
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024.

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JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Thursday, February 22, 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.

Guests of the House.

At the beginning of the session, the Chair (Mr. Garballey of Arlington), declared a brief recess and introduced, seated in the House Chamber, the Whitman-Hanson Girl Scouts with their leaders and chaperones. At the invitation of the Chair, the Girl Scouts led the House in the reciting of the pledge of allegiance to the flag. They were the guests of Representatives DeCoste of Norwell and Sullivan-Almeida of Abington and they were accompanied by Senator Brady.

Whitman-Hanson
Girl Scouts.

Resolutions.

Resolutions (filed with the Clerk by Representative Cabral of New Bedford) congratulating Colby Blais on his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout of the Boy Scouts of America, were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules.

Colby
Blais.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for said committee, reported that the resolutions ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Donato of Medford, 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. Cusack of Braintree) relative to extending until Tuesday, April 30, 2024 the time within which the committee on Revenue is authorized to report on a current House document (House, No. 4434).

Revenue
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. Donato of Medford, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Communications.

Communications

From the Office of the Comptroller (see Section 12(a) of Chapter 7A of the General Laws) submitting the Statutory Basis Financial Report for fiscal year 2023;

Statutory Basis
Financial Report.

From the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (see Section 13D ½ of Chapter 118E the General Laws) submitting a report on comparative analysis of the Community Behavioral Health Center rates as of December 2023;

Community
behavioral
health centers.

From the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (see item 4000-0300 contained in Section 2 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting the MassHealth Dual Eligibles Initiative report;

MassHealth
Dual Eligibles
Initiative.

From the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (see item 7061-9813 of Section 2 of Chapter 126 of the Acts of 2022) submitting its report on Rural School Aid for fiscal year 2023; and

Rural
School
Aid.

From the Hampden County Sheriff's Office (see item 8910-1010 contained in Section 2 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its Regional Evaluation and Stabilization Unit report for fiscal year 2023;

Hampden
Sheriff,—
ESU report.

Severally were placed on file.

Monthly Reports.

Monthly reports

Of the Department of Unemployment Assistance (under Section 14F of Chapter 151A of the General Laws) relative to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund for January 2024; and

Unemployment
Insurance
Trust Fund.

Of the Executive Office of the Trial Court (under Section 15 of Chapter 239 of the General Laws, as amended by Section 64 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its report on filings, actions, and dispositions of summary process cases relative to permanent rental protections;

Rental
protections.

Severally were placed on file.

Papers from the Senate.

Petitions were referred, in concurrence, as follows:

A petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2689) of Michael J. Rodrigues and William M. Straus (by vote of the town) for legislation to amend the Cranberry Highway Smart Growth Overlay District. To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Rochester,—
smart growth.

A petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2690) of Michael J. Rodrigues and William M. Straus (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Rochester to continue the employment of Scott Weigel. To the committee on Public Service.

Rochester,—
Scott Weigel.

A petition (accompanied by bill) of Bruce E. Tarr, Roger E. Mercaldi, Jr., Ryan C. Fattman, Kathleen R. LaNatra and others for legislation to properly recognize merchant marine veterans, came from the Senate referred, under suspension of Joint rule 12, to the committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs.

Veterans,—
merchant
marines.

The House then concurred with the Senate in suspension of said rule; and the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2688) was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs.

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., and Bud L. Williams relative to real estate tax abatements for certain blind persons. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Cabral of New Bedford, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Revenue. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Blind persons,—
abatements.

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 increasing the term of office for select board members in the town of Marblehead from 1 year to 3 years (Senate, No. 2652) [Local Approval Received]; and

Marblehead,—
select board.

House bills

Relative to increasing the fine for handicap parking violations for city/town implementation and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (House, No. 3261);

ADA,—
parking.

To establish Noah Fernandes Mitochondrial disease awareness day (House, No. 4240); and

Mitochondrial,—
awareness day.

Authorizing the town of Littleton to provide drinking water to the inhabitants of the town of Boxborough (House, No. 4246);

Boxborough,—
drinking water.

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

By Mr. Murphy of Weymouth, for the committee on Financial Services, on a petition, a Bill relative to colon cancer screening (House, No. 927).

Colon cancer
screening.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to enact the pharmacy benefit manager compensation reform (House, No. 934).

Drug benefit
managers.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill providing continuity of care for mental health treatment (House, No. 936).

Mental health
care.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to transparency of consumer health insurance rights (House, No. 937).

Health
insurance.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to breast cancer screening and early detection (House, No. 938).

Breast cancer,—
detection.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to update mental health parity (House, No. 939).

Mental health
parity.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill requiring mental health parity for disability policies (House, No. 940).

Id.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to reduce co-pays for people with chronic conditions (House, No. 943).

Chronic
conditions.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill reining in premiums through stronger rate review (House, No. 944).

Health care,—
premiums.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to ensure prescription drug cost transparency and affordability (House, No. 945).

Prescriptions,—
cost.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill requiring prospective payment system methodology for reimbursement to community health centers (House, No. 948).

Health centers,—
reimbursements.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to consumer deductibles (House, No. 953).

