
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024.

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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.

Guests of the House.

During the session, the Chair (Mr. Donato of Medford), declared a brief recess, and recognized Mr. Xiarhos of Barnstable who took the Chair, and introduced Jim Lehane, Vice Chair, and Bob Dwyer, President, of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. They were accompanied by residents from the town of Sandwich, Nancy Titcomb, Vickey Titcomb, Christie Lowrance, Sandy Murray and Shirley and Bob Stolte. Mr. Xiarhos then read from Gubernatorial citations that had been presented to each of them in recognition of the 150th Birthday of Thornton W. Burgess (a graduate of Sandwich High School in 1891 and author of children's books that included the character, Peter Rabbit), celebrating his dedication to environmental advocacy and his invaluable contributions to conservation.

Sandwich residents honoring Thornton W. Burgess.

Orders.

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

Order (filed by Mr. Chan of Quincy) relative to extending until Wednesday, July 31, 2024 the time within which the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure is authorized to report on a current House document (House, No. 4571).

Extension of time for committees reporting.

Order (filed by Ms. Garlick of Needham) relative to extending until Sunday, May 26, 2024 the time within which the committee on Education is authorized to report on current Senate and House documents (House, No. 4572).

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 Mr. Xiarhos of Barnstable, the orders were considered forthwith; and they were adopted. Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Communications.

Communications

From the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds (see Section 2KKK of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its plan for expenditure for technological improvements from the County Registers Technological Fund [copies of the report

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds,— technology fund.

were forwarded to the committee on Ways and Means and the committee on Post Audit and Oversight, as required by said law].

From the Health Insurance Connector Authority (see Section 15 of Chapter 176Q of the General Laws) submitting a report relative to the status and activities of the Health Connector for fiscal year 2023; and

From the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (see item 4000-0300 contained in Section 2 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its quarterly MassHealth Pharmacy Pipeline Report;

Severally were placed on file.

Health
Connector.

MassHealth,—
Pharmacy
Pipeline.

Petitions.

Representative Rogers of Cambridge and Senator Brownsberger presented a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4575) of David M. Rogers and William N. Brownsberger (by vote of the town) that the town of Belmont be authorized to update the tax treatment of recreational lands in said town; and the same was referred to the committee on Revenue. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Belmont,—
recreational
land tax.

Representative Pignatelli of Lenox and Senator Mark presented a joint petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Smitty Pignatelli and Paul W. Mark for legislation to designate a portion of state highway Routes 23 west and 41 south in the town of Egremont as the George McGurn memorial highway; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Egremont,—
McGurn
highway.

Papers from the Senate.

A Bill authorizing the town of Sutton to grant real property tax abatements for certain active duty military personnel (Senate, No. 2493) (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.

Sutton,—
property tax
abatements.

A petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2732) of Susan L. Moran (by vote of the town) for legislation relative to wastewater treatment and disposal in the town of Sandwich, was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Sandwich,—
wastewater.

Reports of Committees.

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 authorizing the town of Easton to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (Senate, No. 2515) [Local Approval Received]; and House bills

Easton,—
tax exemption.

Relative to charges associated with condominiums in tax title (printed as Senate, No. 1759);

Tax title,—
benefits.

Relative to the taxation of above ground conduits, wires, and pipes used in the transportation of natural gas (printed as Senate, No. 1917);

Natural gas
infrastructure.

Relative to license suspensions (House, No. 322);

Licenses.

Relative to the sale of malt beverages produced by a pub brewery (House, No. 401);

Pub
breweries.

