
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024.

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JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Tuesday, February 20, 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.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Representative Gordon of Bedford) congratulating John W. Parsons on his retirement as Executive Director of the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission;

John
Parsons.

Resolutions (filed by Representatives Khan of Newton, Lawn of Watertown, and Balsler of Newton) honoring Matthew Jefferson on the occasion of his one hundredth birthday;

Matthew
Jefferson.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Saunders of Belchertown) congratulating the residents of the town of Ludlow on the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the town's founding; and

Ludlow,—
anniversary.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Smola of Warren) congratulating the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce on its decades of dedicated service to the Greater Three Rivers and Palmer area;

Three Rivers
Chamber of
Commerce.

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. Gordon of Bedford, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Order.

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

Order (filed by Mr. Madaro of Boston) relative to extending until Wednesday, May 15, 2024 the time within which the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery is authorized to report on a current Senate document (House, No. 4407).

Mental Health,
Substance Use
and Recovery
committee,—
extension
of time for
reporting.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committees on Rules, reported that the order ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Madaro of Boston, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Communications.

Communications

From the Office of the Child Advocate (see Section 2A of Chapter 38 of the General Laws) submitting its fiscal year 2022 Child Fatality Review annual report;

Child fatality review.

From the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (see item 4000-0500 of Section 2 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its comparative analysis of the rate differential for inpatient psychiatric and substance use hospital per diem payments report on the outcomes achieved by Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and Community Partners;

ACO's and community partners.

From the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (see Section 99 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its annual report on the Regional Transit Authority Performance Management Program and RTA Performance Progress Report for fiscal year 2023;

RTA performance management.

From the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (see item 1599-0514 of Section 2 of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023) submitting the February 12, 2024 biweekly report on the Emergency Housing Assistance Program;

Emergency housing assistance.

From the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (see item 0330-0613 of Section 2 of Chapter 126 of the Acts of 2022) submitting its report on One Year Recidivism Rates of Men and Women released from 2017-2020 and Multi-Year Descriptive Analysis of Risk Reduction Programs; and

Recidivism rates.

From the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (see Section 6(b) of Chapter 6C of the General Laws) submitting its annual report of the project information system and performance measurement report for calendar year 2023;

MassDOT.

Severally were placed on file.

Report.

The annual report of the Fair Labor Division of the Office of the Attorney General (under item 0810-0045 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its report on enforcement actions and violation trends in the construction industry, was placed on file.

Construction,—wages.

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Garry of Dracut and Senator Kennedy, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4430) of Colleen M. Garry and Edward J. Kennedy (by vote of the town) that the town of Dracut be authorized to adopt alternative methods for notice of public hearings. To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Dracut,—public notices.

By Representative Worrell of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4431) of Christopher J. Worrell (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Boston be authorized to appoint Nuias Daveiga a police officer in said city notwithstanding the maximum age requirement. To the committee on Public Service.

Nuias Daveiga,—employment.

By Representative Worrell of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4432) of Christopher J. Worrell (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to the procurement and award of contracts for construction of a certain

Boston,—public library.

subsidized affordable housing project, including space for a branch library to be procured by the Boston Public Library, in the city of Boston. To the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Representative Biele of Boston (by request) presented a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Alex Mattern relative to the reporting of certain convictions to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

RMV,—
conviction
reports.

Papers from the Senate.

A Bill increasing the term of office for select board members in the town of Marblehead from 1 year to 3 years (Senate, No. 2652) (on Senate bill No. 2415) [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.

Marblehead,—
select board
term.

A petition (accompanied by bill) of Michael D. Brady and Josh S. Cutler for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Tiffany Brennan, an employee of the Trial Court of the Commonwealth, came from the Senate referred, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on the Judiciary.

Tiffany
Brennan,—
sick leave.

The House concurred with the Senate in suspension of said rule; and the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2672) was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on the Judiciary.

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Lewis of Framingham, for the committee on Federal Stimulus and Census Oversight, that the Senate Bill to provide for competitiveness and infrastructure investment in Massachusetts (Senate, No. 2554), ought to pass with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered House, No. 4414. Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, with the amendment pending.

Competitiveness
and investments
in infrastructure.

Mr. Honan of Boston, for said committee, then reported asking to be discharged from further consideration of said bill, and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Ways and Means. Under suspension of Rule 42A, on motion of Ms. Khan of Newton, the report was considered forthwith, under Rule 42; and it was accepted.

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 Kenneth I. Gordon and Michael D. Brady for legislation to modernize civil service laws to assist in the recruiting and hiring of municipal public safety employees. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Ms. Khan of Newton, 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.

Municipal
public safety,—
civil service.

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

The Senate Bill authorizing the town of Hamilton to amend the income threshold for senior real property tax deferments (Senate, No. 2508) [Local Approval Received]; and

Hamilton,—
tax deferments.

House bills

Relative to agricultural crop and property destruction (House, No. 97);

Property.
Deerfield,—
police.

