
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020.

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JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Thursday, September 17, 2020.

Met according to adjournment at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Mrs. Haddad of Somerset 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 (Mrs. Haddad), the members and employees joined with her in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of
allegiance.

Silent Prayer.

At the request of Speaker DeLeo of Winthrop and Representatives Cronin of Easton and Ciccolo of Lexington the members and employees stood in a moment of silent tribute to the memory of Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Ralph D. Gants. Chief Justice Gants died on September 14, 2020 at the age of 65.

Supreme
Judicial Court
Chief Justice
Ralph D. Gants.

Ralph Gants became the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, the oldest appellate court in the Western hemisphere, in 2014. He was a thoughtful and brilliant jurist, whose passion for justice infused the court system and reflected the groundbreaking spirit of our state.

Throughout his life, he worked to improve the lives of the residents of Massachusetts. His commitment to criminal justice reform fueled legislation on that which the House passed in 2017. In providing a glimpse of his philosophy, he once said that "each of us has an obligation to repair the world...[I]f you can save one life, it is as if you have saved the entire world. In our courts, we seek to repair the world, sometimes even save the world, one person at a time." It is that belief we will hold in our hearts as we extend our condolences to his family. Let us now take a moment to remember Chief Justice Ralph Gants.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Hogan of Stow) congratulating Lieutenant Stephen Jones on the occasion of his retirement from the Maynard Police Department;

Stephen
Jones.

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Vieira of Falmouth and Fernandes of Falmouth) congratulating Claran J. Connolly on receiving the Eagle Scout Award of the Boy Scouts of America; and

Claran
Connolly.

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Vieira of Falmouth and Fernandes of Falmouth) congratulating Adrian C. J. Dufresne on the occasion of his retirement;

Adrian
Dufresne.

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

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 Monday, October 19, 2020 within which time to make its final report on current Senate document numbered 2839.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committees on Rules, reported that the order (House, No. 4976), ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Hill of Ipswich, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Revenue,—
extension
of time for
reporting.

Petitions.

Representative Haddad of Somerset and Senator Rodrigues presented a joint petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Patricia A. Haddad and Michael J. Rodrigues that the State Retirement Board be authorized to grant creditable service to Cheryl A. Bednarik, a member of the University of Massachusetts retirement system; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Cheryl
Bednarik,—
sick leave.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules and the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, then reported recommending that Joint Rule 12 be suspended. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Public Service. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Representative McMurtry of Dedham and Senator Rush presented a joint petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Paul McMurtry and Michael F. Rush for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Joseph Gatto, an employee of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Joseph
Gatto,—
sick leave.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules and the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, then reported recommending that Joint Rule 12 be suspended. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Public Service. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Ms. Peisch of Wellesley presented a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Alice Hanlon Peisch relative to extending vote by mail options for municipal elections; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Vote
by mail.

Papers from the Senate.

Bills

Authorizing Nikos Sofronas to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (Senate, No. 2651) (on a petition) [Local Approval Received]; and

Haverhill,—
Nikos
Sofronas.

Authorizing Diana Grullon to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (Senate, No. 2652) (on a petition) [Local Approval Received];

Haverhill,—
Diana
Grullon.

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) of Jonathan Green for legislation relative to the ban of menthol tobacco, came from the Senate referred, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Health.

Menthol
tobacco,—
ban.

The House then concurred with the Senate in the suspension of said rule; and the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2911) was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Public Health.

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 Alyson M. Sullivan and others relative to public safety, improving court security efficiency and the reduction of prisoner transportation costs. To the committee on the Judiciary.

Public
safety,—
security costs.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Brian C. McPherson relative to certain benefits from the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission during the COVID-19 Pandemic. To the committee on Public Service.

COVID-19,—
retirement
benefits.

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.

A report of the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, under the last sentence of Rule 7A, that the Senate Bill providing for a gender-neutral charter in the town of Walpole (Senate, No. 2807) [Local Approval Received], be scheduled for consideration by the House.

Walpole,—
charter.

Under suspension of Rule 7A, on motion of Mr. Hill of Ipswich, the bill was read a second time forthwith; and it was ordered to a third reading.

By Mr. Parisella of Beverly, for the committee on Public Service, on a joint petition, a Bill exempting certain positions of the police department of the town of Webster from the civil service law (House, No. 4955) [Local Approval Received]. Read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Webster,—
civil service.

Engrossed Bill.

The engrossed Bill making technical corrective changes to the Cape Cod and Islands Water Protection Fund tax assessments (see House, No. 4073, amended) (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.

The Senate amendment of the House Bill establishing the George Washington memorial highway (House, No. 2974, amended) (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn), was considered.

Agawam,—
highway.

The House then non-concurred with the Senate in its amendment. Sent to the Senate for its action.

House bills

Authorizing the city of Framingham to erect a pavilion in Mary Dennison Park (House, No. 4842) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading);

Third
reading
bills.

Authorizing the town of Wellesley to continue employment of Jeffrey Peterson (House, No. 4938); and

Establishing a sick leave bank for Brian Bailey, an employee of the Department of Developmental Services (House, No. 4971);

Severally reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly to be correctly drawn, were read a third time; and they were passed to be engrossed. Severally 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 Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Next
sitting.

Speaker DeLeo of Winthrop and Representatives Cronin of Easton and Ciccolo of Lexington then moved that when the House adjourns today, it do so in respect to the memory of His Honor Ralph D. Gants, Judge of the Massachusetts Superior Court from 1997 to 2008, inclusive; Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court from 2009 to 2014, inclusive; and the sitting Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court from 2014 to 2020, inclusive; and the motion prevailed.

Accordingly, at thirteen minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Hill of Ipswich (Mrs. Haddad of Somerset being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Monday at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.