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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.**



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024.**

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**JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.**

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Thursday, January 25, 2024.

Met according to adjournment at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Mr. Garballey of Arlington 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. Garballey), the members, guests and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of  
allegiance.

*Silent Tribute.*

At the request of Mr. Biele of Boston, the members, guests and employees stood in a moment of silent tribute in respect to the memory of Boston Police Officer Pierce Fitzgerald Norton of South Boston.

Boston Police  
Officer Pierce  
Fitzgerald  
Norton.

Officer Norton was appointed to the Boston Police Department on December 9, 2013 and, after graduating from the Boston Police Academy, served as a probationary officer assigned to Districts B-3, A-1 and D-4. He was then assigned as a permanent Boston Police Officer to District A-1. In 2018 Officer Norton was assigned to the citywide bicycle unit where he was last assigned. Officer Norton received numerous commendations for his dedicated service during his career and was highly regarded by those he worked with, his supervisors and all that knew him, both within the department and by those he served.

Officer Norton is survived by his parents, Lawrence and Maureen Norton, his wife, Brittani Smith, his son, Pierce Salvatore Norton, his siblings, Lauren Wilson, Brian Norton, and Catherine Beaty, and his niece, his nephew, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends whom he loved dearly.

*Messages from the Governor.*

A message from Her Excellency the Governor submitting the annual budget of the Commonwealth for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 (House, No. 2), was filed in the office of the Clerk on Wednesday, January 24.

General  
Appropriations  
Bill.

The message was read; and it was referred, under Rule 30, with the accompanying schedules, to the committee on Ways and Means.

A message from Her Excellency the Governor submitting requests for making appropriations for the fiscal year 2024 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (House, No. 4284), was filed in the office of the Clerk on Wednesday, January 24.

Supplemental  
appropriations.

The message was read; and it was referred, under Rule 30, with the accompanying draft of a bill, to the committee on Ways and Means.

A message from Her Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges (House, No. 4283), was filed in the office of the Clerk on Monday, January 22.

Municipal  
roads and  
bridges.

The message was read; and it was referred, under Rule 30, with the accompanying draft of a bill, to the committee on Transportation. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

*Resolutions.*

The following resolutions (filed with the Clerk) were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules:

Resolutions (filed by Representative Peisch of Wellesley) honoring Sheryl Strother on her retirement from the town of Wellesley;

Sheryl  
Strother.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Garlick of Needham) congratulating Scott McDermott on his retirement as the town of Medfield moderator; and

Scott  
McDermott.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Sullivan-Almeida of Abington) congratulating firefighter/EMT Robert Neumeister on the occasion of his retirement from the Abington Fire Department;

Robert  
Neumeister.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, reported, in each instance, that the resolutions ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, in each instance, on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

*Communications.*

Communications

From the Department of Transitional Assistance (see Section 10 of Chapter 18 of the General Laws) submitting its annual Department of Transitional Organizational Report;

DTA,—  
organizational  
report.

From the Department of Transitional Assistance (see Section 2 of Chapter 18 and Section 16 of Chapter 118 of the General Laws) submitting a report entitled: Report on Economic Independence Accounts [copies of the reports were forwarded to the committee on Ways and Means, and the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, as required by said law];

DTA,—  
economic  
independence.

From the Executive Office of the Trial Court (see Section 131Y of Chapter 140 of the General Laws) submitting the Extreme Risk Protective Orders (ERPO) calendar year 2023 report;

Trial Court,—  
ERPO report.

From the Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority (see Section 8(g) of Chapter 161B of the General Laws) submitting a report of audited financial statements for fiscal year 2023; and

Martha's  
Vineyard  
Transit.

From the Hampden County District Attorney's Office (see Section 99 of Chapter 272 of the General Laws) submitting a report relative to wiretaps for calendar year 2023;

Hampden  
County,—  
wiretaps.

Severally were placed on file.

*Annual Report.*

The annual report of the Chief Justice of the Trial Court (under Section 5 of Chapter 205 of the Acts of 2008) submitting the prosecution and disposition of certain cases which involved child protection offenses for fiscal year 2023, was placed on file.

Trial Court,—  
child  
protection.

*Petitions.*

Representative Zlotnik of Gardner presented a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4285) of Jonathan D. Zlotnik (with the approval of the mayor and city

Gardner,—  
charter.

council) relative to the charter of the city of Gardner; and the same was referred to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Representative Arciero of Westford and Senator Cronin presented a joint petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of James Arciero (by vote of the town) that the town of Westford be authorized to release agricultural preservation restrictions over certain land owned by Westford Gateway, LLC; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Westford,—  
land.

