.) {LC2508/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

#### Senate Bill No. 1033

**BY** Pearson, McKenney **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- RHODE ISLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND LAND USE ACT (Amends the required contents of a comprehensive plan providing that the "implementation program" component of the requirements include a 5 year strategic plan to ensure that the comprehensive plan goals and policies are implemented in a timely fashion.) {LC2502/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

#### Senate Bill No. 1034

**BY** Pearson, McKenney **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- SUBDIVISION OF LAND (Amends the provisions relative to the subdivision of land and the application process requesting relief from zoning ordinances and the review process thereof.) {LC2501/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

## Senate Bill No. 1035

**BY** Burke **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES (Provides that adaptive reuse for the conversion of commercial property into residential or mixed-use developments shall be a permitted use and allowable by specific and objective provisions of a zoning ordinance, subject to certain restrictions.) {LC2504/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

#### Senate Bill No. 1036 BY Kallman

**ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES (Amends several sections of law relating to zoning ordinances to provide uniform zoning standards for accessory dwelling units.) {LC2510/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

#### Senate Bill No. 1037 BY Ruggerio, Pearson, Gallo, Kallman ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (Provides amendments relative to low- and moderate-income housing and modifies and clarifies the procedure for review of applications to build such housing.) {LC2500/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

Senate Bill No. 1038 BY Ruggerio ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- RHODE ISLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND LAND USE ACT (Amends certain notification procedures relating to comprehensive planning and land use, subdivision of land and zoning ordinances) {LC3016/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

Senate Bill No. 1039 BY Kallman, McKenney, Burke ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES (Changes zoning distance notice requirements and requires website and social media hearing notice postings.) {LC2746/1}

**BY** LaMountain, F. Lombardi, McKenney **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE --PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- EVIDENCE (Repeals the collateral source rule in medical malpractice actions.) {LC2971/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

#### Senate Bill No. 1041

**BY** LaMountain, F. Lombardi, McKenney **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- ABUSE IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES (Removes the intent requirement relative to the definitions of "abuse" within the chapter on "abuse in healthcare facilities" and amends the definitions of "abuse" and "neglect" with regard to elderly affairs by deleting the element of willful conduct.) {LC2974/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

#### Senate Bill No. 1042

**BY** LaMountain, F. Lombardi, McKenney ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS --CONTRACTORS' REGISTRATION AND LICENSING BOARD (Provides that contractors maintain errors and omissions insurance.) {LC2978/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

#### Senate Bill No. 1043

**BY** F. Lombardi, LaMountain, McKenney, Ujifusa, Euer, Zurier **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES (Prohibits an employer, employment agency, labor organization, or employee from directly or indirectly committing any act declared to be an unlawful employment practice or the employee or employer may be held personally liable.) {LC2979/1}

**BY** F. Lombardi, LaMountain, McKenney, Ujifusa, Euer, Zurier **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE--PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- DECISIONS, SPECIAL FINDINGS AND ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES (Adds the doctrine of assumption of risk to the current comparative negligence statute.) {LC2980/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

#### Senate Bill No. 1045

**BY** F. Lombardi, LaMountain, McKenney, Ujifusa, Euer, Zurier **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- WORKERS' COMPENSATION--PROCEDURE (For purposes of liability of third persons for damages relating to claims for workers compensation, provides that reimbursement not be provided for certain damages, and reduces any award by any percentage of the employees comparative negligence.)

 $\{LC2975/1\}$ 

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 1046 BY McKenney ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- LIABILITY INSURANCE (Provides for mandatory uninsured motorist coverage.) {LC2981/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 1047 BY McKenney ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE --PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- LITIGATION LENDING AGREEMENTS (Makes litigation loan agreements subject to state usury laws.) {LC2976/1}

**BY** McKenney **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- LIABILITY INSURANCE (Requires that insurance policies for property damage, personal injuries, and indemnification other than payment of compensation for workers compensation, state policy limits and no amount of the policy may be used to pay costs to defend a claim.) {LC2982/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

#### Senate Bill No. 1049

**BY** Burke, Tikoian, Quezada, LaMountain, McKenney, Raptakis, F. Lombardi **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- POLICE OFFICERS - COMMISSION ON STANDARDS AND TRAINING (Requires police training on recognizing the possible existence of mental health disorders and substance use disorders and requires certified crisis intervention team training for all officers.) {LC3040/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

#### Senate Bill No. 1050

**BY** McKenney, Pearson **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (Amends several sections of law relating to low-and moderate-income housing and the application, appeal, and judicial review process.) {LC2505/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

#### Senate Bill No. 1051

**BY** Tikoian

**ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES (Increases the amount of allowable units per acre for all projects subject to inclusionary zoning as well as other incentives and subsidies to offset differential costs of below-market units.) {LC2507/1}

#### Senate Bill No. 1052 BY Kallman ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES (Creates the transit oriented development pilot program to encourage residential housing near convenient public transportation.) {LC2503/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

Senate Bill No. 1053 BY McKenney, LaMountain ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE--COURTS --SUPERIOR COURT (Establishes a land use court within the superior court, effective January 1, 2024.) {LC2506/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

#### Senate Bill No. 1054 (by request) BY Cano ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT --DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING (Expands the board of review within the department of labor and training from three (3) to five (5) members in order to include a small business owner and a second member from the general public.) {LC3006/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Labor.

