
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020.

[65]

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Thursday, June 25, 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 Representative Santiago of Boston, the members and employees stood in a moment of silent tribute to the memory of Aubri Esters, who passed away suddenly the week of June 8, 2020, at the age of 35. She leaves in her wake a powerful legacy advocating for people who use drugs, and her passing is a profound loss to her family, friends, colleagues and an entire community of activists. Aubri was born in Beverly, Massachusetts and spent over 14 years as a radical activist in Boston and across Massachusetts. Her work focused on centering the lived experiences of people who use drugs and those experiencing homelessness, forcing people into the uncomfortable space of truly recognizing the humanity of those so often forgotten or oppressed.

Aubri
Esters.

Aubri was proud of her work co-founding SIFMA Now!, or Supervised Injection Facilities for Massachusetts Now!, which advocates for safe spaces where drugs can be legally consumed under supervision. She was Secretary for the Boston Users Union, organizing Boston-area people who use drugs, served the Commonwealth as a member of the Harm Reduction Commission, and was working on a project looking at how COVID-19 has impacted those struggling with substance use disorder at the time of her passing. She was unabashed in talking about her own experiences on long-term opioid agonist therapy and using and injecting drugs.

Her dedication to truth and justice was unrelenting, and her contributions to the fields of public health policy, harm reduction, and organizing will not soon be forgotten.

Appointments of the Speaker.

The Speaker announced that he had appointed Representatives Tosado of Springfield and Tyler of Boston to the special commission established (under Chapter 93 of the Acts of 2020) to study the feasibility of establishing a COVID-19 Health Disparities Task Force.

COVID-19
health
disparities.

Communication from Representative Vincent of Revere.

The following communication was read; and spread upon the records of the House, as follows:

June 25, 2020

The Honorable Steven T. James
Clerk of the Massachusetts House of Representatives
Massachusetts State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Clerk James,

I write to inform you that due to being in the hospital for a surgery that had been scheduled in advance of the calling of the formal session of June 24, 2020, I was unable to attend yesterday's formal session of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. My missing of roll calls was due entirely to this reason.

Representative
RoseLee
Vincent of
Revere,—
absence from
formal session
of June 24.

Had I have been present for the formal session of June 24, 2020, I would have voted in the following manner:

On Roll Call 186 on the adoption of the consolidated amendment to H.4802 – YES

On Roll Call 187 on the adoption of Amendment 81 to H.4802 as changed – YES

On Roll Call 188 on the engrossment of H.4802 – YES

Thank you for placing this in the official record of the House.

Sincerely,



RoseLee Vincent
State Representative
Sixteenth Suffolk District

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Kafka Stoughton) congratulating Marlene Chused on the occasion of her retirement; and

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Kafka of Stoughton, Rogers of Norwood, McMurtry of Dedham and Dooley of Norfolk) congratulating Trevor Marshall on receiving the Eagle Award of the Boy Scouts of America;

Marlene
Chused.
Trevor
Marshall.

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 Mr. Wong of Saugus, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Papers from the Senate.

A Bill relative to special police in the town of Weston (Senate, No. 2699) (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.

Weston,—
special
police.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2784) of Eric P. Lesser and Thomas M. Petrolati for legislation to provide for the permanent protection and stewardship of the historic Lampson Brook Farm in Belchertown. To the committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

Belchertown,—
Lampson
Brook Farm.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2785) of Sal N. DiDomenico, Patricia D. Jehlen, Brendan P. Crighton, Denise Provost and other members of the General Court for legislation to promote housing stability and homelessness prevention through a right to counsel pilot program in Massachusetts in response to the COVID-emergency. To the committee on Housing.

COVID-19,—
homelessness
prevention.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2786) of Anne M. Gobi, Maria Duaine Robinson, Mindy Domb, Patricia D. Jehlen and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to protecting our public higher education system during the COVID-19 pandemic. To the committee on Higher Education.

