

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024.

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Thursday, March 14, 2024.

Met according to adjournment at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Mr. Garballey of Arlington 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. Garballey), 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 Representatives Lipper-Garabedian of Melrose and Wong of Saugus) congratulating Jim McBain on his retirement from his years of service in the town of Wakefield, were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules.

Jim
McBain.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for said committee, reported that the resolutions ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, 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.

Orders.

The following orders were referred, under Joint Rule 30, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently:

Order (filed by Mr. Arciero of Westford) relative to extending until Friday, April 12, 2024 the time within which the committee on Housing is authorized to report on a current Senate document (House, No. 4472).

Extension
of time for
committees
reporting.

Order (filed by Mr. Gordon of Bedford) relative to extending until Tuesday, April 30, 2024 the time within which the committee on Public Service is authorized to report on a current Senate document (House, No. 4480).

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committees on Rules, reported that the orders ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, in each instance, on motion of Mr. Donato of Medford, the orders were considered forthwith; and they were adopted. Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Communications.

Communications

From the Office of the Inspector General (see Section 12 of Chapter 12A of the General Laws) submitting its annual report entitled: MassHealth and Health Safety Net: 2024 Annual Report; and

MassHealth
and Health
Safety Net.

From the Multi-Agency Illegal Tobacco Task Force (see Section 40(d) of Chapter 64C of the General Laws) submitting its fiscal year 2024 annual report relative to the coordination of efforts to combat contraband tobacco distribution,

Multi-Agency
Illegal Tobacco
Task Force.

including efforts to foster compliance with the law and conduct targeted investigations and enforcement actions;

Severally were placed on file.

Annual and Monthly Reports.

Annual Reports

Of the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth (under Section 6A of Chapter 66 of the General Laws) submitting a report regarding public records requests for calendar year 2023; and

Public records.

Of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (under Section 80 of Chapter 118E of the General Laws) certifying and outlining how the health benefit plans under the office of Medicaid, and their contractors, comply with the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act in the calendar year 2023; and

Medicaid,—
benefits plan.

A monthly report from the Department of Revenue (under Section 5 of Chapter 62F of the General Laws) on year-to-date net state tax revenue for January, 2024;

State tax revenue.

Severally were placed on file.

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Peake of Provincetown and Senator Cyr, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4481) of Sarah K. Peake and Julian Cyr (by vote of the town) that the town of Orleans be authorized to adopt a pesticide reduction bylaw in said town. To the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Orleans,—
pesticides.

By Representative Williams of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4482) of Bud L. Williams (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Springfield be authorized to continue the employment of Lawrence E. Akers as a police officer in said city. To the committee on Public Service.

Springfield,—
Lawrence Akers.

Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

A petition (subject to Joint Rules 12 and 9) of James C. Arena-DeRosa and Rebecca L. Rausch (by vote of the town) that the town of Sherborn be authorized to establish the North Sherborn Water and Sewer District in said town (having been returned by the State Secretary with a letter stating that the petitioners had failed to file proof of notice of publication), was placed on file.

North Sherborn
Water and
Sewer District.

Paper from the Senate.

The House Bill providing for recall elections in the town of Conway (House, No. 3575), came from the Senate, passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with an amendment in section 3, in lines 20 to 27, inclusive, by striking out the two sentences contained in those lines (as changed by the Senate committee on Bills in the Third Reading) and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:

Conway,—
recall
elections.

“Not later than 30 days from the date of delivery of the recall petition sheets, the 10 registered voters of the town to whom the town clerk delivered recall petition sheets shall file the signed recall petition sheets with the town clerk containing the signatures, names and street addresses of not less than 10 per cent of the registered

voters of the town as of the date the initial recall affidavit was filed with the town clerk.”.

The amendment was referred, under Rule 35, to the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

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 Paul K. Frost and Ryan C. Fattman that the Worcester County Retirement Board be authorized to credit Curtis Meskus, a member of the Worcester regional retirement system, with creditable service for certain active duty service; and

Curtis Meskus,—
creditable
service.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of James J. O’Day and Robyn K. Kennedy for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Joel Larochelle, an employee of the Department of Correction.

Joel
Larochelle,—
sick leave.

Severally to the committee on Public Service.

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

By Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, asking to be discharged from further consideration:

Of the Bill establishing a special commission to study women and homelessness (House, No. 222); and

Women and
homelessness.

Of the Bill establishing a special commission on two-generation approaches to childhood education (House, No. 223);

Childhood
education.

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the House committee on Rules.

Under Rule 42, the reports severally were considered forthwith; and they were accepted.