Senate Bill No. 1055 BY Felag, Ujifusa, Lauria ENTITLED, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER OF SEA GLASS TECHNOLOGIES, INC. {LC3014/1}

Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

**BY** Euer, LaMountain **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE--PROCEDURE IN PARTICULAR ACTIONS -- DEATH BY WRONGFUL ACT (Raises the minimum recovery in a civil action to recover for a wrongful death from \$250,000 to \$365,000 and automatically increases for inflation the minimum recovery annually on January 31. The increase is based on the consumer price index.) {LC2977/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

#### Senate Bill No. 1057

**BY** LaMountain, Euer **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE --PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- EVIDENCE (Prohibits the introduction into court proceedings of any evidence that the fair and reasonable charge for healthcare services is the amount received by the healthcare provider rather than the amount billed by healthcare providers.) {LC2972/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

#### Senate Bill No. 1058

**BY** Euer, LaMountain **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE--PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- CAUSES OF ACTION (Provides for punitive damages in civil actions where there is willful or wanton conduct or a reckless disregard for health, safety and welfare.) {LC2973/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

#### Senate Bill No. 1059

**BY** Quezada **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' BILL OF RIGHTS (Amends the law enforcement officers' bill of rights to provide greater accountability in the disciplinary process over law enforcement.) {LC3056/1}

**BY** Quezada **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' BILL OF RIGHTS (Amends the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights providing greater accountability in the disciplinary process, the chief of police authority to impose discipline after the finding of a violation, appellate rights to the accused officer.) {LC3055/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Judiciary.

#### Senate Bill No. 1061

**BY** Tikoian **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES (Amends what can be considered an individual household for purposes of zoning ordinances.) {LC3043/1}

Introduced, referred to Senate Housing and Municipal Government.

#### FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A message from the House of Representatives transmits with announcement of passage, of the following measure:

#### House Bill No. 6165 SUB A

BY Kazarian, Boylan, Dawson, Henries

**ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES (Enables the city of East Providence to offer tax amnesty for two (2) separate sixty (60) day periods for fiscal years 2023 and 2024 for waiver of interest and penalties in an amount not to excide \$10,000 on overdue real property tax payments.) {LC2377/A/1}

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

#### CALL TO ORDER

The Senate meets pursuant to recess and is called to order by the Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio, President of the Senate, on Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:12 o'clock P.M.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Upon the Motion of Senator Pearson, seconded by de la Cruz, the Senate adjourns at 4:13 o'clock P.M.

JOHN E. FLEMING, JR. Secretary of the Senate

#### Appendix

#### INVOCATION

#### SENATOR MATTHEW L. LAMOUNTAIN

Dear God, we are grateful for the privilege of serving in this Senate. Keep us ever mindful that we are here to serve those who have elected us. Amen.

#### Appendix

#### TRANSMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR ON THURSDAY, MAY 18th

#### House Bill No. 5006

**BY** Kazarian, Felix, Ajello, Alzate, Blazejewski, Fogarty, McEntee, Knight, Giraldo, Carson **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN -- EQUALITY IN ABORTION COVERAGE (Provides for abortion coverage in the Medicaid program and repeal the abortion coverage exclusion for state employee insurance plans.) {LC149/1}

Transmitted to the Governor.

#### House Bill No. 5379

**BY** Place, Rea, Newberry **ENTITLED,** AN ACT RELATING TO HARRISVILLE FIRE DISTRICT (Amends the Harrisville fire district charter to allow the district to provide rescue services in addition to fire suppression, medical and ambulance services.) {LC653/1}

Transmitted to the Governor.

#### House Bill No. 5780

(Dept. of Revenue) BY Alzate, Diaz, Giraldo, Batista, Biah, Henries, Felix, Morales, Abney, Hull ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES -- DRIVER PRIVILEGE CARDS AND PERMITS (Reduces the fee for an original driver privilege card from fifty dollars (\$50.00) to twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).) {LC1712/1}

Transmitted to the Governor.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

# IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023:

1. The Appointment of Ernest Calandra (Representing the Rhode Island Animal Control Association) VICE William Muggle to the Rabies Control Board for a term expiring September 1, 2026.

Committee on Environment & Agriculture recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

# 2. The Reappointment of Kevin A. Breene (Representing the Rhode Island Farm Bureau) to the Rabies Control Board for a term expiring September 1, 2026.

Committee on Environment & Agriculture recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

# 3. The Reappointment of Jennifer Gebar (Representing a Humane Organization in Rhode Island) to the Rabies Control Board for a term expiring September 1, 2026.

Committee on Environment & Agriculture recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

# 4. The Reappointment of Christopher H. Hannafin, DVM (Representing the Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association) to the Rabies Control Board for a term expiring September 1, 2026.

