
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024.

[21]

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Thursday, February 29, 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.

Silent Tribute.

At the request of Representative Zlotnik of Gardner, the members, guests and employees stood in a moment of silence to honor the life of Gardner City Councillor Ron Cormier, who passed away on Sunday, January 28, 2024.

Ron Cormier.

Ron was born in Gardner on September 19, 1942. After receiving both his B.S. in Education and Master of Education from Fitchburg State College, he began a life dedicated to education. Ron was a teacher at Reingold Elementary School in Fitchburg from 1971 to 1996, when he became Vice Principal of Fitchburg's Crocker Elementary School until retiring in 2002. Ultimately, he and his wife Marcelle would unretire for two years to become co-principals of the former Our Lady of the Holy Rosary School in Gardner.

Ron was an active member of Annunciation Parish of Gardner and was also an active member of numerous organizations, including the Acadien Social Club, Lions Club, Knights of Columbus, and American Legion, all in Gardner. He was also a member of the Massachusetts Teachers Association, the National Education Association, and Retired Educators Association of Massachusetts.

Above all, Ron took pride in being an active leader in the City of Gardner. Ron was currently serving in his 36th year as a City Councillor.

Communications.

Communications

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

Northwestern
D.A.,—
wiretaps.

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 22, 2024 biweekly report on the Emergency Housing Assistance Program; Severally were placed on file.

Emergency
housing
assistance.

Annual Report.

The annual report of the Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Commission for 2023 and 2024 (under Section 219 of Chapter 6 of the

Community
behavioral
health.

General Laws) relative to preventing substance use and promoting behavioral health in the Commonwealth, was placed on file.

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Boldyga of Southwick, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4454) of Nicholas A. Boldyga (by vote of the town) that the town of Huntington be authorized to establish the appointed office of town clerk in said town. To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Huntington,—
town
clerk.

By Representative Parisella of Beverly, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4455) of Jerald A. Parisella and Joan B. Lovely (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to the retirement classification of certain employees of the city of Beverly. To the committee on Public Service.

Beverly,—
retirement
classification.

Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Boldyga of Southwick and Senator Mark, a joint petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Nicholas A. Boldyga and Paul W. Mark that the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance and the town of Southwick be authorized to enter into a license for a renewable term of 5-years to use the North Pond boat ramp on Point Grove Road in the town of Southwick for parking purposes.

Southwick,—
North Pond
boat ramp.

By Representative Donato of Medford, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Paul J. Donato for legislation to authorize the Middlesex District Attorney's Office to establish a pilot program to improve communications between local law enforcement and victims in Middlesex County.

Middlesex
County,—
communications
program.

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

Reports of Committees.

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:

Encouraging the growth of small businesses (House, No. 234);

Businesses.

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.

Enhancing the Historic Beacon Hill District (House, No. 4076) [Local Approval Received];

Boston,—
Beacon Hill.

Establishing a sick leave bank for Danielle M. Alachoyan, an employee of the Department of Correction (House, No. 4297); and

Danielle
Alachoyan.

Relative to the Greater Lawrence Regional Vocational Technical High School (House, No. 4384);

Greater
Lawrence
school.

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

By Mr. Stanley of Waltham, for the committee on Elder Affairs, on a petition, a Bill relative to providing dental care to senior citizens (House, No. 620).

Elders,—
dental care.

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 383 and House, No. 629, a Bill to improve Alzheimer's [sic] and dementia care in senior care options programs (House, No. 629).

Alzheimer's
and dementia.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 614, a Bill to expand access for those living with younger onset Alzheimer's, dementia and other disabilities (House, No. 4433).

Id.

By Mr. Diggs of Barnstable, for the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, on a petition, a Bill relative to the small necessities leave act (House, No. 1847).

Adoptions,—
family leave.

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 1147 and House, No. 1867, a Bill clarifying mandatory overtime protections (House, No. 1867).

Overtime.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to worker compensation protections for certified medical cannabis patients and their caregivers (House, No. 1949) [Representative Soter of Bellingham dissenting].

