
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024.

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Wednesday, February 28, 2024.

Met according to adjournment at eleven o'clock A.M. 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.

During the session, at the request of Representatives Rogers of Norwood, Philips of Sharon, McMurtry of Dedham, and Vaughn of Wrentham (Ms. Hogan of Stow being in the Chair), the members, guests and employees stood for a moment of silence in respect to the memory of Ralph William White of Walpole, who passed away on January 26th.

Ralph
White.

Ralph was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, where he was awarded both the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his heroic actions under enemy fire in Korea. After his military service, Ralph served as a corrections officer at Boston's Charles Street Jail and Walpole State Prison, and then as a state parole officer, where he survived an on-the-job shooting that nearly claimed his life. In 1968, Ralph co-founded the Mass Retirees Association at the age of 37, which he then helped grow into the organization it is today, advocating as its President for the rights of over 55,000 retirees until his own retirement in 2013.

In Walpole, Ralph was an institution, raising four children with his beloved wife Geraldine and serving as Commander of the Thomas H. Crowley American Legion Post 104, as well as coaching both the Legion and Walpole High School baseball teams. He will be greatly missed.

Changes in House and Joint Standing Committees.

The Minority Leader announced that, under the provisions of House Rules 18 and 18A, he had made the following changes to committees:

That Representative McKenna of Webster had been relieved of duty (at his own request) from the committee on Ways and Means, and that Representative Vaughn of Wrentham had been appointed to the thirty-fifth position on said committee to fill the vacancy; and

House Ways
and Means
committee.

That Representative McKenna of Webster had been appointed to the tenth position on the committee on the Judiciary to fill the existing vacancy.

Judiciary
committee.

Statement Concerning Representative Rogers of Cambridge.

A statement of Ms. Peisch of Wellesley concerning Mr. Rogers of Cambridge was spread upon the records of the House, as follows:

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to call to the attention of the House the fact that one of our colleagues, Representative Rogers of Cambridge, was unable to be present in the House Chamber for today's sitting. If he had been present for roll call No. 74, on the question on passing to be engrossed, in concurrence, the Senate Bill to provide for competitiveness and infrastructure investment in Massachusetts, as amended, he would have voted in the affirmative.

Statement concerning Mr. Rogers of Cambridge.

Guests of the House.

During the session, the Chair (Ms. Hogan of Stow), declared a brief recess and turned the gavel over to Representative Tyler of Boston. Ms. Tyler then introduced Edith Alexander, a Massachusetts Parole Board commissioner, and Boston Police Captain Leighton Facey. They were the guests of Representatives Tyler, Holmes of Boston and Williams of Springfield.

Edith Alexander and Leighton Facey.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Representative MacGregor of Boston) congratulating Alexander Miselis on his elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout; and

Alexander Miselis.

Resolutions (filed by Representative McKenna of Webster) commending the New England Hemophilia Association on its recognition of March 2024 as Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month;

Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month.

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. Zlotnik of Gardner, 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 Order (filed by Mr. Straus of Mattapoisett) relative to extending until Friday, March 15, 2024 the time within which the committee on Transportation is authorized to report on a current House document (House, No. 4445), was referred, under Joint Rule 30, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Transportation committee,—extension of time for reporting.

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

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 Mark J. Cusack relative to licensing of earned wage access services providers by the Division of Banks. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Ms. Reyes of Lawrence, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was

Earned wage access services.

suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Financial Services. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

By Mr. McMurtry of Dedham, for the committee on Community Development and Small Businesses, on a petition, a Bill relative to housing production (House, No. 237).

Housing production.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to establish a commission to review equitable city planning and development (House, No. 238).

City planning,— commission.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill encouraging smart growth and starter home zoning adoption (House, No. 241).

Smart growth,— home zoning.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to establish the Western Massachusetts balanced sustainable development commission (House, No. 242).

Development,— commission.

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

By Mr. McMurtry of Dedham, for the committee on Community Development and Small Businesses, on a petition, a Bill improving housing opportunities (House, No. 233).

