
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024.

[15]

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Monday, February 12, 2024.

Met according to adjournment at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, 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.

Lunar New Year.

During the Session, Mr. Chan of Quincy took the Chair, declared a brief recess and, on behalf of Representatives Wong of Saugus, Chan of Quincy, Schmid of Westport, Mom of Lowell, Nguyen of Andover, Howard of Lowell and Uytterhoeven of Somerville, paid tribute to the members of the Asian community of the Commonwealth on the occasion of Lunar New Year, as follows:

Lunar
New Year.

On this past Saturday, February 10th, the new year of the lunar calendar began. It is the beginning of the 4722nd year and is the second oldest continuously used calendar in the world. Many Asian cultures, including Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Laotian and many others celebrate the Lunar New Year as a time to spend with family sharing happiness and good fortune.

The lunar calendar is set in 12-year cycles using 12 different zodiac animals to symbolize each year. This year is the year of the Dragon, the 5th animal of the 12-year cycle, and is the only animal that is a mythical creature. Persons born this year are charismatic, ambitious, adventurous, and fearless in how they approach life. This year is expected to bring innovation, the expansion of ideas and horizons, and greater connection to friends and family.

Guests of the House.

At the beginning of the session, the Chair (Mr. Donato of Medford), declared a brief recess and introduced, seated in the Chamber, students from the Medway Middle School. At the invitation of the Chair, the students participated in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. They were the guests of Mr. Roy of Franklin.

Medway
Middle
School.

Orders.

The following orders were referred, under Joint Rule 30, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently:

Order (filed by Mr. Ryan of Boston) relative to extending until Tuesday, March 19, 2024 the time within which the committee on Election Laws is authorized to report on current House documents (House, No. 4380).

Extensions of
time for
committees
to make
reports.

Order (filed by Mr. Ryan of Boston) relative to extending until Tuesday, May 28, 2024 the time within which the committee on Election Laws is authorized to report on current House documents (House, No. 4381).

Order (filed by Mr. Driscoll of Milton) relative to extending until Friday, March 15, 2024 the time within which the committee on Emergency Preparedness and Management is authorized to report on current Senate and House documents (House, No. 4375).

Order (filed by Mr. Cahill of Lynn) relative to extending until Friday, April 12, 2024 the time within which the committee on Environment and Natural Resources is authorized to report on a current House document (House, No. 4376).

Order (filed by Mr. Cahill of Lynn) relative to extending until Tuesday, December 31, 2024 the time within which the committee on Environment and Natural Resources is authorized to report on current House documents (House, No. 4371).

Order (filed by Mr. Diggs of Barnstable) relative to extending until Wednesday, May 8, 2024 the time within which the committee on Labor and Workforce Development is authorized to report on current House documents (House, No. 4373).

Order (filed by Ms. Decker of Cambridge) relative to extending until Tuesday, December 31, 2024 the time within which the committee on Public Health is authorized to report on current House documents (House, No. 4372).

Order (filed by Ms. Decker of Cambridge) relative to extending until Tuesday, December 31, 2024 the time within which the committee on Public Health is authorized to report on current a House document (House, No. 4383).

Order (filed by Mr. González of Springfield) relative to extending until Monday, April 8, 2024 the time within which the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security is authorized to report on current House documents (House, No. 4382).

Order (filed by Mr. Cusack of Braintree) relative to extending until Tuesday, April 30, 2024 the time within which the committee on Revenue is authorized to report on current Senate and House documents (House, No. 4379).

Order (filed by Mr. Cabral of New Bedford) relative to extending until Monday, July 1, 2024 the time within which the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight is authorized to report on current Senate and House documents (House, No. 4370).

Order (filed by Mr. Roy of Franklin) relative to extending until Sunday, April 7, 2024 the time within which the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy is authorized to report on current House documents (House, No. 4378).

Order (filed by Mr. Straus of Mattapoisett) relative to extending until Thursday, May 23, 2024 the time within which the committee on Transportation is authorized to report on current Senate and House documents (House, No. 4374).

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committees on Rules, reported that the orders ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, in each instance, on motion of Mr. Roy of Franklin, the orders were considered forthwith; and they were adopted. Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Petitions.

Representative Cruz of Salem and Senator Lovely presented a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4398) of Manny Cruz and Joan B. Lovely (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to include the city of Salem designated port area as part of the Salem Harbor Port Area; and the same was referred to the committee on Transportation. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Salem,—
port area.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Kearney of Scituate, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Patrick Joseph Kearney relative to eligibility for the emergency housing assistance program.

Emergency housing assistance.

By Representative MacGregor of Boston, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of William F. MacGregor that the commissioner of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance be authorized to release a certain sewer line easement in the West Roxbury section of the city of Boston.

Boston,—
easement.

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

Papers from the Senate.

Bills

Authorizing the town of Hamilton to amend the income threshold for senior real property tax deferments (Senate, No. 2508) (on a petition) [Local Approval Received];

Hamilton,—
tax deferments.

Validating the results of the annual election held in the town of Whitman on May 20, 2023 (Senate, No. 2516) (on a petition) [Local Approval Received]; and

Whitman,—
town election.

