
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023.

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Tuesday, December 26, 2023.

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.

Resolutions.

Resolutions (filed with the Clerk by Representative Elliott of Lowell) congratulating Cecile Rita (Gingras) Boucher on the joyous occasion of her one hundredth birthday, were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules.

Cecile
Boucher.

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

Communications.

Communications

From the Massachusetts Permanent Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities (see Section 74(g) of Chapter 3 of the General Laws) submitting its annual report for fiscal year 2023; and

Persons with
disabilities.

From the Department of Environmental Protection (see Section 6J½(g) of Chapter 21H of the General Laws) relative to the collection and recycling programs for mercury thermostats for calendar year 2022;

Mercury
thermostats.

Severally were placed on file.

Annual Report.

The annual report of the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency (MassDevelopment) Council (under Section 46(m) of Chapter 23G of the General Laws) submitting its fiscal year 2023 report of the Transformative Development Fund entitled: Collaborative Workspace Program [copies of the report were forwarded to the committee on Ways and Means, the committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies; and the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, as required by said law], was placed on file.

Collaborative
Workplace
Program.

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Sabadosa of Northampton and Senator Mark, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4231) of Lindsay N. Sabadosa and Paul W. Mark (by vote of the town) relative to the provision of health insurance for eligible employees and retirees in the town of Worthington. To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Worthington,—
health
insurance.

By Representative Gordon of Bedford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4232) of Kenneth I. Gordon (by vote of the town) that all positions within the government of the town of Bedford subject to the civil service law be exempt from any provisions pertaining to age limits. To the committee on Public Service.

Bedford,—
civil service.

Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Representative Diggs of Barnstable presented a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Kip A. Diggs relative to creditable service for Charles G. Lawrence, a member of the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Charles
Lawrence,—
retirement.

Paper from the Senate.

A petition of Barry R. Finegold for legislation relative to the designation of Jury Clerk in the Haverhill District Court, came from the Senate referred, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on the Judiciary.

Haverhill
District Court.

The House then concurred with the Senate in the suspension of said rule; and the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2538) was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on the Judiciary.

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 petition of Aaron L. Saunders and others for legislation to further regulate access to certain library materials. 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 Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Library
materials,—
access.

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:

To recall elected officials in the town of Manchester-by-the-Sea (printed as Senate, No. 440) [Local Approval Received];

Manchester-
by-the-Sea.

Establishing a sick leave bank for Seila Chhav, an employee of the Trial Court (printed as Senate, No. 2525);

Seila Chhav,—
sick leave.

Exempting the certain individual from the age restrictions for police officers (House, No. 4041) [Local Approval Received];

William
McGrath.

Authorizing the town of Bernardston to continue the employment of fire chief Peter Shedd (House, No. 4064) [Local Approval Received];

Bernardston,—
Peter Shedd.

Authorizing Brandon Fredette to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4147) [Local Approval Received];

Haverhill,—
Brandon
Fredette.

Authorizing Brian Dacey to take the civil service examination for the position of police officer in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4148) [Local Approval Received];

Haverhill,—
Brian Dacey.

Authorizing Derek Clark to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4149) [Local Approval Received]; and

Haverhill,—
Derek Clark.

Authorizing the town of Chesterfield to continue the employment of reserve special police officer Greg Smith (House, No. 4195) [Local Approval Received];

Chesterfield,—
Greg Smith.

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. Schmid of Westport, for the committee on Agriculture, on a petition, a Bill supporting the Commonwealth's food system (House, No. 92).

Food Policy
Council.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill supporting farm diversification and sustainability (House, No. 754).

Agriculture,—
sustainability.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 89, a Bill promoting dairy farms (House, No. 4225).

Dairy
farms.

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 507 and House, No. 828, a Bill relative to establishing a food justice frontline (House, No. 4226).

Food
security.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 773, a Bill establishing a fisheries conservation gear grant program (House, No. 4227).

Fisheries,—
gear grants.

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 490 and House, No. 753, a Bill relative to agricultural disaster relief (House, No. 4228).

Agriculture,—
disaster relief.

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

Emergency Measure.

The engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Anthony D. Fannoh, Jr., an employee of the Department of Mental Health (see House, No. 4165), 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.

Anthony
Fannoh,—
sick leave.

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 2 to 0. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Subsequently, the Senate having concurred in adoption of the emergency preamble, the bill (which originated in the House) was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Bill
enacted.

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

Amending the charter of the town of Williamstown to make all gender references neutral (see House, No. 2030); and

Bills
enacted.

Authorizing Cynthia Falzone to purchase creditable service from the Norfolk county retirement board (see House, No. 3979);

(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.

House bills

Establishing an appointed town clerk in the town of Rutland (House, No. 3985);
and

Authorizing the town of Holliston to continue the employment of Mark Dellicker as deputy fire chief until a maximum age of 70 (House, No. 3998);

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.

Third
reading
bills.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

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

Next
sitting.

At twenty-three 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 Thursday at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.