
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023.

[112]

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Thursday, December 7, 2023.

Met at seven minutes after 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.

Guests of the House.

During the session, the Chair (Mr. Garballey of Arlington), declared a brief recess and introduced, seated in the Chamber, the Division 2 MIAA cross country champions from Danvers High School. They were the guests of Ms. Kerans of Danvers.

Danvers High
School cross
country team.

Resolutions.

The following resolutions (filed with the Clerk) were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules:

Resolutions (filed by Representative Peisch of Wellesley) honoring Willoughby T. Bonnette on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout of the Boy Scouts of America;

Willoughby
Bonnette.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Peisch of Wellesley) honoring William P. Goggin on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout of the Boy Scouts of America;

William
Goggin.

Resolutions (filed by Representatives Garballey of Arlington, Rogers of Cambridge, John Francis Moran of Boston, Fluker Oakley of Boston and Livingstone of Boston) congratulating Toni Lynn Washington "Boston's Queen of the Blues and Soul" on her eighty-seventh birthday;

Toni Lynn
Washington.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Roy of Franklin) congratulating the Massachusetts Bay Division Unit of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps as ranked the number one unit in 2022 and duly awarded the John J. Bergen Award; and

United States
Naval Sea
Cadet Corps.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Turco of Winthrop) honoring Sandra Goldstein Pellegrino for twenty-plus years of service and dedication to Temple Tifereth Israel and to the community of Winthrop;

Sandra
Goldstein
Pellegrino.

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

Communication.

A communication from Massachusetts Development Finance Agency (MassDevelopment) (see Section 27 of Chapter 498 of the Acts of 1993) submitting the Devens annual report for fiscal year 2023, was placed on file.

Devens.

Annual and Special Reports.

An annual report of the Economic Empowerment Trust Fund (under Section 35QQ of Chapter 10 of the General Laws) for fiscal year 2022; and
Reports

Economic
Empowerment.

Of the Executive Office of Economic Development (under Section 16G of Chapter 6A of the General Laws) submitting the Governor’s Economic Development Planning Council comprehensive economic development policy and strategic plan for the implementation of policy within the first year of taking office; and

Economic
Development
Planning
Council.

Of the Special Commission relative to the Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth (established under Chapter 2 of the Resolves of 2020 and revived and continued by Section 46 of Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its final report on the Commission’s findings;

Seal and Motto
Commission.

Severally were placed on file.

Order.

The following order (filed by Speaker Mariano of Quincy) was referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules:

Ordered, That the precept to be issued by the Speaker, under the provisions of Section 141 of Chapter 54 of the General Laws, appointing a time for the election to fill the vacancy existing in the office of Representative in the General Court from the Sixth Worcester District shall designate Tuesday, March 5, 2024, as the time ordered by the House of Representatives for said election.

Sixth Worcester
Representative
District,—
time for election
to fill vacancy.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, then reported that the order ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Ms. Kerans of Danvers, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted

Petition.

Representative Cahill of Lynn and Senator Lovely presented a joint petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Daniel Cahill and Joan B. Lovely for legislation to further regulate insurance claims; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Insurance
claims.

Papers from the Senate.

The Senate Bill establishing a senior property tax deferral program in the city of Taunton (Senate, No. 2517) (on Senate bill No. 2368) [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.

Taunton,—
senior property
tax deferrals.

A petition (accompanied by bill) of Julian Cyr and Dylan A. Fernandes for legislation relative to dark money in local government, came from the Senate referred, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Election Laws.

Campaigns,—
expenditures,
contributions.

The House then concurred with the Senate in the suspension of said rule; and the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2511) was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Election Laws.

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 following petitions:

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Rodney M. Elliott and James Arciero that the Division of Animal Health be authorized to regulate the preservation of existing pet cemeteries. To the committee on Agriculture.

Pet
cemeteries,—
regulations.

Petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Rodney M. Elliott for legislation to authorize school districts to provide portable airway clearance devices on-site at school facilities where instructions are provided. To the committee on Education.

Schools,—
airway
clearance.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Simon Cataldo relative to retirement benefits for licensed electricians employed at regional school districts; and

Schools,—
electricians.