Designating a certain bridge in the city of Leominster as the Honorable John Walter Olver memorial bridge (Senate, No. 2609) (on Senate bill No. 2221);

Leominster,—
Olver bridge.

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.

A petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2623) of Cynthia Stone Creem (by vote of the town) to authorize the town of Brookline to implement rent stabilization and tenant eviction protections, was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Housing.

Brookline,—
rent.

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 petition of Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., that the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement Board be authorized to grant creditable service to Sheila Commisso. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Chan of Quincy, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Public Service. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Sheila Commisso,—
benefits.

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

The Senate Bill relative to changing the terms board of selectmen and selectmen to the term select board in the town of Rockport (Senate, No. 2459) [Local Approval Received]; and

Rockport,—
select board.

House bills

Relative to consumer protection on online automobile franchise transactions (House, No. 351);

Online auto transactions.

Relative to veterans housing advantage (House, No. 2077); and

Veterans.

Designating domestic workers' rights day (House, No. 3091);

Domestic workers.

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

By Mr. Schmid of Westport, for the committee on Agriculture, on Senate, Nos. 85 and 496 and House, Nos. 88, 95, 96, 99 and 150, a Bill strengthening the Commonwealth's farms and food systems (House, No. 4387). Read; and referred, under Joint Rule 29 to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently. Farms and food systems.

By Mr. Day of Stoneham, for the committee on the Judiciary, on House, No. 1750, a Bill concerning equitable allocation of recovery proceeds for subrogation claims (House, No. 4362). Referred, under Joint Rule 1E, to the committee on Health Care Financing. Subrogation claims.

By Mr. Finn of West Springfield, for the committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets, on a message from Her Excellency the Governor, a Bill to provide for the future information technology needs of Massachusetts (printed in House, No. 4242) [Bond Issue: \$1,630,000,000.00]. Read; and referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means. Information technology,—bonds.

By Mr. Schmid of Westport, for the committee on Agriculture, on House, No. 3556, a Bill relative to food security infrastructure grants (House, No. 4388). Food security infrastructure.

By Mr. Day of Stoneham, for the committee on the Judiciary, on House, Nos. 1551 and 3788, a Bill to protect victims of stalking in violation of harassment prevention orders (House, No. 4351). Stalking,—victims.

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 915 and House, No. 1561, a Bill related to indigency (House, No. 4353). Indigency.

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 933 and House, No. 1700, a Bill to modernize the administration of registered land under Chapter 185 of the General Laws (House, No. 4357). Registered land.

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 927 and House, No. 1728, a Bill to implement the recommendations of the special commission on facial recognition technology (House, No. 4359). Facial recognition technology.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1731, a Bill promoting access to counsel and housing stability in Massachusetts (House, No. 4360). Housing stability.

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 984 and House, No. 1830, a Bill relative to Gardner District Court (House, No. 4363). Gardner District Court.

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 1083 and House, No. 1813, a Bill relative to the efficient management and operation of the registries of probate (House, No. 4364). Registries of probate,—operations.

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

By Mr. Day of Stoneham, for the committee on the Judiciary, on Senate, No. 1122 and House, No. 1550, a Bill criminalizing sexual assault by fraud of a medical professional (House, No. 4350). Medical professionals,—sexual assaults.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1559, a Bill require the reporting of satisfaction of judgments awarding money damages (House, No. 4352). Judgments awarding money .

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 1080 and House, No. 1609, a Bill increasing penalties for hit and runs with recreational vehicles in the Commonwealth to be known as the James Ward act (House, No. 4354).

Hit and runs,—
penalties.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1669, a Bill relative to the offense of assault and battery upon a transit worker (House, No. 4355).

Transit
workers.

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 956 and House, No. 1690, a Bill promoting housing opportunity and mobility through eviction sealing (HOMES) (House, No. 4356).

Evictions.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1717, a Bill relative to nonprofit board member compensation (House, No. 4358).

Nonprofits,—
compensation.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1746, a Bill relative to tort actions for latent diseases (House, No. 4361).

Tort actions,—
latent diseases.

By Ms. Domb of Amherst, for the committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development, on Senate, No. 2186 and House, No. 3248, a Bill to protect Native American heritage (House, No. 3248).

Native
American
heritage.

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

Emergency Measure.

The engrossed Bill designating a certain bridge in the city of Leominster as the Captain Ross A. Reynolds memorial bridge (see House, No. 3334, amended), 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.

Leominster,—
Reynolds
bridge.

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 6 to 0. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

Removing the residency requirement for the treasurer of the county of Dukes County (see Senate, No. 1288) (which originated in the Senate); and

Bills
enacted.

Establishing an appointed town clerk in the town of Rutland (see House, No. 3985) (which 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.

Orders of the Day.

The House Bill relative to the charter in the town of Groton (House, No. 4194), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time; and it was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Third
reading
bill.

The House Bill 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), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Fall River,—
Raposa
boat ramp.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Walsh of Peabody moved to amend it in line 3 by striking out the words “Conversation and Recreation” and inserting in place thereof the words “fish and game”.

The amendment was adopted; and the bill (House, No. 4163, amended) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

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

Next
sitting.

At seventeen minutes after eleven o’clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Smola of Warren (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Thursday at eleven o’clock A.M., in an Informal Session.