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

The Senate Bill changing the name of the board of selectmen of the town of Charlton to select board (Senate, No. 2487) [Local Approval Received]; and

Charlton,—
select board.

House bills

[sic] Internet access on private ways (House, No. 85);

Internet.

Relative to modernization of insurance laws (House, No. 932);

Life insurance.

Providing mortgage customers additional mandatory information regarding their accounts (House, No. 933);

Mortgage
accounts.

Authorizing the appointment of special police officers in the city of Waltham to allow said special police officers to serve until the age of 70 (House, No. 4141) [Local Approval Received]; and

Waltham,—
special police.

Authorizing the town of Somerset to acquire interests in land for sewer purposes (House, No. 4273) [Local Approval Received];

Somerset,—
land.

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

By Mr. Arciero of Westford, for the committee on Housing, on a petition, a Bill relative to senior and non-elderly disabled housing (House, No. 1298).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to senior and non-elderly disabled housing (House, No. 1299).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to eliminate asset limits for homeless shelters (House, No. 1301).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill creating the Massachusetts healthy homes program (House, No. 1307) [Representative DeCoste of Norwell dissenting].

By Mr. Arciero, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to low-income housing eligibility for disabled veterans (House, No. 1311).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to provide tenant ownership in government assisted housing (House, No. 1324) [Representative DeCoste of Norwell dissenting].

By Mr. Arciero, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to prevent and respond to bullying of elderly and disabled residents (House, No. 1329).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to establish an apprenticeship program to ready vacant public housing apartments for occupancy (House, No. 1330).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to starter homes (House, No. 1331).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to housing service coordinators (House, No. 1332).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill establishing an office of the condominium ombudsman (House, No. 1334).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to housing authority executive director contracts (House, No. 1337).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill restoring the Commonwealth's public housing (House, No. 1339).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill codifying the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (House, No. 1351).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to create and implement a Massachusetts flexible supportive housing subsidy pool program (House, No. 1354).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill allowing movable tiny houses as permanent residential dwellings and accessory dwelling units (House, No. 1359).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to secure housing for returning citizens (House, No. 1362).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to maintain stable housing for families with pets in an economic crisis and beyond (House, No. 1367).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill setting a housing production goal for the Commonwealth (House, No. 1368).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to public housing authorities (House, No. 1369).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to establish an office of fair housing and a fair housing trust fund (House, No. 1377).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to increasing affordable and public housing options (House, No. 2034).

Disabled housing.

Id.

Homeless shelters.

Healthy homes program.

Disabled veterans.

Public housing,— ownership.

Housing,— bullying.

Vacant public housing,— readying.

Starter homes.

Housing service coordinators.

Condominium ombudsman.

Housing contracts.

Public housing.

Rental vouchers.

Housing subsidy pool program.

Movable tiny houses.

Former inmates.

Pet owners,— housing.

Housing production.

Housing authorities.

Fair housing trust fund.

MBTA,— zoning.

By Ms. Fiola of Fall River, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on a petition, a Bill establishing the Dukes County Sheriff's regional lockup fund (House, No. 2046).

Dukes County Sheriff,—
lockup fund.

By Mr. Gordon of Bedford, for the committee on Public Service, on House, No. 2491, a Bill relative to certain retirement benefits for the surviving spouse of a state police officer injured in the line of duty (House, No. 4463).

Troopers,—
spousal
benefits.

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

By Mr. Arciero of Westford, for the committee on Housing, on a petition, a Bill relative to manufactured housing (House, No. 1302).

Manufactured
housing.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to ensure the right to install electric vehicle charging stations (House, No. 1303).

Vehicles,—
charging ports.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the use of credit reporting in housing (House, No. 1308) [Representative DeCoste of Norwell dissenting].

Housing,—
credit
reporting.

By Mr. Arciero, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to reducing barriers to housing (House, No. 1316) [Representative DeCoste of Norwell dissenting].

Housing,—
barriers.

By Mr. Arciero, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to electronic meetings and voting in condominiums (House, No. 1338).

Condominiums.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill requiring notice to landlords relating to gas or electric shutoffs (House, No. 1370) [Representative Arriaga of Chicopee dissenting].

Landlords,—
utility
shutoffs.

By Mr. Arciero, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to a condominium conversion ordinance in the city of Salem (House, No. 3722) [Local Approval Received].

Salem,—
condominium
conversion.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill establishing a year-round market rate rental housing trust in the town of Truro (House, No. 3723) [Local Approval Received].