Authorizing the town of Deerfield to continue the employment of police department members Michael W. Habel, Robert A. Thrasher, and Mark Jacques (House, No. 4291) [Local Approval Received]; and

Relative to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (House, No. 4396);

Developmental
disabilities.

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

By Ms. Garlick of Needham, for the committee on Education, on House, Nos. 589 and 590, a Bill to assess school integration within the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) program (House, No. 4408). Read; and referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

METCO.

By Mr. Donahue of Worcester, for the committee on Cannabis Policy, on a petition, a Bill relative to data transparency in the cannabis industry (House, No. 105).

Cannabis
data.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to a medical marijuana pilot program (House, No. 122).

Medical
marijuana.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 117, a Bill relative to vertical integration of medical marijuana businesses (House, No. 4409).

Id.

By Mr. Murphy of Weymouth, for the committee on Financial Services, on House, No. 1103, a Bill relative to breast cancer equity and early detection (House, No. 4410).

Breast cancer,—
early detection.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1131, a Bill relating to patient cost, benefit and coverage information, choice, and price transparency (House, No. 4411).

Patients,—
coverage.

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

By Mr. Donahue of Worcester, for the committee on Cannabis Policy, on a petition, a Bill relative to supporting sustainability in the cannabis industry (House, No. 118).

Cannabis
industry.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to create cannabis career pathways to incarcerated individuals (House, No. 123).

Incarcerated,—
employment.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 111, 113, and 3558, a Bill relative to fines for violations of cannabis advertising regulations (House, No. 3558).

Cannabis,—
advertising.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 115, a Bill to facilitate labor peace among the cannabis workforce (House, No. 4413).

Cannabis,—
unions.

By Ms. Garlick of Needham, for the committee on Education, on a petition, a Bill to improve augmentative and alternative communication opportunities for children with disabilities (House, No. 433).

Disabilities,—
communication.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill enhancing learning in the early school years through a ban on school exclusion in pre-kindergarten through 3rd grade (House, No. 453).

Schools,—
early education.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill establishing a green and healthy schools working group and implementation plan (House, No. 469).

Healthy
schools.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to non-public school student access to the MCAS exam (House, No. 506).

MCAS,—
access.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to student and educator data privacy (House, No. 532).

Schools,—
data privacy.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 451, 558, 603, and 3993, a Bill establishing farm to school grants to promote healthy eating and strengthen the agricultural economy (House, No. 558).

Farm to school
grants.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill to establish de-escalation training in student transportation (House, No. 602) [Representative McGonagle of Everett dissenting].

Student
transportation.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 440, 444, 450, 505, 524, 531, 538, 564, 592 and 4245, a Bill to expand access to career technical education and other alternative pathways that improve student opportunities and outcomes (House, No. 4399).

Technical
education.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 478, 517, 580 and 597, a Bill to reduce exclusionary discipline for violations of rules related to student grooming and dress (House, No. 4400).

Student
discipline.

By Mr. Murphy of Weymouth, for the committee on Financial Services, on House, Nos. 950, 1035, 1095, and 1118, a Bill to establish minimum reimbursement rate to insurance claimants (House, No. 4412).

Insurance,—
reimbursements.

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

By Ms. Fiola of Fall River, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on a petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Somerset to acquire interests in land for sewer purposes (House, No. 4273) [Local Approval Received].

Somerset,—
land.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the Greater Lawrence Regional Vocational Technical high school (House, No. 4384).

Lawrence Regional
Vocational School.

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

Emergency Measures.

The engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Danielle Marie Cruz, an employee of the Trial Court of the Commonwealth (see Senate, No. 2537), 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.

Danielle
Marie Cruz,—
sick leave.

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 3 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 Senate) was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and Sent to the Senate.

Bill
enacted.

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

To provide for the continuance of the town of Hingham's senior means-tested property tax exemption (see Senate, No. 2553) (which originated in the Senate);

Bills
enacted.

Expanding the select board of the town of Sharon (see House, No. 3905 changed and amended);

Authorizing the town of West Stockbridge to continue the employment of Steven Traver as fire chief (see House, No. 4196);

Authorizing the town of Richmond to continue the employment of Steven Traver as fire chief (see House, No. 4197); and

Increasing the membership of the board of trustees of the Forbes Library in the city of Northampton (see House, No. 4221);

(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.

Orders of the Day.

The Senate amendment of the House Bill dissolving the Hampshire County Regional Housing Authority and incorporating its functions into the Northampton Housing Authority (House, No. 3810), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was adopted, in concurrence.

Northampton
Housing
Authority.

House bill

Establishing memorial markers in the towns of Milton and Canton in memory of certain law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty (House, No. 786); and

Third
reading
bills.

Authorizing the administrative assistant to the board of assessors of the city of New Bedford to be a non-resident (House, No. 4201);

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.

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 twenty-two minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus (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.

