
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024.

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Monday, April 8, 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.

Orders.

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

Order (filed by Ms. Farley-Bouvier of Pittsfield) relative to extending until Monday, May 6, 2024 the time within which the committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity is authorized to report on current Senate and House documents (House, No. 4536).

Extensions
of time for
committees
to make
reports.

Order (filed by Mr. Roy of Franklin) relative to extending until Thursday, June 20, 2024 the time within which the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy is authorized to report on current House documents (House, No. 4538).

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

Resolutions.

Resolutions (filed with the Clerk by Representatives Zlotnik of Gardner and other members of the House) commending the American Legion Auxiliary – Department of Massachusetts on its recognition of the month of April 2024 as the Month of the Military Child and April 15, 2024 as Purple Up! for Military Kids Day, were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules.

Military
child
month.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for said committee, reported that the resolutions ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of the same member, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Papers from the Senate.

The following order, having been approved by the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, came from the Senate with the endorsement that it had been adopted by said branch, as follows:

Ordered, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Joint Rule 10, the committee on Environment and Natural Resources be granted until April 12, 2024, within which

Environment

time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 447, 459, 463, 467, 489, 512, 513, 520, 521, 537, 540, 548, 549, 550, 555, 580, 588, 589, 590, and 1424, relative to environment and natural resources matters.

and Natural Resources committee,— extension of time for reporting.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Galvin of Canton, the order (Senate, No. 2621) was considered forthwith; and it was adopted, in concurrence.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Mashpee to convey certain town owned conservation land to Jacques and Rosalie Fresco (House, No. 4186) [Local Approval Received], came from the Senate, passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with an amendment in section 1, in line 11, by striking out the word “may” and inserting in place thereof the word “shall”. The amendment was referred, under Rule 35, to the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

Mashpee,— Jacques and Rosalie Fresco.

A Bill eliminating the residency requirement for the town manager of the town of Andover (Senate, No. 2580) (on a petition) [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.

Andover,— town manager.

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Roy of Franklin, for the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, that the communication from the Division of Energy Resources of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (under the provisions of section 12 of Chapter 25A of the General Laws) submitting 225 CMR 25.00 – Participation in the Green Communities Program for Municipalities Served by Municipal Light Plants (House, No. 4239), be placed on file. Under Rule 42, the report was considered forthwith; and it was accepted. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Division of Energy Resources,— regulations.

By Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, asking to be discharged from further consideration:

Of the Bill establishing a special commission on retirement credit purchases (House, No. 17);

Retirement purchases.

Of the Bill establishing the commission on extended producer responsibility (House, No. 833);

Producer responsibility.

Of the Bill to create a commission to determine the feasibility of voluntary acquisition of flood risk properties and structures (House, No. 876);

Flood risk protection.

Of the Resolve authorizing the study of cost of living increases for state police retirees (House, No. 2637);

State police retirees.

Of the Bill providing for a study to be conducted on the cost feasibility of implementing a ferry service to Long Island in Boston Harbor (House, No. 3260);

Long Island ferry service.

Of the Resolve reviving and continuing the non-emergency human services transportation task force (House, No. 3302);

Non-emergency transportation.

Of the Bill establishing a special commission to identify, preserve and commemorate historic roadways in Massachusetts (House, No. 3426); and

Historic roadways.

Of the Bill establishing a special commission to study the effectiveness of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (House, No. 3669);

EOHHS,— effectiveness.

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the House committee on Rules.

Under Rule 42, the reports severally were considered forthwith; and they were accepted.

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 amending the date of annual town elections in the town of Walpole (Senate, No. 2501) [Local Approval Received]; and

House bills

Relative to primary insurance (House, No. 1133);

Relative to reducing barriers to housing (House, No. 1316);

Requiring notice to landlords relating to gas or electric shutoffs (House, No. 1370);

Relative to additional inspectors; inspector engaging in plumbing or gas fitting work (House, No. 2113);

Relative to the membership of the PRIM Board (House, No. 2489);

Relative to property tax deferrals for seniors (House, No. 2919);

Relative to making amendments to the Massachusetts Business Corporation Act (House, No. 3024);

Designating the official jazz song of the Commonwealth (House, No. 3105);

Relative to charter school procurement (House, No. 3116);

Clarifying the vehicle transfer and registration laws (House, No. 3422);

Establishing a year-round market rate rental housing trust in the town of Truro (House, No. 3723) [Local Approval Received];

Authorizing the town of Fairhaven to establish a fee for checkout bags (House, No. 3825) [Local Approval Received];

Authorizing the town of Sudbury to establish a fee for checkout bags (House, No. 3904) [Local Approval Received];

Designating April 5 as Okur-Chung Neurodevelopmental Syndrome awareness day (House, No. 4070);

Designating a certain bridge as the Lt. David S. Cutler memorial bridge (House, No. 4108); and

Amending the charter of the city of Gardner (House, No. 4285) [Local Approval Received];

Under suspension of Rule 7A, in each instance, on motion of Mr. Galvin of Canton, 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 House, Nos. 94, 759, 836, 837, 839, 878, 915 and 4206, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Agriculture to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to fisheries, cottage foods, horse sales, pet cemeteries and other agriculture matters (House, No. 4522). Referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for said committee, reported asking to be discharged from further consideration of the order; and recommending that the same be referred to the House committee on Rules. Under Rule 42, the report was considered forthwith; and it was accepted.