Truro,—
rental housing
trust.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill further defining the purposes of the affordable housing trust in the city of Somerville (House, No. 3743) [Local Approval Received].

Somerville,—
affordable
housing.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing the Orleans affordable housing trust to provide for the creation and preservation of attainable housing (House, No. 3934) [Local Approval Received].

Orleans,—
affordable
housing trust.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing the Provincetown year-round market rate rental housing trust to acquire year-round housing occupancy restrictions (House, No. 4092) [Local Approval Received].

Provincetown,—
housing.

By Ms. Fiola of Fall River, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on a petition, a Bill relative to the Adams Fire District (House, No. 2031).

Adams,—
fire district.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Concord to establish a fee for checkout bags (House, No. 2037) [Local Approval Received].

Concord,—
checkout
bag fees.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill requiring automatic external defibrillators in Norfolk County public buildings (House, No. 2051).

Defibrillators.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Lincoln to establish a fee for checkout bags (House, No. 2054) [Local Approval Received].

Lincoln,—
checkout
bags fee.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to special education reserve funds (House, No. 2075).

Special
education.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to a regional school assessment reserve fund (House, No. 2076).

Regional
schools.

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 1293 and House, No. 2099, a Bill providing for the establishment of sustainable water resource funds (House, No. 2099).

Water
resources.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Acton to establish a minimum charge for a checkout bag (House, No. 2111) [Local Approval Received].

Acton,—
checkout
bag fees.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to assessor certificates (House, No. 2112).

Assessor
certificates.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to additional inspectors; inspector engaging in plumbing or gas fitting work (House, No. 2113).

Plumbing and
gas fitting,—
inspectors.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Fairhaven to establish a fee for checkout bags (House, No. 3825) [Local Approval Received].

Fairhaven,—
checkout bags
fee.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Sudbury to establish a fee for checkout bags (House, No. 3904) [Local Approval Received].

Sudbury,—
checkout
bags fee.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill repealing certain fiscal stability procedures in the towns of Chesterfield and Goshen (House, No. 4019).

Chesterfield
and Goshen.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the fair housing ordinance of the city of Cambridge (House, No. 4234) [Local Approval Received].

Cambridge,—
fair housing.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing the city of Cambridge to increase the fines for failure to move parked vehicles during street cleaning in the city above the limits set forth in M.G.L. C. 90, §20A½ (House, No. 4264) [Local Approval Received].

Cambridge,—
fines.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill amending the charter of the city of Gardner (House, No. 4285) [Local Approval Received].

Gardner,—
charter.

By Mr. Gordon of Bedford, for the committee on Public Service, on House, No. 13 and on a part of House, No. 8, a Bill providing for state financial interests flexibility (House, No. 4462).

Financial
interests
flexibility.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 4216, a Bill authorizing the appointment of retired police officers to perform police details (House, No. 4464) [Local Approval Received].

Plainville,—
special police
officers.

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

Orders of the Day.

The Senate Bill authorizing the town of Tewksbury to lease the Louise Davy Trahan Elementary School for not more than 99 years (Senate, No. 2582), reported

Third
reading
bill.

from 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 House Bill waiving the maximum age requirement for appointment as a police officer for Luigi D’Addieco (House, No. 4071), reported from the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time; and it was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Id.

The House Bill reducing barriers to employment through credit discrimination (House, No. 1434), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Employment,—
discrimination.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Walsh of Peabody moved to amend it in section 2, in line 9, by inserting after the definition of “Employment purposes” the following definition:

“‘Financial institution’, a trust company, state or federally chartered savings bank, state chartered cooperative bank, national banking association, state or federally chartered savings and loan association, state or federally chartered credit union, insurance or surety company, investment advisor, broker-dealer, bank holding company, financial holding company or an entity registered with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.”; and in line 23, by inserting after the word “clearance” the words “or financial institution”.

The amendments were adopted; and the bill (House, No. 1434, amended) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The House Bill relative to restricted vital records (House, No. 3092), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Vital records,—
access.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Walsh of Peabody moved to amend it by substitution of a bill with the same title (House, No. 4483), which was read.

The amendment was adopted; and the substituted bill was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

Authorizing the town of Tewksbury to lease the Louise Davy Trahan Elementary School for not more than 99 years (see Senate, No. 2582) (which originated in the Senate);

Bills
enacted.

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 (see House, No. 4148); and

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

(Which severally originated in the House);

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

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.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

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

Next
sitting.

At half past eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Barrows of Mansfield (Mr. Garballey of Arlington being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Monday at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.