
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024.

[23]*

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

Met according to adjournment at eleven o'clock A.M. with Mr. Donato of Medford in the Chair (having been appointed by the Speaker, under authority conferred by Rule 5, to perform the duties of the Chair).

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Donato), the members, guests and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of
allegiance.

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Day of Stoneham, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Michael S. Day that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation be authorized to convey a certain parcel of land in the town of Stoneham for the purposes of reconstructing an off-ramp from Interstate Route 93 northbound.

Stoneham,—
land.

By Representative Pignatelli of Lenox and Senator Mark, a joint petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Smitty Pignatelli and Paul W. Mark relative to the development of affordable housing in cities and towns with affordable housing trusts.

Affordable
housing.

By Representative Puppolo of Springfield, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., for legislation to authorize the continued employment of Anthony Tranghese as an environmental police officer in the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Anthony
Tranghese,—
employment.

Severally, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Papers from the Senate.

A Bill relative to healthy youth (Senate, No. 2694) (on Senate bill No. 2686), passed to be engrossed by the Senate, was read; and it was referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Schools,—
sexual health
education.

A Bill providing for the designation of polling locations in the city of Gloucester (Senate, No. 2544) (on a petition) [Local Approval Received], passed to be engrossed by the Senate, was read; and it was referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Gloucester,—
polling
places.

A report of the Massachusetts Capital Resource Company (under the provisions of Section 20 of Chapter 816 of the Acts of 1977) submitting its forty-seventh annual report (Senate, No. 2695), was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Revenue.

Capital
Resource
Company.

Reports of Committees.

Report of the committee on Public Health, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 10), on the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4296) of Marcus S. Vaughn relative to food truck licensure.

Food trucks,—
licensing.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Ms. Decker of Cambridge, the report was considered forthwith. Pending the question on acceptance of the report, the petition was recommitted, on further motion of the same member.

By Mr. Arciero of Westford, for the committee on Housing, on a message from Her Excellency the Governor, a Bill [sic] the Affordable Homes Act (printed in House, No. 4138) [Representative DeCoste of Norwell dissenting]. Referred, under Joint Rule 1F, to the committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets.

Affordable
homes.

By Mr. Rogers of Cambridge, for the committee on Higher Education, on a petition, a Bill relative to community colleges and the career technical initiative (House, No. 1254).

Community
colleges,—
technology.

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 819 and House, No. 1257, a Bill relative to tuition waivers for children raised by a grandparent or other relative (House, No. 1257) [Representative Pease of Westfield dissenting].

Tuition
waivers,—
children.

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 813 and House, No. 1261, a Bill improving access to affordable higher education (House, No. 1261, changed in line 28 by striking out the year: “2023” and inserting in place thereof the year: “2025”).

Affordable
higher
education,—
access.

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 825 and House, Nos. 1263 and 1267, a Bill relative to college athlete compensation (House, No. 1263).

College
athletes,—
pay.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1253, a Bill relative to social work uplifting practices and exam removal (House, No. 4451) [Representative Pease of Westfield dissenting].

Social work
practices,—
exam removal.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1272, a Bill relative to higher education financial literacy counseling (House, No. 4452).

Financial
literacy.

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 835 and House, No. 1293, a Bill establishing the hunger-free campus initiative (House, No. 4453).

Hunger-free
campuses.

Severally read; and referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. Rogers of Cambridge, for the committee on Higher Education, on a petition, a Bill relative to the Honorable George V. Kenneally, Jr. (House, No. 1269).

George
Kenneally.

By Mr. Arciero of Westford, for the committee on Housing, on House, Nos. 1333 and 3551, a Bill facilitating site plan review (House, No. 3551) [Representative DeCoste of Norwell dissenting].

Site plan
review.

By Mr. Gordon of Bedford, for the committee on Public Service, on a petition, a Bill authorizing the appointment of special police officers in the city of Waltham to allow said special police officers to serve until the age of 70 (House, No. 4141) [Local Approval Received].

Waltham,—
special police
officers.

Severally read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Engrossed Bills.

The engrossed Bill validating the actions taken at the Princeton annual town meeting (see House bill printed in House, No. 4067) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted (more than two thirds of the members having agreed to pass the same); and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Bill enacted.

Engrossed bills

Authorizing the town of Hopkinton to offer an income-eligible discount program for sewer and water rates (see House, No. 2017); and

Bills enacted.

Separating the positions of town clerk and treasurer-collector in the town of Southwick (see House, No. 4079);

(Which severally originated in the House);

Severally having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, were passed to be enacted; and they were signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Recesses.

At thirteen minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. McKenna of Sutton (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House recessed until one o'clock P.M; and at seventeen minutes after one o'clock the House was called to order with Mr. Donato in the Chair.

Recesses.

The House thereupon took a further recess, on motion of Mr. Jones of North Reading, subject to the call of the Chair; and at two minutes before three o'clock the House was called to order with Ms. Hogan of Stow in the Chair

Reports of Committees.