Committee on Environment & Agriculture recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

# 5. The Appointment of Christopher J. Behan (Representing the City of Newport) to the Fort Adams Foundation for a term expiring January 31, 2026.

Committee on Judiciary recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

# 6. The Appointment of Christopher B. Zeeman (Representing the Fort Adams Trust Board of Directors) VICE Andrew Eric Offenberg to the Fort Adams Foundation for a term expiring January 31, 2026.

Committee on Judiciary recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

7. The Appointment of John S. Justo VICE Deborah Thomas to the Rhode Island Airport Corporation for a term expiring June 1, 2025.

Committee on Judiciary recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

# 8. The Appointment of Darrell Waldron (Community Based Organization) VICE Cathy Doyle to the Governor's Workforce Board for a term expiring January 1, 2026.

Committee on Labor recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

# 9. 2023-S 1055

# **BY** Felag

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT TO VACATE THE FORFEITURE OR REVOCATION OF THE CHARTER OF SEA GLASS TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

Ordered on the Consent Calendar

# 10. 2023-Н 6329

**BY** Blazejewski

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage in concurrence.

# CALENDAR

# IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023:

1. The Appointment of Oscar O. Vargas, by the Providence City Council, to the Rhode Island Convention Center Authority for a term expiring April 6, 2027.

Committee on Commerce recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

2. The Appointment of Richard Charest as the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services.

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

# 3. The Appointment of Lawrence E. Purtill VICE Derek M. Silva to the Rhode Island Labor Relations Board for a term expiring August 1, 2027.

Committee on Labor recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

4. 2023-S 63

**BY** Murray

**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT --OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION OMBUD

Committee on Education recommends passage.

# 5. 2023-S 62

**BY** Lauria **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT --LONG-TERM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Environment & Agriculture recommends passage.

### 6. 2023-S 904

BY DiPalma ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES --MERIT SYSTEM

Committee on Finance recommends passage.

# **CONSENT CALENDAR**

# IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023:

1. 2023-H 6165 SUB A

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

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

# CALENDAR

# IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023:

1. 2023-S 825

**BY** Ruggerio **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- REAL JOBS RHODE ISLAND ACT

Committee on Labor recommends passage.

#### 2. 2023-S 436 SUB A

**BY** Felag **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES --REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES

Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A.

#### **3. 2023-S 444**

**BY** Mack **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO HOLIDAYS AND DAYS OF SPECIAL OBSERVANCE -- HOLIDAYS

Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs recommends passage.

### 4. **2023-S 667**

**BY** Tikoian **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES --OPERATORS' AND CHAUFFEURS' LICENSES

Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs recommends passage.

#### 5. **2023-S** 748

**BY** Ciccone **ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS --GENERAL PROVISIONS

Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs recommends passage.

# 6. 2023-S 749 BY Felag ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HOLIDAYS AND DAYS OF SPECIAL OBSERVANCE -- DAYS OF SPECIAL OBSERVANCE

Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs recommends passage.

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Pursuant to Rule 8.13 of the Ru consent, I hereby cast my vote			
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To the Honorable President of t	the Senate:
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	Senate Chamber
	VOTE BY PROXY
	the Senate: Iles of the Senate for the Years 2023-2024, and with your by proxy on the following matter before the Senate:
□ 2023-H 5379 □ 2023-S	/ (Advice & Consent, Order of Business, or Amendment Number) * If voting on a Consent Calendar or Bill Bundle, please attach a copy
E APPROVE	DISAPPROVE
Respectfully Submitted , Senator Frank Lombardo, III Senate District 25	Date 05/18/2023
NOTARY State of Rhode Island County of Providence On this 18th day of May 2023, befor	NOTARY SEAL re me the undersigned notary public, personally
	, III, personally known to me to be the person whose
Notary Public Signature	John E, Fleming, Jr 3 02/11/2025   Notary Public Printed Notary ID Commission Expiration
RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER/MINORITY LEADER	RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE 5/18/23 JEF
Date Initials	Date Initials

	State of Rhode Island
	Senate Chamber
	VOTE BY PROXY
To the Honorable President of	the Senate:
Pursuant to Rule 8.13 of the Ru consent, I hereby cast my vote	ales of the Senate for the Years 2023-2024, and with your by proxy on the following matter before the Senate:
□ 2023-H 5780 □ 2023-S	/ (Advice & Consent, Order of Business, or Amendment Number) * If voting on a Consent Calendar or Bill Bundle, please attach a copy
APPROVE	□ DISAPPROVE
Respectfully Submitted , Senator Frank Lombardo, III Senate District 25	Date 05/18/2023
NOTARY	NOTARY SEAL
State of Rhode Island County of Providence	8
	re me the undersigned notary public, personally b, III, personally known to me to be the person whose n my presence.
Notary Public Signature	John E, Fleming, Jr 3 02/11/2025 Notary Public Printed Notary ID Commission Expiration
RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE OF THE	RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE OF THE