
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024.

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JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Tuesday, January 16, 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.

Resolutions.

Resolutions (filed with the Clerk by Representative Balsler of Newton and other members of the House) recognizing International Holocaust Remembrance Day, were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules.

Holocaust.

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

Communications.

Communications

From the Department of Public Utilities (see Section 12Q of Chapter 25 of General Laws) submitting the Energy Facilities Siting Board Trust Fund report of the department's financial activities from October 13, 2022 through November 21, 2023;

Energy Facilities
Siting Board
Trust Fund.

From the Department of Public Utilities (see Section 12R of Chapter 25 of General Laws) submitting the Unified Carrier Registration Trust Fund report of the department's financial activities from October 13, 2022 through November 21, 2023; and

Unified Carrier
Registration
Trust Fund.

From the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (see item 8900-0001 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting the third quarter data report of the Department of Correction for fiscal year 2023;

Department of
Correction,—
data.

Severally were placed on file.

Petition.

Representative Gordon of Bedford presented a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Kenneth I. Gordon relative to administrative costs of the Department of Family and Medical Leave; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Department
of Family and
Medical Leave.

Papers from the Senate.

Bills

Establishing a special purpose revolving fund in the town of North Andover (Senate, No. 2454) (on a petition) [Local Approval Received]; and

North Andover,—
fund.

To provide for the continuance of the town of Hingham's senior means-tested property tax exemption (Senate, No. 2553) (on Senate bill No. 2407) [Local Approval Received];

Hingham,—
property
taxes.

Severally passed to be engrossed by the Senate, were read; and they were referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

A petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2549) of Walter F. Timilty (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Milton to use certain property for school purposes, was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Milton,—
property.

Petitions severally were referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, as follows:

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2555) of Nick Collins for legislation to prevent overdoses in the Commonwealth. To the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

Overdoses,—
prevention.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2556) of Michael O. Moore and Hannah Kane for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Nicole Halal, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. To the committee on Public Service.

Nicole Halal,—
sick leave.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2557) of Nick Collins for legislation relative to equal access on DCR roadways. To the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Boston,—
easements.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2558) of Bruce E. Tarr for legislation relative to renewable energy production technologies. To the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

Renewable
energy
technologies.

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:

Designating the month of October as adopt a shelter dog month (House, No. 2984);

Shelter
dog month.

Increasing the membership of the select board of the town of Merrimac from 3 members to 5 members (House, No. 4097) [Local Approval Received]; and

Merrimac,—
select board.

Authorizing the administrative assistant to the board of assessors of the city of New Bedford to be a non-resident (House, No. 4201) [Local Approval Received];

New Bedford,—
residency.

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

By Mr. Cutler of Duxbury, for the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, on Senate, No. 1165 and House, No. 1927, a Bill to protect injured workers (House, No. 1927). Read; and referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Injured
workers.

By Mr. Cutler of Duxbury, for the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, on Senate, No. 1144 and House, No. 1434, a Bill reducing barriers to employment through credit discrimination (House, No. 1434).

Employment,—
barriers.

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 1152 and House, No. 1918, a Bill relative to employment protections for victims of abusive behavior (House, No. 1918).

Employment
protections,—
abuse victims.

By Mr. Gordon of Bedford, for the committee on Public Service, on a petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Sheri Panas, an employee of the department of unemployment assistance (House, No. 4249).

Sheri Panas,—
sick leave.

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

Emergency Measures.

The engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Rene Perez, an employee of the Department of Developmental Services (see Senate, No. 2452), 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.

Rene Perez,—
sick leave.

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

Bill
enacted.

The engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Seila Chhav, an employee of the Trial Court of the Commonwealth (see House bill printed as Senate, No. 2525, 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.

Seila Chhav,—
sick leave.

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 sent to the Senate.

Bill
enacted.

Engrossed Bill.

The engrossed Bill granting an additional liquor license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises in the town of Chatham (see House, No. 4189) (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 civil service positions in the Department of Public Works of the city of Northampton (House, No. 3719);

Third
reading
bills.

Authorizing the town of Sunderland to continue the employment of fire department member Scott Smith (House, No. 4003);

Extending the date for issuance of certain licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises in Hanover (House, No. 4009); and

Authorizing the town of Williamstown to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 4192);

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.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Eastham, acting by and through its board of selectmen, to convey a conservation restriction on a certain parcel of land to the Eastham Conservation Foundation, Inc. (House, No. 4012), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Eastham,—
land.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Walsh of Peabody moved to amend it in section 2 (as published), in line 10, by inserting after the word “Eastham” the words “currently used as open space”, and in line 15, by striking out the word “deed” and inserting in place thereof the words “an order of taking for recreational purposes”.

The amendments were adopted; and the bill (House, No. 4012, amended) was passed to be engrossed. 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 a quarter before six o’clock P.M.

Next
sitting.

At twelve minutes before twelve o’clock noon, on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following day at a quarter before six o’clock P.M., in an Informal Session.