By Mr. Driscoll of Milton, for the committee on Emergency Preparedness and Management, on a petition, a Bill increasing diagnostic testing preparedness (House, No. 739, changed in line 1 by striking out the word "There" and inserting in place

Walpole,—
elections.

Insurance.
Home barriers.
Landlords,—
shutoffs.

Plumbing and
gas fittings.

PRIM Board.
Tax deferrals.
Business
corporations.

Jazz song.
Charter school.
Vehicle swaps.

Truro,—
trust.

Fairhaven,—
bags fee.

Sudbury,—
bags fee.

Okur-Chung.

Cutler
bridge.

Gardner,—
charter.

Fisheries;
cottage foods;
horse sales;
pet cemeteries,
etc.,—
study.

Diagnostic
testing
preparedness.

thereof the words “Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there”, and in line 10 and also in line 41, by striking out the following: “Covid-19 and”).

By Mr. Gordon of Bedford, for the committee on Public Service, on House, No. 4436, a Bill to modernize civil service laws (House, No. 4520) [Senator Collins dissenting].

Civil
service laws.

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

By Ms. Garlick of Needham, for the committee on Education, on House, Nos. 468, 498, 500, 528, 529, 536, 542, 546, 548, 549, 561, 583, 588 and 591, a Bill relative to educator diversity (House, No. 4519).

Educator
diversity.

By Mr. Driscoll of Milton, for the committee on Emergency Preparedness and Management, on a joint petition, a Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to the existential threats posed by nuclear weapons and climate change to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (House, No. 738) [Representative Frost of Auburn dissenting].

Nuclear
weapons
and climate
change.

By Mr. Rogers of Cambridge, for the committee on Higher Education, on Senate, No. 818 and House, No. 1286, a Bill relative to college in high school (House, No. 4521).

College in
high school.

By Mr. Gordon of Bedford, for the committee on Public Service, on a petition, a Bill relative to chapter 15A (House, No. 4286).

Colleges,—
retirement.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill providing creditable service for certain teachers (House, No. 4308).

Teachers,—
retirement.

By Mr. Cabral of New Bedford, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Westford to release agricultural preservation restrictions over land owned by Westford Gateway, LLC (House, No. 4385) [Local Approval Received].

Westford,—
land.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the creation of a branch of the Boston Public Library within an affordable housing development in the Dorchester section of the city of Boston (House, No. 4432) [Local Approval Received].

Boston,—
public
library.

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

By Mr. Ryan of Boston, for the committee on Election Laws, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Lexington to allow remote participation at town meetings (House, No. 668) [Local Approval Received].

Lexington,—
town
meetings.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill relative to the charter of the town of Provincetown (House, No. 4091) [Local Approval Received].

Provincetown,—
candidates.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to town meeting vacancy in the town of Burlington (House, No. 4403) [Local Approval Received].

Burlington,—
vacancies.

By Mr. Cahill of Lynn, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Arlington to prohibit use of second generation anti-coagulant rodenticides by commercial pesticide applicators (House, No. 804) [Local Approval Received].

Arlington,—
rodenticides.

By Ms. Fiola of Fall River, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on a joint petition, a Bill increasing the town of Northfield Board of Sewer Commissioners from three to five members (House, No. 4404) [Local Approval Received].

Northfield,—
sewer
commissioners.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill establishing the appointed office of town clerk in the town known as Huntington (House, No. 4454) [Local Approval Received].

Huntington,—
town clerk.

By Mr. Gordon of Bedford, for the committee on Public Service, on a petition, a Bill directing the town of Burlington Fire Department to waive the maximum age requirement for firefighter for Ryan DeCoste (House, No. 4405) [Local Approval Received].

Burlington,—
Ryan DeCoste.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Nuias Daveiga (House, No. 4431) [Local Approval Received].

Boston,—
Nuias
Daveiga.

By Mr. Cusack of Braintree, for the committee on Revenue, on a petition, a Bill relative to the expansion of the residential tax exemption in the town of Provincetown (printed as Senate, No. 2465) [Local Approval Received].

Provincetown,—
residential tax
exemption.

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

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

Providing for recall elections in the town of Conway (see House, No. 3575, amended);

Establishing the appointed positions of town treasurer and tax collector in the town of Westwood (see House, No. 3879, amended); and

Amending the act establishing a charter for the town of Wrentham (see House, No. 4061);

(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.

The Senate Bill providing for the designation of polling locations in the city of Gloucester (Senate, No. 2544), 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, in concurrence.

Third
reading
bill.

House bills

Validating the results of the annual election held in the town of Whitman on May 20, 2023 (printed as Senate, No. 2698); and

Relative to the Honorable George V. Kenneally, Jr. (House, No. 1269);

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.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

Ordered, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Wednesday next at a quarter before twelve o'clock noon.

Next
sitting.

At twenty-two minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Wednesday at a quarter before twelve o'clock noon, in an Informal Session.