Consumers,—
deductibles.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill prohibiting discrimination against 340b drug discount program participants (House, No. 959).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to modernize the Massachusetts insurer's insolvency fund (House, No. 962).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to costs for treatment and management of diabetes (House, No. 963).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to ensuring treatment for genetic craniofacial conditions (House, No. 964).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill improving access to breast pumps (House, No. 967).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill requiring reimbursement for the costs of providing competent interpreter services (House, No. 968).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to promoting healthcare access and affordability for patients (House, No. 978).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the safety of autistic and Alzheimer individuals (House, No. 980).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to non-medical switching (House, No. 982).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to access to care for serious mental illness (House, No. 984).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill increasing access to postpartum home visiting services (House, No. 985).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to telehealth and digital equity for patients (House, No. 986).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill for supportive care for serious mental illness (House, No. 989).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to removing barriers to non-opioid pain management (House, No. 990).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to protect health care consumers from surprise billing (House, No. 997).

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

By Ms. Farley-Bouvier of Pittsfield, for the committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity, on a petition, a Bill creating a task force to study the use of the internet by sex offenders (House, No. 67).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill establishing a special commission on blockchain and cryptocurrency (House, No. 69).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 72, a Bill establishing a task force on the use of deepfake and digital content forgery (House, No. 4406).

Severally read; and referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

By Ms. Farley-Bouvier of Pittsfield, for the committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity, on a petition, a Bill establishing the Massachusetts open data standard (House, No. 62).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill related to the resiliency, public safety and quality of broadband in Massachusetts (House, No. 3780).

Drug discount program.

Insurers' insolvency fund.

Diabetes,— treatment.

Craniofacial,— conditions.

Breast pumps,— access.

Interpreter services,— reimbursement.

Healthcare,— access.

Autistic and Alzheimer.

Health plans,— prescriptions.

Mental health,— care.

Postpartum services.

Telehealth equity.

Mental health,— care.

Pain management.

Surprise billing.

Sex offenders,— internet use.

Blockchain and cryptocurrency.

Digital forgery.

Open data standard.

Broadband.

By Mr. Murphy of Weymouth, for the committee on Financial Services, on a petition, a Bill establishing uniform safeguards and public protections for consumers conducting bank transactions at automated teller machines (House, No. 929).

Teller machine safeguards.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to an investigation to review flood insurance rates (House, No. 931).

Flood insurance rates.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to an investigation of flood insurance by the Attorney General (House, No. 935).

Id.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relating to modernizing business to business commercial insurance transactions (House, No. 960).

Commercial insurance transactions.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to protect consumers by further defining subprime loans (House, No. 974).

Subprime loans.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to continuing education of insurance producers (House, No. 977).

Insurance,— education.

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

By Ms. Farley-Bouvier of Pittsfield, for the committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity, on a petition, a Bill [sic] internet access on private ways (House, No. 85).

Internet installation,— private ways.

By Mr. Murphy of Weymouth, for the committee on Financial Services, on a petition, a Bill relative to modernization of insurance laws (House, No. 932).

Life insurance.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill providing mortgage customers additional mandatory information regarding their accounts (House, No. 933).

Mortgage account information.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to [sic] relative to an underinsurance issue (House, No. 947).

Underinsurance.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill preserving the competitiveness of group auto and homeowners insurance plans (House, No. 957).

Insurance plans.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to certain loans by the Federal Home Loan Bank (House, No. 958).

Federal home loans.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to notices by insurance companies (House, No. 981).

Insurance,— notifications.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to motor vehicle service contracts (House, No. 995).

Motor vehicle service contracts.

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 towns of Belchertown and Ware as the Kenneth J. Iwasinski memorial bridge (see House, No. 4008, 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.

Kenneth J. Iwasinski memorial 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 3 to 0. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

Relative to the Auburn Water District clerk and treasurer (see House, No. 2048);
Dissolving the Hampshire County Regional Housing Authority and incorporating its functions into the Northampton Housing Authority (see House, No. 3810, amended);

Authorizing the city of Greenfield to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (see House, No. 4191); and

Further regulating the systems of sewers in the town of Deerfield (see House, No. 4220);

(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.

House bills

Relative to erecting a bench in honor of Rita Walsh in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Boston (House, No. 3965); and

To prohibit hunting on property owned by the Department of Correction and located at 28A Union Turnpike in the town of Concord (House, No. 4200);

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.

Third
reading
bills.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Canton to grant temporary and permanent easements of certain land of the town situated in the town of Stoughton for highway purposes (House, No. 3937), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Walsh of Peabody moved to amend it in section 1, in line 14, by inserting after the word "Canton" the following: "for watershed purposes as recorded in the Norfolk registry of deeds in book 706, page 308"; and in section 2, in line 32, by inserting after the word "Canton", the following: "for watershed purposes as recorded in the Norfolk registry of deeds in book 706, page 308 and".

The amendments were adopted; and the bill (House, No. 3937, amended) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Stoughton,—
land.

The House Bill exempting Thomas Romeo from the 75% pension and annuity limitation for police officers hired after January 1, 1988 set forth in Chapter 32, Section 7(2)(a)(ii) of the General Laws (House, No. 4164), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Walsh of Peabody moved to amend it by substitution of a Bill correcting the membership date of a certain police officer in the town of North Reading relative to their membership in the Middlesex County retirement system (House, No. 4437), which was read.

The amendment was adopted; and the substituted bill was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

North Reading,—
Thomas Romeo.

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.

At twenty-two minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus (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.