Joint petition (accompanied by bill) of Joseph D. McKenna and Ryan C. Fattman for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Kelly Wheeler, an employee of the Department of Developmental Services;

Kelly
Wheeler,—
sick leave.

Severally to the committee on Public Service.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Josh S. Cutler and Matthew NeJame for the issuance of an annual proclamation by the Governor to designate October 2 as learning disability screening day. To the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Learning
disability
screening day.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Rodney M. Elliott relative to eligibility for veteran license plates. To the committee on Transportation.

Veterans,—
license plates.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Ms. Howard of Lowell, the reports were considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 then was suspended, in each instance. Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

By Ms. Garlick of Needham, for the committee on Education, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4019) of Lindsay N. Sadosa and Paul W. Mark relative to repealing certain fiscal stability procedures of the Chesterfield-Goshen Regional School District,— and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. Under Rule 42, the report was considered forthwith; and it was accepted. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Chesterfield-
Goshen Regional
School District.

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:

Relative to the town of Blandford volunteer fire department (House, No. 2716);

Blandford.

Authorizing the town of Norwell to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (House, No. 2765) [Local Approval Received];

Norwell,—
exemption.

Expanding the exemption for residential property in the town of Wellfleet (House, No. 2914) [Local Approval Received].

Wellfleet,—
exemption.

Authorizing the town of Truro to establish a program to reduce property tax liability in exchange for volunteer services for persons with disabilities (House, No. 3735) [Local Approval Received];

Truro,—
volunteer
tax benefits.

Authorizing the town of Holliston to establish a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption (House, No. 3826) [Local Approval Received];

Holliston,—
exemption.

Authorizing the town of Lunenburg to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (House, No. 3911) [Local Approval Received];

Lunenburg,—
exemption.

Establishing attainable housing and Chatham elementary school special revenue accounts for the town of Chatham (House, No. 3971) [Local Approval Received];

Chatham,—
accounts.

Authorizing the town of West Stockbridge to continue the employment of Steven Traver as fire chief (House, No. 4196) [Local Approval Received];

West
Stockbridge.

Authorizing the town of Richmond to continue the employment of Steven Traver as fire chief (House, No. 4197) [Local Approval Received];

Richmond,—
Steven Traver.

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

Orders of the Day.

The Senate amendment of the House Bill authorizing the city of Pittsfield to award a 1-year or multiple-year contract for an audit of the books and accounts of the city (House, No. 2045), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was adopted, in concurrence.

Pittsfield,—
audit
contract.

The Senate amendment of the House Bill authorizing the town of Conway to continue the employment of police officer Randall Williams (House, No. 2448, amended), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was adopted, in concurrence.

Conway,—
Randall
Williams.

The Senate amendment of the House Bill changing the name of the board of selectmen of the town of Westport to select board (House, No. 3751), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was adopted, in concurrence.

Westport,—
select board.

House bills

Reorganizing the Lexington Housing Assistance Board, Inc. (House, No. 3775); Amending the town manager act of Arlington relative to the appointment of the town manager (House, No. 4026); and

Third
reading
bills.

Amending the charter of the town of Swampscott (House, No. 4086);

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 Reading to dissolve its Affordable Housing Trust Fund (House, No. 1341), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Reading,—
housing
trust fund.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Walsh of Peabody moved to amend it in lines 1 to 13, inclusive, by striking out the text contained in those lines.

The amendment was adopted; and the bill (House, No. 1341, amended) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The House Bill amending the board of public works in the town of Lee (House, No. 3890) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading), reported by said committee to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Lee,—
public
works.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Walsh of Peabody moved to amend it in section 1, in line 18, by striking out the words “such abolition” and inserting in place thereof the words “the abolition of any prior boards, departments and offices previously abolished”; and in line 41 by inserting after the word “departments” the word “previously”.

The amendments were adopted; and the bill (House, No. 3890, amended) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The House Bill authorizing the city of Somerville to appoint an alternate member to the licensing commission (House, No. 3969), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Somerville,—
licensing
commission.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Walsh of Peabody moved to amend it by substitution of a bill with the same title (House, No. 4205), which was read.

The amendment was adopted; and the substituted bill 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 on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Next
sitting.

At twenty-seven minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Smola of Warren (Mr. Garballey of Arlington being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Monday at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.