COVID-19,—
public higher
education.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2787) of Patrick M. O'Connor, James B. Eldridge and Marc R. Pacheco for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Charlotte Charest, an employee of the Middlesex Probate and Family Court. To the committee on the Judiciary.

Charlotte
Charest,—
sick leave.

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 Josh S. Cutler relative to retirement benefits for Felicia O'Connor, the surviving spouse of John Bernard O'Connor, a retired state police officer injured in the line of duty. To the committee on Public Service.

Felicia
O'Connor,—
benefits.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Carolyn C. Dykema and John Losch relative to the senior property tax deferral program. To the committee on Revenue.

Seniors,—
tax deferral.

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

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 authorizing the city of Fitchburg to change the use of a certain parcel of land acquired for park purposes (Senate, No. 2693); and

Fitchburg,—
land.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Littleton to use certain land for construction of a water treatment facility without Article 97 restrictions on such use (House, No. 4387) [Local Approval Received];

Littleton,—
land.

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

By Mr. Murphy of Weymouth, for the committee on Financial Services, on a petition, a Bill relative to hospital grade breast pumps (House, No. 3805). Referred, under Joint Rule 1E, to the committee on Health Care Financing.

Breast pumps.

By Mr. Cusack of Braintree, for the committee on Revenue, on House, Nos. 2535 and 2653, a Bill relative to regional transportation ballot initiatives (House, No. 2653). Read; and referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Transportation ballot initiatives.

By Mr. Chan of Quincy, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on House, No. 4197, a Bill authorizing the town of Groton to grant additional alcoholic beverages licenses (House, No. 4809) [Local Approval Received].

Groton,— liquor licenses.

By Mr. Murphy of Weymouth, for the committee on Financial Services, on House, No. 956 and 1087, a Bill relative to motor vehicle service contracts (House, No. 4810).

Vehicles,— service contracts.

By Mr. Cusack of Braintree, for the committee on Revenue, on House, No. 2589, a Bill relative to property tax deferrals for seniors (House, No. 4811).

Tax deferrals.

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

Emergency Measure.

The engrossed Bill designating certain areas of the World War II Memorial in the city of Boston as the Edward J. Morrissey, John J. Mullen and Joseph P. Murphy Memorial (see House No. 4194), 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.

Boston,— World War II Memorial.

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 3 to 0. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Engrossed Bills.

The engrossed Bill authorizing Old Rochester Regional School District to enter into renewable energy agreements (see House, No. 4435) (which originated in the House), in respect to which the Senate had concurred in adoption of the emergency preamble, was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Bill enacted.

The engrossed Bill regulating city contracts in the city of Northampton (see House, No. 4102) (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.

Id.

Orders of the Day.

The Senate amendment of the House Bill authorizing the city of Salem to convert a license for the sale of wine and malt beverages to be drunk on the premises to a license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 4117), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was adopted, in concurrence.

Salem,—
liquor
license.

The Senate Bill providing for the membership of the board of park commissioners of the town of Dunstable (Senate, No. 1193), 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.

Third
reading
bill.

The House Bill authorizing municipalities to expend certain funds for the acquisition of land to be used for rail trails (House, No. 1790), was read a second time; and it was ordered to a third reading.

Second
reading
bill.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Boylston to continue the employment of police chief Anthony Sahagian (House, No. 4715), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Boylston,—
Anthony
Sahagian.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Speliotis of Danvers moved to amend it by striking out section 1 and inserting in place thereof the following section:

“SECTION 1. Chapter 34 of the acts of 2017 is hereby amended by striking out the words ‘June 30, 2020’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:— December 31, 2021.”

The amendment was adopted; and the bill (House, No. 4715, amended) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Order.

On motion of Mr. DeLeo of Winthrop,—

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

Next
sitting.

At fourteen minutes after eleven o’clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Vieira of Falmouth (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Monday at eleven o’clock A.M., in an Informal Session.