
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023.

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Thursday, September 7, 2023.

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.

Silent Tribute.

During the session, Representative Peisch of Wellesley took the Chair and at her request, the members, guests, and employees stood in a moment of silent tribute in respect of the life and memory of Richard S. McGhee, Jr., a longtime Wellesley resident who passed away on July 29th at the age of 92.

Richard S.
McGhee, Jr.

Richard McGee was a lifelong champion of diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, leading to his co-founding of "World of Wellesley". He served honorably as a Staff Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War and was active in the civil rights movement, bringing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to Detroit in 1963. Mr. McGhee served as a consultant to several state and federal organizations on DEI efforts as well, including the United States departments of labor and defense, the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, and the Federal Contract Compliance Programs. Mr. McGhee is survived by his wife Charlotte, his two children Kim and Sean, and his stepchildren Netta and Barnett Davis.

The House of Representatives honors his legacy of civil rights leadership and efforts to make our community a more tolerant, welcoming place for all.

Appointment of the Speaker.

The Speaker announced that he had appointed Representative Cataldo of Concord as his designee (under Chapter 69 of the Acts of 2018) to the Restorative Justice Advisory Committee.

Restorative
justice.

Resolutions.

Resolutions (filed with the Clerk by Representatives Pignatelli of Lenox and Domb of Amherst) recognizing September 18th through September 24th of 2023 as National Diaper Need Awareness Week in Massachusetts, were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules.

Diaper need
awareness.

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

Petitions.

Representative Armini of Marblehead and Senator Crighton presented a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4086) of Jennifer Balinsky Armini and Brendan P. Crighton (by vote of the town) that the town of Swampscott be authorized to amend the charter of said town to change the board of selectmen to a select board; and the same was referred to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Swampscott,—
select board.

Representative Scarsdale of Pepperell presented a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Margaret R. Scarsdale and John J. Cronin for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Matthew McRae, an employee of the Department of the State Police; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Matthew
McRae,—
sick leave.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules and the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, then reported recommending that Joint Rule 12 be suspended. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Ms. Barber of Somerville, 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.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Arciero of Westford, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of James Arciero and others for legislation to authorize municipalities to provide residential exemptions to senior citizens.

Seniors,—
tax exemptions.

By Representative Cataldo of Concord, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Simon Cataldo relative to the retirement classification of Kurt Babick, an employee of the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District.

Kurt Babick,—
retirement.

By Representatives Fernandes of Falmouth and Diggs of Barnstable, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Dylan A. Fernandes, Kip A. Diggs and others relative to establishing year-round daily commuter rail service to Cape Cod.

Cape Cod,—
commuter
rail service.

By Representative González of Springfield, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Carlos González for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Jaer J. Martinez, an employee of the Department of Transitional Assistance.

Jaer
Martinez,—
sick leave.

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

Paper from the Senate.

A Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Mathew Blazes, an employee of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office (Senate, No. 2386) (on a petition), passed to be engrossed by the Senate, was read; and it was referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Mathew
Blazes,—
sick leave.

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 Colleen M. Garry and Edward J. Kennedy for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Paul O'Brien, an employee of the Trial Court. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Ms. Barber of Somerville, the report was considered

Paul
O'Brien,—
sick leave.

forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on the Judiciary. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

By Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Bill providing for the terms of certain bonds to be issued by the Commonwealth (printed in House, No. 4057), ought to pass. Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Bonds,—
terms.

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

Under suspension of Rule 7A, on motion of Mr. Owens of Watertown, the bill was read a second time forthwith; and it was ordered to a third reading.

Subsequently under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, the bill (having been 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. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

By Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Bill clarifying the application of judicial retirement law (House, No. 3978), ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor a bill with the same title (House, No. 4082). Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Judicial
retirement.

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

Under suspension of Rule 7A, on motion of Mr. Donato of Medford, 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 (House, No. 4082) was ordered to a third reading.

Subsequently under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, the bill (having been 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. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

By Mr. Honan of Boston, for the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, that the House Bill authorizing the town of Arlington to offer early voting in town elections (House, No. 685) [Local Approval Received], be scheduled for consideration by the House.

Arlington,—
early voting.

Under suspension of Rule 7A, on motion of Mr. Donato of Medford, the bill was read a second time forthwith; and it was ordered to a third reading.

By Mr. Cahill of Lynn, for the committee Environment and Natural Resources, on Senate, No. 487 and House, No. 825, a Bill relative to pesticides (House, No. 825). Read; and referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Pesticides.

Emergency Measure.

The engrossed Bill providing for the terms of certain bonds to be issued by the Commonwealth (see House bill printed in House, No. 4057), 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.

Bonds,—
terms.

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

Bill enacted.

Engrossed Bill.

The engrossed Bill further regulating certain alcoholic beverage licenses in the town of Hudson (see House, No. 320) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Bill enacted.

Orders of the Day.

House bills

Relative to at-large town meeting members in the town of Milford (House, No. 2089) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading);

To amend the charter of the town of Middleborough (House, No. 2092); and

Authorizing the city of Leominster to establish an age limit for original appointment to the position of police officer (House, No. 2555);

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 Monday next at twelve o'clock noon.

Next sitting.

At seven minutes after twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Frost of Auburn (Mr. Garballey of Arlington being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Monday at twelve o'clock noon, in an Informal Session.