Cannabis,—
patient
protections.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to adding efficiency to paid family and medical leave (House, No. 4270).

Paid family
leave.

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

By Mr. Stanley of Waltham, for the committee on Elder Affairs, on a petition, a Bill establishing a special commission on a statewide long-term care insurance program (House, No. 652).

Long-term
care insurance.

By Mr. Diggs of Barnstable, for the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, on House, Nos. 1856 and 1905, a Bill relative to WorkShare working better (House, No. 1856).

WorkShare,—
study.

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

By Mr. Stanley of Waltham, for the committee on Elder Affairs, on a petition, a Bill supporting seniors' financial stability (House, No. 638).

Elders,—
finances.

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 366 and House, No. 644, a Bill protecting vulnerable elders from abuse (House, No. 644).

Vulnerable
elders.

By Mr. Diggs of Barnstable, for the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, on a petition, a Bill requiring OSHA training (House, No. 1842).

OSHA
training.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to provide economic security for fishing industry participants (House, No. 1850).

Fishing
industry.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to workforce training (House, No. 1851).

Workforce
training.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill establishing the re-entry works fund (House, No. 1854).

Re-entry
works fund.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill updating DUA notice procedures (House, No. 1861).

DUA notice
procedures.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to prevailing wages (House, No. 1900).

Prevailing
wages.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill protecting the employment benefits of Civil Air Patrol and Coast Guard Auxiliary members (House, No. 1930).

Civil Air
Patrol and
Coast Guard.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to labor rights of chief probation officers (House, No. 1954).

Chief probation
officers.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to establishing a prevailing wage for security officers (House, No. 1956).

Security
officers.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1837, a Bill relative to the creation of an advisory group on minority workers and business enterprises (House, No. 4438).

Minority
enterprises.

<p>By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, Nos. 1179 and 1180 and House, Nos. 1864 and 1865, a Bill relative to a just transition to clean energy (House, No. 4439).</p>	<p>Transition to clean energy.</p>
<p>By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1869, a Bill updating overtime protections to protect the Commonwealth’s middle class workers (House, No. 4440).</p>	<p>Overtime protections.</p>
<p>By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1908, a Bill providing for payment by the Commonwealth of wages for members of the United States Coast Guard during the shut-down, so-called, of the United States Government (House, No. 4441).</p>	<p>United States Coast Guard,— payment.</p>
<p>By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 1182 and House, No. 1944, a Bill clarifying the process for paying the wages of dismissed employees (House, No. 4443).</p>	<p>Dismissed employees,— wages.</p>
<p>Severally read; and referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.</p>	
<p>By Mr. Stanley of Waltham, for the committee on Elder Affairs, on a petition, a Bill relative to councils on aging (printed as Senate, No. 398).</p>	<p>Councils on aging.</p>
<p>By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to councils on aging (House, No. 624).</p>	<p>Id.</p>
<p>By Mr. Diggs of Barnstable, for the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, on a petition, a Bill relative to youth soccer referees (House, No. 1852).</p>	<p>Youth soccer referees.</p>
<p>By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill prohibiting employment discrimination based on the legal use of cannabis (House, No. 1955) [Representative Soter of Bellingham dissenting].</p>	<p>Cannabis use,— discrimination.</p>
<p>Severally read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.</p>	

Orders of the Day.

<p>The Senate amendments of the House Bill designating a certain bridge in the town of Lexington as the Henry N. “Hank” Manz bridge (House, No. 4160), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, were adopted, in concurrence.</p>	<p>Lexington,— Manz bridge.</p>
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<p>Senate bills Authorizing the appointment of special police officers in the town of Charlton (Senate, No. 2416); and Authorizing the town of Hamilton to amend the income threshold for senior real property tax deferments (Senate, No. 2508); 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.</p>	<p>Third reading bills.</p>
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Order.

<p>On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,— <i>Ordered</i>, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday next at eleven o’clock A.M.</p>	<p>Next sitting.</p>
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At eight minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Muratore of Plymouth (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Monday at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.