The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2024.

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Monday, January 29, 2024.

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.

Silent Tribute.

At the request of Ms. Blais of Deerfield, the members, guests and employees stood in a moment of silent tribute to the memory of Deputy Fire Chief Robert Manners of Shelburne, who passed away on Friday, January 19, 2024, after a courageous battle against cancer.

Robert Manners.

Bob first joined the Shelburne Fire District as a junior firefighter was named Deputy Fire Chief in 2021. Bob completed paramedic training in 1993 and served the Franklin County area for over 30 years, most recently as a Supervisor for American Medical Response. Bob's father referred to him as a "triple threat" since he not only was an active firefighter and EMT, but he also served as a law enforcement officer for the towns of Shelburne and Charlemont. Wanting to serve his community in an even broader way, he was elected to the Shelburne Selectboard in 2004 and was active in that role until the time of his passing.

Bob leaves his wife Laura, two children Ashley Boyd and Jacob Manners, stepson Keith Irish, son-in-law Ian Boyd, grandson Otto Boyd, and three sisters Penny Manners, Linda Tyler, and Wendy Manners Seaman. He will be deeply missed.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Representative Cutler of Duxbury) recognizing Hanson's Samantha Mewis; and

Samantha Mewis.

Resolutions (filed by Representatives Kushmerek of Fitchburg, Diggs of Barnstable and other members of the House) recognizing Rosa Parks Day;

Rosa Parks Day.

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 the same member, 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 Department of Conservation and Recreation (see Section 35BBB of Chapter 10 of the General Laws) submitting the annual report on the Douglas State Forest Maintenance Trust Fund for fiscal year 2023;

DCR,— Douglas State Forest.

From the Department of Conservation and Recreation (see Section 35FFF of Chapter 10 of the General Laws) submitting the annual report on the Nickerson State Forest Maintenance Trust Fund for fiscal year 2023;

DCR,— Nickerson State Forest.

From the Department of Conservation and Recreation (see Section 35PPP of Chapter 10 of the General Laws) submitting the annual report on the Wellfleet Hollow State Campground Trust Fund for fiscal year 2023;

DCR,— Wellfleet Hollow Campground.

From the Department of Conservation and Recreation (see Section 35XX of Chapter 10 of the General Laws) submitting the annual report on the Horseneck Beach Reservation Trust Fund for fiscal year 2023;

DCR,— Horseneck Beach.

From the District Attorney of the Cape and Islands District (see Section 99 of Chapter 272 of the General Laws) submitting a report relative to wiretaps for calendar year 2023;

Cape and Islands,— wiretaps.

From the Executive Office of Veterans' Services Reintegration Advisory Committee (see Section 77 of Chapter 177 of the Acts of 2022) entitled: An Examination of suicide among veterans and their reintegration into society; and

Veterans,— suicide and reintegration.

From the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (see item 7004-9034 of Section 2 of Chapter 126 of the Acts of 2022) submitting its six month progress report entitled: After Incarceration Center Community Compass;

After incarceration progress.

Severally were placed on file.

Papers from the Senate.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2576) of John F. Keenan for legislation relative to expanding the newborn screening panel; and

Newborn screening panel.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2577) of Michael F. Rush for legislation relative to superannuation benefits for Ann Marie OKeeffe [sic];

Ann Marie O'Keeffe,— retirement.

Severally to the committee on Public Service.

A communication from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (pursuant to Section 9B of Chapter 128A of the General Laws) submitting proposed changes to 205 CMR 15.00 relative to racing meeting licensing (Senate, No. 2573), was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Racing meeting licensing.

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 Marcus S. Vaughn relative to food truck licensure. To the committee on Public Health.

Food trucks,— licensure.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Danielle M. Alachoyan, an employee of the Department of Correction. To the committee on Public Service.

Danielle Alachoyan,— sick leave.

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 Mr. Honan of Boston, for the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, that the following bills be scheduled for consideration by the House:

Senate bills

Establishing a sick leave bank for Danielle Marie Cruz, an employee of the trial court of the commonwealth (Senate, No. 2537); and

Danielle Marie Cruz.