Mr. Donato being in the Chair,—

Prior to the noon recess, Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, for the committee on Ways and Means, on House, No. 4284, reported, in part, a Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2024 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (House, No. 4460) [Total Appropriation: \$260,000,000.00] [Representatives Berthiaume of Spencer, Sullivan-Almeida of Abington and Xiarhos of Barnstable dissenting]. Read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Supplemental appropriations.

Mr. Honan of Boston, for said committee, then reported that the matter be scheduled for consideration by the House.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, the bill was read a second time forthwith; and it was ordered to a third reading.

Subsequently, the noon recess having terminated (Ms. Hogan of Stow being in the Chair), under further suspension of the rules, on motion Mr. Michlewitz, the bill (having been reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) was read a third time.

After remarks on the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Frost of Auburn and other members of the House moved to amend it by adding the following section:

“SECTION 25. The first paragraph of section 30 of chapter 23B of the General Laws, as amended by section 120 of chapter 7 of the acts of 2023, is hereby further amended by adding the following sentence:— Notwithstanding any general or special

law, rule or regulation to the contrary, the emergency housing assistance program established herein shall be available only to residents of the commonwealth who have resided within the commonwealth for no less than six months, provided however that this provision shall not apply to a victim of domestic violence or a person whose living situation has been affected by a fire or other natural disaster that occurred in Massachusetts.

The department shall require applicants to provide proof of residency for a period of no less than six months. The department may require applicants to submit documentation including, but not limited to, federal and state issued identification documents, mail, financial statements, and bills to meet the requirements of this section.

This section shall apply to applications submitted for the emergency housing assistance program on or after the effective date of this act.”.

After debate on the question on adoption of the amendment, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays at the request of the Mr. Frost; and on the roll call 29 members voted in the affirmative and 125 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 75 in Supplement.](#)]

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Representatives Fernandes of Falmouth and Garry of Dracut then moved to amend the bill in section 3, in lines 109, 110 and 111, by striking out the following: “or (v) satisfying any additional criteria the secretary of housing and livable communities deems necessary pursuant to said guidance in paragraph (2) issued by the secretary of housing and livable communities on October 31, 2023” and inserting in place thereof the following: “(v) meeting the criteria to be considered a veteran, as defined in clause Forty-third of section 7 of chapter 4; or (vi) satisfying any additional criteria the secretary of housing and livable communities deems necessary pursuant to said guidance in paragraph (2) issued by the secretary of housing and livable communities on October 31, 2023”.

After remarks on the question on adoption of the amendment, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays at the request of Mr. Fernandes; and on the roll call 154 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 76 in Supplement.](#)]

Therefore the amendment was adopted.

Pending the question on passing the bill, as amended, to be engrossed, Representatives Moran of Lawrence and Nguyen of Andover moved to amend it in section 3, in line 92, by inserting after the word “program”, the second time it appears, the following: “; provided, that each family and pregnant woman shall receive notice not less than 90 days prior to the termination of benefits pursuant to this section; provided further, that not more 150 families shall be terminated from the emergency housing assistance program in any week; and”; and by inserting after the following: “(vi)” (inserted by amendment) the following: “being at imminent risk of harm due to domestic violence; or (vii);

In section 16, in lines 461 and 486, by inserting after the word “communities”, in each instance, the words “, office for refugees and immigrants”; and

In section 19, in line 530, by striking out the word “April” and inserting in place thereof the word “July”.

After remarks on the question on adoption of the amendments, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays at the request of Mr. Moran of Lawrence; and on the roll call 129 members voted in the affirmative and 25 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 77 in Supplement.](#)]

Amendment
rejected,—
yea and nay
No. 75.

Amendment
adopted,—
yea and nay
No. 76.

Amendments
adopted,—
yea and nay
No. 77.

Therefore the amendments were adopted.

Mr. Finn of West Springfield and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill by inserting after section 17 the following section:

“SECTION 17A. Not later than July 30, 2024, the executive office of administration and finance, in consultation with the executive office of housing and livable communities and the department of elementary and secondary education, shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means with data on students in the emergency housing assistance program pursuant to section 30 of chapter 23B of the General Laws, during the 2023-2024 school year, including, but not limited to: (i) the total number of students in the emergency housing assistance program enrolled in public schools, broken down by district; (ii) the total number of students in the emergency housing assistance program who required transportation services to a school district outside of the district in which they were sheltered and the total associated costs of the transportation services, broken down by district; (iii) the total number of students per district that required language services, broken down by language; (iv) MCAS score data for school districts with students enrolled in the emergency housing assistance program within the last 3 school years, broken down by district; and (v) a per pupil cost analysis of all expenditures made by school districts with students enrolled in the emergency assistance housing program, broken down by district.”.

After remarks on the question on adoption of the amendment, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays at the request of the same member; and on the roll call 154 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 78](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendment was adopted.

