

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

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 sixth day of January in the year of Our Lord two thousand and nine.

Volume 136, No.7

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Seventh Legislative Day

The Senate meets pursuant to adjournment and is called to order by the Honorable M. Teresa Paiva Weed, Madam President of the Senate, at 4:09 o'clock P.M.

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 36 Senators present and 2 Senators absent as follows:

PRESENT – 36: The Honorable President Paiva Weed and Senators Algieri, Bates, Blais, Ciccone, Connors, Cote, Crowley, DaPonte, Devall, DiPalma, Doyle, Felag, Fogarty, Gallo, Goodwin, Jabour, Lanzi, Levesque, Lynch, Maher, Maselli, McBurney, McCaffrey, Metts, Miller, O'Neill, Perry, Picard, Pichardo, Pinga, Raptakis, Ruggerio, Sosnowski, Tassoni, Walaska.

ABSENT – 2: Senators Lenihan, Sheehan.

INVOCATION

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

(See Appendix for Invocation)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

APPROVAL OF RECORD

The Senate Journal's of the Fifth and Sixth Legislative Day's of the 2009 proceedings are read in part.

Upon suggestion of Senator Crowley, and by unanimous consent, further reading of the Journal's are dispensed with and the Journal's approved as recorded.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Honorable President presents the following communications:

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
STATE HOUSE**

January 16, 2009

Honorable M. Teresa Paiva Weed
President of the Senate
318 State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear President Paiva Weed:

Please accept this letter as notification that I will be unable to attend Senate Session on Wednesday, January 21, 2009. Thank you.

Sincerely,

James C. Sheehan

Senator – District 36

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

Also:

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

January 21, 2009

The Honorable Senate
State House
Providence, RI 02903

To The Honorable Senate:

Pursuant to Section 5.2 of the Interim Senate Rules, I am making the following appointments to the Senate Standing Committee:

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Michael J. McCaffrey, *Chairperson*
Charles J. Levesque, *Vice Chairperson*
Christopher B. Maselli, *Secretary*
Leo R. Blais
Maryellen Goodwin
Paul V. Jabour
Erin P. Lynch
John F. McBurney, III
Harold M. Metts
Rhoda E. Perry

Senate Committee on Finance

Daniel DaPonte, *Chairperson*
Walter S. Felag, Jr., *1st Vice Chairperson*
Juan M. Pichardo, *2nd Vice Chairperson*
William A. Walaska, *Secretary*
David E. Bates
Frank A. Ciccone, III
Louis P. DiPalma
James E. Doyle
John F. McBurney, III
Dominick J. Ruggiero
V. Susan Sosnowski

Senate Committee on Corporations

Joshua B. Miller, *Chairperson*
Roger A. Picard, *Vice Chairperson*
Elizabeth A. Crowley, *Secretary*
David E. Bates
Marc A. Cote
Hanna M. Gallo
Paul V. Jabour
Edward J. O'Neill
James C. Sheehan

Senate Committee on Government Oversight

J. Michael Lenihan, *Chairperson*
Frank A. Ciccone III, *Vice Chairperson*
James C. Sheehan, *Secretary*
Leo R. Blais
Charles J. Levesque
Edward J. O'Neill
Michael J. Pinga
V. Susan Sosnowski

Senate Committee on Housing & Municipal Government

John J. Tassoni Jr., *Chairperson*
Juan M. Pichardo, *Vice Chairperson*
Frank A. DeVall, *Secretary*
Dennis L. Algieri
Paul W. Fogarty
Leonidas P. Raptakis

Senate Committee on Constitutional & Regulatory Issues

Maryellen Goodwin, *Chairperson*
Erin P. Lynch, *Vice Chairperson*
David E. Bates, *Secretary*
Marc A. Cote
Elizabeth A. Crowley
Daniel DaPonte
Paul V. Jabour
John J. Tassoni, Jr.

Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

Rhoda E. Perry, *Chairperson*
James C. Sheehan, *Vice Chairperson*
Juan M. Pichardo, *Secretary*
Leo R. Blais
Charles J. Levesque
Francis T. Maher, Jr.
Joshua B. Miller
V. Susan Sosnowski

Senate Committee on Environment & Agriculture

V. Susan Sosnowski, *Chairperson*
Walter S. Felag, Jr., *Vice Chairperson*
Beatrice A. Lanzi, *Secretary*
Dennis L. Algieri
J. Michael Lenihan
Francis T. Maher
Michael J. McCaffrey
Leonidas P. Raptakis
William A. Walaska

Senate Committee on Education

Hanna M. Gallo, *Chairperson*
Harold M. Metts, *Vice Chairperson*
Beatrice A. Lanzi, *Secretary*
Leo R. Blais
Frank A. DeVall, Jr.
Louis P. DiPalma
James E. Doyle
Christopher B. Maselli

Senate Committee on Labor

Paul W. Fogarty, *Chairperson*
Dominick J. Ruggiero, *Vice Chairperson*
Frank A. Ciccone III, *Secretary*
David E. Bates
Roger A. Picard
Michael J. Pinga
John J. Tassoni, Jr.

Senate Committee on Rules

Christopher B. Maselli, *Chairperson*
J. Michael Lenihan, *Vice Chairperson*
David E. Bates
Daniel DaPonte
Dominick J. Ruggiero

***President Paiva Weed, Majority Leader Connors serve as ex-officio members of all committees.**

Sincerely,

M. Teresa Paiva Weed
President of the Senate

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Maselli announces that the Committee on Rules will meet tomorrow, at the rise of the Senate, in Room 310 of the State House.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Senator Ruggerio, seconded by Senator McBurney, the Senate adjourns at 4:14 o'clock P.M.

JOSEPH R. BRADY
Secretary of the Senate

Appendix

INVOCATION

SENATOR ELIZABETH A CROWLEY

Madam President, as we begin our prayer today let us keep in our prayers President Obama as he begins his leadership of our country. Almighty God, we ask that you aid us in putting forth our best efforts as leaders of our State, as we attempt to make Rhode Island a better place for our people to live. Amen.