To provide for the continuance of the town of Hingham's senior means-tested property tax exemption (Senate, No. 2553) [Local Approval Received]; and

Hingham,— property taxes.

House bills

Relative to employment protections for victims of abusive behavior (House, No. 1918); and

Employment protections.

Designating Dysautonomia &[sic] POTS awareness month (House, No. 3043);

Dysautonomia and POTS month.

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.

By Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the bill establishing a special commission to ensure the safety and sustainability of non-profit public events (House, No. 2415) ought to pass. Referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Public safety,— events.

By Mr. Schmid of Westport, for the committee on Agriculture, on a petition, a Bill relative to buffer zones on land under the APR Program (House, No. 100).

APR Program,— buffer zones.

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 39 and House, No. 101, a Bill protecting our soil and farms from PFAS contamination (House, No. 4288).

PFAS contamination,— soil and farms.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 91, a Bill addressing the impact of climate change on farms and fisheries (House, No. 4289).

Climate,— farms and fisheries.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 98, a Bill protecting the viability of farms in the Commonwealth (House, No. 4290).

Farm viability.

By Mr. Gordon of Bedford, for the committee on Public Service, on a petition, a Bill relative to disability retirees and restoration to service (House, No. 2543).

Disability retirees.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the retirement benefits of the surviving beneficiary of William Manduca (House, No. 2556).

William Manduca,— beneficiary.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to injured correctional officers (House, No. 2648).

Correctional officers.

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

By Mr. Schmid of Westport, for the committee on Agriculture, on a petition, a Bill relative to agricultural crop and property destruction (House, No. 97).

Agriculture,— property.

By Mr. Gordon of Bedford, for the committee on Public Service, on a joint petition, a Bill exempting Thomas Romeo from the 75% pension and annuity limitation for police officers hired after January 1, 1988 set forth in Chapter 32, Section 7(2)(a)(ii) of the General Laws (House, No. 4164).

Thomas Romeo,— benefits.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 3843, a Bill authorizing the town of Deerfield to continue the employment of police department

Deerfield,— police

members Michael W. Habel, Robert A. Thrasher, and Mark Jacques (House, No. 4291) [Local Approval Received]. employment.

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

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

Authorizing the town of Wales to establish a department of public works (see Senate, No. 1297, amended); Bills enacted.

Amending the charter of the city of Westfield (see Senate, No. 2547);

(Which severally originated in the Senate); and

Authorizing the town of Holliston to continue the employment of Mark Dellicker as deputy fire chief (see House, No. 3998) (which 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 relative to the select board of the town of Northborough (House, No. 3902), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was adopted, in concurrence. Northborough,— charter.

House bills

Relative to the charter of the town of Rockland (House, No. 4036); Third reading bills.

Designating the Childs River Overpass Route 28 Falmouth for Marine combat veteran Kevin P. Quinn (House, No. 4044) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading);

Authorizing the conservation commission of the town of Westford to transfer certain easements to the select board of the town of Westford (House, No. 4140);

Providing for alternate members of the Mattapoisett conservation commission (House, No. 4156);

Providing for an alternate member of the town of Mattapoisett finance committee (House, No. 4159);

Authorizing the town of Westford to issue an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 4188);

Establishing a sick leave bank for Sheri Panas, an employee of the department of unemployment assistance (House, No. 4249); and

Establishing a sick leave bank for Jonathan Corey, an employee of the Suffolk county sheriff's department (House, No. 4250);

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. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Orders.

There being no objection,— Mr. Mariano of Quincy offered an Order relative to the establishment of a special joint committee for the purpose of considering the initiative petitions transmitted to the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the Initiative petitions,—

Secretary of the Commonwealth in accordance with the requirements of Article XLVIII of the Amendments to the Constitution (House, No. 4294).

special joint committee.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of the same member, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

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 ten minutes after one o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Soter of Bellingham (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.