
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020.

[54]

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Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

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 and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of
allegiance.

Silent Prayer.

At the request of Representatives Jones of North Reading, Poirier of North Attleborough and Hawkins of Attleboro, the members and employees stood in a moment of silent prayer in respect to the memory of former Representative George T. Ross of Attleboro.

George T.
Ross.

The city of Attleboro lost a favorite son on May 20, 2020. George T. Ross passed away at his home following a period of medical decline.

George was born on November 3, 1949 in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. His parents were Timothy and Rose Ross. Their family name was originally Triantafelides. He was proud of his Greek heritage.

He attended Pawtucket Public Schools and furthered his education at Johnson & Wales in Providence, Rhode Island, studying culinary arts. He served his Nation in the United States Army during the Vietnam era, stationed in part at Fort Hood, Texas.

A talented cook, George purchased and operated Murray's Restaurant in Attleboro for over twenty years. He enjoyed meeting and greeting a wide range of clientele and managed to make many friends.

He was committed to the city of Attleboro, serving as a member of the board on the Attleboro Housing Authority and was elected to multiple terms as a City Councilor from Ward 2. His political goal was achieved in 2010 when he was elected to the General Court from the Second Bristol District where he served on the committees on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities; Public Health; and Veterans and Federal Affairs.

He sponsored legislation aimed at banning the sale of bath salts. Due to Representative Ross' belief in public safety and his strength in working with all parties, the legislation became law under Governor Deval Patrick. George's personality was effective in attaining bipartisan support for many of his bills. He was a pragmatic and compassionate public servant who would not allow politics to impair his commitment to improving the lives of the people he served.

George is survived by his daughter Nicole Ross Johnson and her husband Joshua and three grandsons, Joe, Jack and Jonathan.

Order.

The following order (filed by Mr. Cusack of Braintree) was referred, under Joint Rule 30, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently:

Ordered, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Joint Rule 10, the committee on Revenue be granted until Tuesday, June 16, 2020 within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 2586, 2605 and 2659, and House documents numbered 4634, 4726 and 4727.

Revenue,—
extension
of time for
reporting.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committees on Rules, reported that the order (House, No. 4750), ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Cusack, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

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 Sarah K. Peake and Julian Cyr for legislation to authorize the Nauset Regional School District to enter into renewable energy agreements. To the committee on Education.

Nauset
Regional,—
energy.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of John J. Lawn, Jr., and Thomas M. Stanley that the University of Massachusetts be authorized to convey a certain parcel of land and buildings to the city of Waltham. To the committee on Higher Education.

Waltham,—
land.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., relative to employment rights and protections for certain commissioned employees. To the committee on Labor and Workforce Development.

Commissioned
employees,—
protections.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Josh S. Cutler and others relative to a sales tax exemption for protective facial coverings. To the committee on Revenue.

Face
coverings.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Sarah K. Peake and Timothy R. Whelan for legislation to designate a certain bridge on state highway Route 137 in the town of Harwich as the hidden wounds memorial bridge. To the committee on Transportation.

Harwich,—
bridge.

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

By Ms. Cronin of Easton, for the committee on the Judiciary, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4664) of Alyson M. Sullivan and others relative to prohibiting price gouging of goods, services and supplies during a declared public health emergency,— and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure. Under Rule 42, the report was considered forthwith; and it was accepted. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Price
gouging.

Reports of the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, under the last sentence of Rule 7A, that the following bills be scheduled for consideration by the House:

The Senate Bill validating actions taken in connection with a special town election in the town of Oakham (printed in Senate, No. 2394); and

Oakham,—
election.

House bills

Making the charter of the town of Sudbury gender neutral (House, No. 4388) [Local Approval Received];

Sudbury,—
charter.

<p>Authorizing the town of Westford to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (House, No. 4469) [Local Approval Received];</p>	Westford,— property tax.
<p>Relative to property tax relief for low and moderate income seniors in the town of Brookline (House, No. 4474) [Local Approval Received];</p>	Brookline,— property tax.
<p>Authorizing the town of Winchester to establish a senior property tax exemption (House, No. 4476) [Local Approval Received]; and</p>	Winchester,— property tax.
<p>Authorizing the town of Arlington to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (House, No. 4477) [Local Approval Received];</p>	Arlington,— property tax.
<p>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.</p>	
<p>By Mr. Parisella of Beverly, for the committee on Public Service, on House, No. 4650, a Bill to mitigate arbovirus in the Commonwealth (House, No. 4751). Referred, under Joint 1E, to the committee on Health Care Financing.</p>	Arbovirus.
<p>By Mr. Honan of Boston, for the committee on Housing, on a petition, a Bill further regulating certain affordable housing in Holyoke, Massachusetts (House, No. 4590) [Local Approval Received].</p>	Holyoke,— affordable housing.
<p>By Mr. O'Day of West Boylston, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on a petition, a Bill authorizing the county of Dukes County to borrow funds to maintain a balanced airport enterprise budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 as a result of COVID-19 based financial impacts (House, No. 4719).</p>	Dukes County,— borrowing.
<p>Severally read; and referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.</p>	
<p>By Mr. O'Day of West Boylston, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on a petition, a Bill authorizing the Water Supply District of Acton to enter into a lease, license or other disposition of land held for water supply purposes for the construction, operation and maintenance of a solar energy generating and energy storage facility (House, No. 4683).</p>	Acton,— land.
<p>By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Hadley to convey a conservation restriction on certain parcels of land (House, No. 4714) [Local Approval Received].</p>	Hadley,— land.
<p>By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to emergency action on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (House, No. 4720).</p>	Flood insurance.
<p>By Mr. Parisella of Beverly, for the committee on Public Service, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Plainfield to continue the employment of Fire Chief David Alvord (House, No. 4254) [Local Approval Received].</p>	Plainfield,— David Alvord.
<p>By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Thomas Hartley, an employee of Department of Corrections [sic] (House, No. 4741).</p>	Thomas Hartley,— sick leave.
<p>Severally read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.</p>	

Orders of the Day.

<p>The Senate still further amendment of the House further amendment of the Senate amendment of the House Bill addressing COVID-19 data collection and</p>	COVID-19,— data.
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disparities in treatment (House, No. 4672), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was considered.

Mr. Speliotis of Danvers then moved that the House concur with the Senate in its still further amendment with a still still further amendment by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 4735.

The still still further amendment was adopted. The House then concurred with the Senate in its still further amendment, as amended. Sent to the Senate for concurrence in the still still further amendment.

Recess.

At nine minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Vieira of Falmouth (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House recessed subject to the call of the Chair; and at ten minutes before three o'clock P.M. the House was called to order with Mr. Donato in the Chair.

Recess.

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Bill relative to municipal governance during the COVID-19 emergency (Senate, No. 2680), ought to pass with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 4752. Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

COVID-19,—
municipal
governance.

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

Under suspension of Rule 7A, on motion of the same member, the bill was read a second time forthwith.

The amendment recommended by the committee on Ways and Means then was adopted; and the bill, as amended, 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, in concurrence. The bill (Senate, No. 2680, amended) then was sent to the Senate for concurrence in the amendment.

Order.

On motion of Mr. DeLeo of Winthrop,—

Ordered, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Next
sitting.

Representatives Jones of North Reading, Poirier of North Attleborough and Hawkins of Attleboro then moved that when the House adjourns today, it do so in respect to the memory of George T. Ross, a member of the House from Attleboro in 2011 and 2012; and the motion prevailed.

Accordingly, at seven minutes after three o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Muradian of Grafton (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Thursday at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.