Relative to insurance company rebates (House, No. 1077);	Rebates.
Providing for temporary emergency licensing of appraisers of motor vehicle damage covered by auto insurance policies (House, No. 1079);	Motor vehicle appraisers.
Relative to clinical laboratory testing (House, No. 2186);	Lab testing.
Relative to non-contiguous farm land (House, No. 2693);	Farmland.
Relative to ensuring fairness and equity in the assessment of the value of property (House, No. 2728);	Property,— assessments.
Relative to taxes due upon the death of active duty personnel and the elderly (House, No. 2738);	Death,— taxes.
Relative to the electronic filing of certain forms used in property valuation (House, No. 2751);	Property valuation.
Relative to condominiums (House, No. 2892);	Condominiums.
Relative to charges associated with condominiums in tax title (House, No. 2905);	Id.
Relative to preserving information content of historic resources with community preservation funds (House, No. 2972); and	Historic resources.
Relative to consumer rights of renters (House, No. 4474);	Renters,— rights.
Under suspension of Rule 7A, in each instance, on motion of Mr. Owens of Watertown, the bills severally were read a second time forthwith; and they were ordered to a third reading.	
By Ms. Decker of Cambridge, for the committee on Public Health, on Senate, No. 186 and House, No. 248, a Bill establishing senior psychologist licensure (House, No. 248).	Psychologist,— licensure.
By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate Nos. 1335, 1375, 1414 and 1457 and House Nos. 2163, 2187, 2209, 2265 and 3616, a Bill promoting access to midwifery care and out-of-hospital birth options (House, No. 4566).	Midwifery care and birth options.
By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 3614, a Bill to improve outcomes for individuals with Parkinson's disease (House, No. 4567).	Parkinson's disease.
Referred, under Joint Rule 1E, to the committee on Health Care Financing.	
By Mr. Cahill of Lynn, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on House, No. 843, a Bill to protect pollinator habitat (House, No. 4562). Read; and referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.	Pollinator habitat.
By Mr. Cahill of Lynn, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on a joint petition, a Bill relative to the pesticide board (House, No. 783).	Pesticide board.
By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to overcome coastal and environmental acidification and nutrient pollution (House, No. 793).	Acidification and pollution.
By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill preserving public trust rights in land affected by ocean erosion (House, No. 807).	Ocean erosion,— public rights.
By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to promote natural carbon sequestration (House, No. 819).	Natural carbon sequestration.
By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 1424 and House, No. 850, a Bill concerning the use of animals in product testing (House, No. 850).	Animals,— testing.
By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 589 and House, No. 892, a Bill to assist municipal and district ratepayers (House, No. 892).	Ratepayers.
By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill creating the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest Trust Fund (House, No. 4094).	Correllus State Forest.

By Ms. Fiola of Fall River, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on House, Nos. 314 and 2019, a Bill to increase kennel safety, aka Ollie's Law (House, No. 4564).

Kennels,—
safety.

By Ms. Decker of Cambridge, for the committee on Public Health, on Senate, No. 1373 and House, Nos. 2252 and 3612, a Bill relative to athletic training (House, No. 4565).

Athletic
training.

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

By Mr. Cahill of Lynn, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on a petition, a Bill to provide sustainable water resources in the town of Tyngsborough (House, No. 28) [Local Approval Received].

Tyngsborough,—
water
resources.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee (House, No. 896).

Quabbin
watershed.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 817, a Bill relative to landfills and areas of critical environmental concern (House, No. 4563).

Environmental
concerns.

By Mr. Gordon of Bedford, for the committee on Public Service, on a petition, a Bill directing the Worcester County Retirement Board to credit Curtis Meskus (House, No. 4494).

Curtis
Meskus,—
retirement.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 3987, a Bill relative to retired fire fighters in the city of Newton (House, No. 4561) [Local Approval Received].

Newton,—
retired fire
fighters.

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

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

Authorizing the town of Lunenburg to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (see House, No. 3911); and

Bills
enacted.

Further regulating the housing partnership committee in the town of Westborough (see House, No. 4202);

(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.

Orders of the Day.

The Senate amendment of the House Bill authorizing the town of Mashpee to convey certain town owned conservation land to Jacques and Rosalie Fresco (House, No. 4186), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was adopted, in concurrence.

Mashpee,—
Jacques and
Rosalie Fresco.

Senate bills

Amending the date of annual town elections in the town of Walpole (Senate, No. 2501); and

Third
reading
bills.

Authorizing the town of Rochester to continue the employment of Scott Weigel (Senate, No. 2690);

Severally reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, were read a third time; and it was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

Ordered, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Wednesday next at eleven o'clock A.M.; and that, notwithstanding the provisions of House Rule 12, the Clerk be authorized to print a Calendar for said sitting containing only the General Appropriation Bill.

Next
sitting.

At seventeen 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 eleven o'clock A.M.