
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024.

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JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Wednesday, January 10, 2024.

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

During the session, Representative Farley-Bouvier of Pittsfield took the Chair and, at the request of Representatives Farley-Bouvier, Pignatelli of Lenox and Barrett of North Adams, the members, guests and employees stood for a moment of silent tribute in honor of United States Air Force Staff Sergeant Jacob “Jake” Michael Galliher, 24, of Pittsfield, who passed away November 29, 2023 after a CV-22 Osprey crash in Japan.

United States
Air Force Staff
Sergeant Jacob
“Jake” Michael
Galliher.

Jacob was a distinguished graduate of the Cryptologic Language Analyst course, and an Honor graduate of the Defense Language Institute’s Chinese Language Course. He was fluent in Mandarin Chinese.

Jacob is survived by his wife, Ivy Groshong-Galliher of Kirkland, Washington, along with their two perfect sons, Malcolm age 2, and Killian age 3 months old. And his parents, Jon Galliher and Virgin Galliher of Pittsfield and Kim and Tor Krautter of Lanesborough, sisters Jayden and Courtney, brothers Nicholas and Zacharie and AJ.

We can never thank Jacob enough for his service nor his family for their sacrifice.

Message from the Governor.

A message from Her Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to providing for the future information technology needs of Massachusetts (for message, see House, No. 4242), was filed in the office of the Clerk on Tuesday, January 9.

Information
technology,—
bonds.

The message was read; and it was referred, under Joint Rule 1F, with the accompanying draft of a bill, to the committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Hawkins of Attleboro, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4243) of James K. Hawkins (with the approval of the mayor and city

Attleboro,—
certain
ways.

council) for legislation to validate a vote providing for the laying out and acceptance of certain ways by the city of Attleboro. To the committee on Election Laws.

By Representative Scarsdale of Pepperell and Senator Kennedy, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4244) of Margaret R. Scarsdale and Edward J. Kennedy (by vote of the town) that the town of Dunstable be authorized to change the name of the board of selectmen to the select board in said town. To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Dunstable,—
select
board.

Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Papers from the Senate.

A Bill amending the charter of the city of Westfield (Senate, No. 2547) (on Senate bill No. 2423) [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.

Westfield,—
charter.

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

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. O'Day of West Boylston, the bill was read a second time forthwith; and it was ordered to a third reading.

A Bill removing the residency requirement for the treasurer of the county of Dukes County (Senate, No. 1288) (on a petition) (Representative DuBois of Brockton of the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, dissenting), passed to be engrossed by the Senate, was read; and it was referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Dukes County,—
treasurer.

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 Ryan M. Hamilton for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Sheri Panas, an employee of the Department of Unemployment Assistance. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. O'Day of West Boylston, 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.

Sheri Panas,—
sick leave.

By Mr. González of Springfield, for the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, on a petition, a Bill establishing a special commission to ensure the safety and sustainability of non-profit public events (House, No. 2415). Read; and referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Non-profit
public events,—
study safety,
etc.

By Mr. González of Springfield, for the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, on a petition, a Bill requiring carbon monoxide alarms in all residential, governmental and commercial structures (House, No. 2292).

Carbon
monoxide
alarms.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill establishing the Massachusetts Law Enforcement Memorial Fund (House, No. 2417).

Police, etc.,—
memorial fund.

By Mr. Cabral of New Bedford, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on a petition, a Bill relative to bidding for public construction contracts (House, No. 2995).

Public construction contracts.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to promote budget transparency and the public's right to know (House, No. 3015).

Budget transparency.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Resolve establishing a study of public safety & [sic] security facilities (House, No. 3027).

Public safety facilities.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the definition of fraud in public construction bid laws (House, No. 3030).

Public construction.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to timely public payments for work not included in original construction contracts (House, No. 3032).

Construction contracts,— payments.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a message from Her Excellency the Governor, a Bill to rename the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, Massability, to reflect the self-determination and limitless possibilities of people with disabilities (printed in House, No. 4161).

Rehabilitation commission,— rename.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to convey a certain parcel of land in the city of Pittsfield (House, No. 4174).

Pittsfield,— land.

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

By Mr. Cabral of New Bedford, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on a petition, a Bill designating the month of October as adopt a shelter dog month (House, No. 2984).

Shelter dog month.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill directing the superintendent of state office buildings to install a permanent memorial in the Massachusetts State House in honor of Mercy Otis Warren (House, No. 3013).

State House,— Warren memorial.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill recognizing Sikh appreciation month (House, No. 3026).

Sikh month.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill designating Dysautonomia & [sic] POTS awareness month (House, No. 3043).

Dysautonomia and POTS month.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill establishing building trades recovery week (House, No. 3058).

Building trades recovery week.

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

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

Establishing a senior property tax deferral program in the city of Taunton (see Senate, No. 2517) (which originated in the Senate); and

Bills enacted.

Authorizing Matthew K. Sonnabend to purchase creditable service from the Barnstable County Retirement Board (see House, No. 3643, amended) (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.

Orders of the Day.

The House Bill creating a sick leave bank for Kelly Wheeler, an employee of the Department of Developmental Services (House, No. 4213), 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.

Third reading bill.

Recess.

At eight minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Muradian of Grafton (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House recessed until one o'clock P.M.; and at eleven minutes before two o'clock P.M. the House was called to order with Mr. Donato in the Chair.

Recess.

Reports of Committees.

Prior to the noon recess, Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, for the committee on Ways and Means, reported that the Bill to prevent abuse and exploitation (House, No. 4115), ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor a bill with the same title (House, No. 4241). Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Prevent abuse and exploitation.

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. 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, the noon recess having terminated, under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Day of Stoneham, 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 to be engrossed (Ms. Hogan of Stow being in the Chair), Ms. Farley-Bouvier of Pittsfield moved to amend it in section 6, in line 103, by inserting after the word "meanings:" the following:

"Digitization", to create or alter visual material, including, but not limited to, through the use of computer-generated images, in a manner that would falsely appear to a reasonable person to be an authentic representation of the person depicted."

In line 119, by inserting after the word "person", the words ", including visual material produced by digitization"; and

In line 125, by striking out the words "the visual material" and inserting in place thereof the words "visual material not produced by digitization".

After remarks on the question on adoption of the amendments, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of the same member; and on the roll call 151 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

Amendments adopted,—
yea and nay
No. 71.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 71](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendments were adopted.

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. Day of Stoneham; and on the roll call 151 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

Bill passed to be engrossed,—
yea and nay
No. 72.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 72](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the bill (House, No. 4241, amended) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Engrossed Bill — Land Taking.

The engrossed Bill authorizing the town of North Reading to use a portion of conservation land for public way purposes (see House, No. 4169, amended) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was put upon its final passage.

North
Reading,—
land.

On the question on passing the bill to be enacted, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays (this being a bill providing for the taking of land or other easements used for conservation purposes, etc., as defined by Article XCVII of the Amendments to the Constitution); and on the roll call 150 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

Bill enacted
(land taking),—
yea and nay
No. 73.

[See Yea and Nay No. 73 in Supplement.]

Therefore the bill was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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.

At four minutes before three o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Jones of North Reading (Ms. Hogan of Stow being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following day at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.