Housing opportunities.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 226, 230 and 234, a Bill encouraging the growth of small businesses (House, No. 234).

Small business size.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to starter home school cost reimbursement (House, No. 240).

Starter homes,— school costs.

By Mr. Gordon of Bedford, for the committee on Public Service, on a petition, a Bill exempting the positions of police chief and fire chief in the city of Greenfield from the civil service law (House, No. 4072) [Local Approval Received].

Greenfield,— civil service.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Danielle M. Alachoyan, an employee of the Department of Correction (House, No. 4297).

Danielle Alachoyan,— sick leave.

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 town of Dedham as the Honorable Deborah R. Cochran memorial bridge (see House, No. 3382, 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.

Dedham,— Cochran 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 4 to 0. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

Changing the name of the board of selectmen of the town of Rockport to the select board (see Senate, No. 2459) (which originated in the Senate); and

Bills enacted.

Establishing the position of town manager in the town of Belchertown (see House, No. 3960) (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.

Recess.

At a half past eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. McKenna of Webster (Mr. Garballey of Arlington being in the Chair), the House recessed until one o'clock P.M.; and at seven minutes after one o'clock the House was called to order with Mr. Donato of Medford in the Chair.

Recess.

Reports of Committees.

Mr. Garballey of Arlington being in the Chair,—

Prior to the noon recess, Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, for the committee on Ways and Means, reported that the 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 4446; and by striking out the emergency preamble and inserting in place thereof the following emergency preamble:

Infrastructure,—
Investments.

“*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purposes, which are to enhance the competitiveness of the commonwealth in winning federal funds and to provide for the infrastructure needs of the commonwealth, each of which is immediately necessary to accomplish important public purposes, 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, with the amendment previously recommended by the committee on Federal Stimulus and Census Oversight,— to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 4414,— and the amendments recommended by the committee on Ways and Means pending.

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. Michlewitz of Boston, the bill was read a second time forthwith.

The amendment previously recommended by the committee on Federal Stimulus and Census Oversight was rejected.

The amendments recommended by the committee on Ways and Means then were adopted; and the bill (Senate, No. 2554, amended) was ordered to a third reading.

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

After debate 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. Hendricks of New Bedford; and on the roll call 154 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

Bill passed to
be engrossed,—
yea and nay
No. 74.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 74](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the bill (Senate, No. 2554, amended) was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence. Sent to the Senate for concurrence in the amendments [for text of House amendments, see House document numbered 4446].

Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair,—

By Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Bill authorizing the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to convey a certain portion of the Gardner Heritage State Park to the city of Gardner (House, No. 3133), ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor a bill with the same title (House, No. 4447). Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Gardner,—
land.

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

Under suspension of Rule 7A, on motion of Mr. O'Day of West Boylston, the bill was read a second time forthwith.

The amendment recommended by the committee on Ways and Means then was adopted; and the substituted bill was ordered to a third reading.

Subsequently, under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Cahill of Lynn, 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. The bill (House, No. 4447) then was sent to the Senate for concurrence.

By Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Bill authorizing the city of Lynn to use certain park land for school purposes (House, No. 4127), ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor a bill with the same title (House, No. 4448) [Local Approval Received]. Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Lynn,—
land.

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

Under suspension of Rule 7A, on motion of Mr. O'Day of West Boylston, the bill was read a second time forthwith. The amendment recommended by the committee on Ways and Means then was adopted; and the substituted bill was ordered to a third reading.

Subsequently, under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Cahill of Lynn, 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. The bill (House, No. 4448) then was sent to the Senate for concurrence.

By Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Bill relative to equitable court staffing (House, No. 4330), ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor a bill with the same title (House, No. 4449). Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Courts,—
staffing.

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

Under suspension of Rule 7A, on motion of Mr. O'Day of West Boylston, the bill was read a second time forthwith. The amendment recommended by the committee on Ways and Means then was adopted; and the substituted bill was ordered to a third reading.

Subsequently, under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Cahill of Lynn, 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. The bill (House, No. 4449) then was 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 tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M.

Next
sitting.

Mr. Wong of Saugus 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 twenty minutes before three 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.