*Papers from the Senate.*

A Bill to provide for competitiveness and infrastructure investment in Massachusetts (Senate, No. 2554) (on Senate bill No. 2548), passed to be engrossed by the Senate, was read.

Infrastructure,—  
federal funds.

Mr. Lewis of Framingham moved that Rule 33 be suspended; and the motion prevailed. The bill then was referred, on further motion of the same member, to the committee on Federal Stimulus and Census Oversight.

**Bills**

Changing the name of the board of selectmen of the town of Rockport to the select board (Senate, No. 2459) (on a petition) [Local Approval Received]; and

Rockport,—  
select board.

Establishing a sick leave bank for Danielle Marie Cruz, an employee of the Trial Court of the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 2537) (on a petition);

Danielle  
Marie Cruz.

Severally passed to be engrossed by the Senate, were read; and they were referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

*Reports of Committees.*

By Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules and the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the following petitions:

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Kimberly N. Ferguson that the Department of Conservation and Recreation be authorized to convey a certain parcel of land in the town of Rutland;

Rutland,—  
land.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Adrian C. Madaro that a certain parcel of land in the East Boston neighborhood of the city of Boston not be included within the boundaries of any designated port area; and

Boston,—  
port area  
boundaries.

Joint petition (accompanied by bill) of Smitty Pignatelli and Paul W. Mark relative to expense reimbursements for Mass Wildlife board members;

Mass Wildlife,—  
reimbursements.

Severally to the committee Environment and Natural Resources.

Joint petition (accompanied by bill) of Daniel Cahill and Joan B. Lovely for legislation to further regulate insurance claims. To the committee on Financial Services.

Insurance  
claims.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Adrian C. Madaro for legislation to establish a Massport climate resiliency trust fund to be funded by a portion of jet fuel excise taxes. To the committee on Revenue.

Massport,—  
jet fuel  
excise.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Ms. Howard of Lowell, the reports were considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 then was suspended, in each instance. Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

By Mr. Honan of Boston, for the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, that the following House bills be scheduled for consideration by the House:

Directing the superintendent of state office buildings to install a permanent memorial in the Massachusetts State House in honor of Mercy Otis Warren (House, No. 3013);

Establishing building trades recovery week (House, No. 3058);

Dedicating the boat ramp at Bicentennial Park in the city of Fall River as the State Representative Manuel Raposa Jr. boat ramp (House, No. 4163);

Relative to the charter in the town of Groton (House, No. 4194) [Local Approval Received]; and

Protecting public higher education student information (House, No. 4266);

Under suspension of Rule 7A, in each instance, on motion of Mr. Vieira of Falmouth, the bills severally were read a second time forthwith; and they were ordered to a third reading.

State House,—  
memorial.

Building trades.  
Fall River,—  
boat ramp.

Groton,—  
charter.

Student  
information.

By Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the following bills ought to pass:

Investigating the economic impact of certain Massachusetts laws (House, No. 263); and

Establishing a commission to study the financial abuse of elders (House, No. 632);

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

Minimum  
pricing.

Elderly,—  
financial abuse.

By Mr. Chan of Quincy, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on a petition, a Bill relative to cosmetic labeling (House, No. 381, changed in line 2 by striking out the figures: “237” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “514”).

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 189 and House, Nos. 284, 347 and 3564, a Bill alleviating the burden of medical debt for patients and families (House, No. 4274).

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 179 and House, No. 294, a Bill to provide increased access to hearing aids (House, No. 4275).

By Mr. Cutler of Duxbury, for the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, on Senate, No. 1117 and House, No. 1881, a Bill clarifying the wage act to protect hospital workers from being deprived of their wages (House, No. 1881).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to professional employer organizations (House, No. 1887).

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 1154 and House, No. 1924, a Bill to promote the recruitment and retention of hospital workers (House, No. 1924).

Severally referred, under Joint Rule 1E, to the committee on Health Care Financing.

Cosmetics,—  
labeling.

Patients,—  
medical  
debt.

Hearing  
aids.

Hospital  
workers,—  
wages.

Employer  
organizations.

Hospital  
workers,—  
recruitment.