Representatives Jones of North Reading and other members of the House then move to amend the bill in section 6, in lines 166 to 175, inclusive, by striking out the paragraph contained in those lines and inserting in place there of the following paragraph:

“‘Qualified trainee’, an individual who is a Massachusetts resident that is considered low income, pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter 40T of the General Laws as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, or an individual receiving benefits through the emergency housing assistance program pursuant to section 30 of chapter 23B and 760 CMR 67.00 or an individual in an overflow emergency shelter site established in response to the capacity limitation on said program pursuant to a declaration issued by the secretary of housing and livable communities dated October 31, 2023, the extension of the declaration dated February 28, 2024 and any subsequent extensions, issued pursuant to 760 CMR 67.10, as inserted by emergency regulations issued by the executive office of housing and livable communities on October 31, 2023 and accompanying guidance issued pursuant to said declaration and 760 CMR 67.10, who: (i)(A) has not received work authorization; or (B) is currently unemployed; and (ii) is participating in an authorized training program.”;

In section 7, in lines 220 to 229, inclusive, by striking out the paragraph contained in those lines and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:

“‘Qualified trainee’, an individual who is a Massachusetts resident that is considered low income, pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter 40T of the General Laws as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, or an individual receiving benefits through the emergency housing assistance program pursuant to section 30 of chapter 23B and 760 CMR 67.00 or an individual in an overflow emergency shelter site established in response to the capacity limitation on said program pursuant to a declaration issued by the secretary of housing and livable communities dated October 31, 2023, the

Amendment
adopted,—
yea and nay
No. 78.

extension of the declaration dated February 28, 2024 and any subsequent extensions, issued pursuant to 760 CMR 67.10, as inserted by emergency regulations issued by the executive office of housing and livable communities on October 31, 2023 and accompanying guidance issued pursuant to said declaration and 760 CMR 67.10, who: (i)(A) has not received work authorization; or (B) is currently unemployed; and (ii) is participating in an authorized training program.”; and

In section 14, in lines 369 to 378, inclusive, by striking out the paragraph contained in those lines and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:

“‘Qualified trainee’, an individual who is a Massachusetts resident that is considered low income, pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter 40T of the General Laws as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, or an individual receiving benefits through the emergency housing assistance program pursuant to section 30 of chapter 23B and 760 CMR 67.00 or an individual in an overflow emergency shelter site established in response to the capacity limitation on said program pursuant to a declaration issued by the secretary of housing and livable communities dated October 31, 2023, the extension of the declaration dated February 28, 2024 and any subsequent extensions, issued pursuant to 760 CMR 67.10, as inserted by emergency regulations issued by the executive office of housing and livable communities on October 31, 2023 and accompanying guidance issued pursuant to said declaration and 760 CMR 67.10, who: (i)(A) has not received work authorization; or (B) is currently unemployed; and (ii) is participating in an authorized training program.”.

After debate on the question on adoption of the amendments, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays at the request of Ms. Ferguson of Holden; and on the roll call 25 members voted in the affirmative and 129 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 79](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendments were rejected.

After remarks on the question on passing the bill, as amended, to be engrossed, Mr. Jones of North Reading and other members of the House moved to amend it by adding the following section:

“SECTION 25. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any funds expended for the purpose of providing food through the emergency housing assistance program shall be subject to a competitive bidding process.”.

On the question on adoption of the amendment, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays at the request of Mr. Jones; and on the roll call (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair) 154 members voted in the affirmative 0 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 80](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendment was adopted.

On the question on passing the bill, as amended, to be engrossed, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of Mr. Michlewitz of Boston; and on the roll call 121 members voted in the affirmative and 33 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 81](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the bill (House, No. 4466, published as amended) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Prior to the noon recess, Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, for the committee on Ways and Means, reported that the Bill authorizing the continued employment of Jerry Shampang as an environmental police officer in the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (Senate, No. 2691), ought to pass with amendments striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in

Amendments rejected,—
yea and nay
No. 79.

Amendment adopted,—
yea and nay
No. 80.

Bill passed to be engrossed,—
yea and nay
No. 81.

Jerry Shampang,—
employment.

House document numbered 4461; and inserting before the enacting clause the following emergency preamble:

“Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to provide forthwith for the continued employment of a certain environmental police officer, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.”

Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Mr. Honan of Boston, for said committee, then reported that the matter be scheduled for consideration by the House, with the amendments pending.

Under suspension of Rule 7A, on motion of Mr. Barrows of Mansfield, the bill was read a second time forthwith. The amendments recommended by the committee on Ways and Means then were adopted; and the bill (Senate, No. 2691, amended) was ordered to a third reading.

Subsequently, under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Stanley of Waltham, the bill (having been reported by the committee on Bills in the Reading to be correctly drawn) was read a third time; and it was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence. Sent to the Senate for concurrence in the amendments adopted by the House.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

Ordered, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M.

Next
sitting.

Mr. Jones of North Reading then moved that the House adjourn; and the motion prevailed. Accordingly, without proceeding to consideration of the matters in the Orders of the Day, at eleven minutes after five o'clock P.M. (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following day at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.