By Mr. Chan of Quincy, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on Senate, No. 204 and House, Nos. 270 and 289, a Bill relative to the issuance of a class 1 dealer license (House, No. 270).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to establish a pilot program to build the licensed barbering workforce (House, No. 285).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to streamlining licensure, compliance, and contracting opportunities (House, No. 349).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill concerning horse racing within the town of Plymouth (House, No. 374) [Local Approval Received].

Motor  
vehicle  
dealers.

Barbers,—  
licensing.

Contracting  
opportunities.

Plymouth,—  
horse racing.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill protecting black girls from targeted toxicity (House, No. 3783).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 259, 373 and 3975, a Bill to secure while improving fans' tickets (House, No. 4276).

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 220 and House, No. 400, a Bill relative to vehicle recalls (House, No. 4277).

By Mr. Cutler of Duxbury, for the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, on House, No. 1948, a Bill amending the Massachusetts Earned Sick Time Law to provide paid pregnancy loss leave (House, No. 4278).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 3599 and 3849, a Bill relative to a four-day work week pilot program (House, No. 4279).

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 1146 and House, No. 1894, a Bill clarifying the prevailing wage law (House, No. 4280).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1855, a Bill relative to protecting wages of deceased employees (House, No. 4281).

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 1184 and House, No. 1890, a Bill relative to defense against abusive waivers (House, No. 4282).

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

By Mr. Chan of Quincy, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on a petition, a Bill relative to sales at retail (House, No. 243).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to protect innovation and entrepreneurship in the Commonwealth (House, No. 277).

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 150 and House No. 351, a Bill relative to consumer protection on online automobile franchise transactions (House, No. 351).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to telemarketer disclosures (House, No. 368).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill eliminating the residency requirement for fortune tellers (House, No. 3893).

By Mr. Cutler of Duxbury, for the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, on a petition, a Bill to provide collective bargaining rights to employees of the mosquito control projects and mosquito control districts (House, No. 1844).

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

#### *Emergency Measure.*

The engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Cheryl Thouin, an employee of the Hampshire County sheriff's office (see House, No. 4233), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was considered, the question being on adopting the emergency preamble.

A separate vote was taken, as required by the provisions of Article XLVIII (as amended by Article LXVII) of the Amendments to the Constitution; and the preamble was adopted, by a vote of 4 to 0. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Subsequently, the Senate having concurred in adoption of the emergency preamble, the bill (which originated in the House) was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Cosmetics,—  
advertising.

Tickets,—  
security.

Vehicle  
recalls.

Pregnancy  
loss,—  
paid leave.

Four-day  
work week.

Prevailing  
wages.

Deceased,—  
wages.

Employment  
contracts.

Meats, poultry  
and edible fish.

Patent  
infringement.

Automobiles,—  
online  
transactions.

Telemarketers,—  
disclosures.

Fortune  
tellers.

Mosquito  
control,—  
employees.

Cheryl  
Thouin,—  
sick leave.

Bill  
enacted.

*Engrossed Bills.*

Engrossed bills

Authorizing the city of Revere to pay a certain sum of money to the estate of George J. Rotondo, Jr. (see House, No. 2055);

Expanding and improving equity in the sewer system in the town of Provincetown (see House, No. 2096); and

Authorizing John R. Stowe, Jr. to purchase creditable service from the Barnstable County Retirement Board (see House, No. 3656);

(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.

Bills  
enacted.

*Orders of the Day.*

Senate bills

Authorizing the town of Wales to establish a department of public works (Senate, No. 1297, amended); and

Amending the charter of the city of Westfield (Senate, No. 2547);

Severally reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, were read a third time; and they were passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.

Third  
reading  
bills.

House bills

Relative to the maximum age requirement for police officers for the city of Methuen (House, No. 2548);

Exempting the police chief of the town of Wrentham from the civil service law (House, No. 2678);

Exempting the deputy police chief of the town of Wrentham from the civil service law (House, No. 2679);

Designating a certain bridge in the town of Falmouth as the Deputy John Robert Kotfila Jr. memorial bridge (House, No. 3466);

To amend the Needham charter (House, No. 3997);

Exempting William McGrath from the age restrictions for police officers in the town of Wrentham (House, No. 4041) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading);

Authorizing Brian Dacey to take the civil service examination for the position of police officer in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4148); and

Authorizing Derek Clark to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4149);

Severally reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, were read a third time; and they were passed to be engrossed. Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Id.

*Order.*

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

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

Next  
sitting.

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At six minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Vieira of Falmouth (Mr. Garballey of Arlington being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Monday at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.