
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024.

[37]

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Tuesday, April 16, 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.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Representative Arciero of Westford) commemorating the one hundred and ninth anniversary of the Armenian Genocide; and

Armenian
genocide.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Garlick of Needham) on the occasion of the retirement of Tedi Eaton, Needham Town Clerk;

Tedi
Eaton.

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.

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. Cahill of Lynn) relative to extending until Friday, June 14, 2024 the time within which the committee on Environment and Natural Resources is authorized to report on current House documents (House, No. 4554).

Extensions of
time for
committees to
make reports.

Order (filed by Mr. Arciero of Westford) relative to extending until Wednesday, July 10, 2024 the time within which the committee on Housing is authorized to report on current Senate and House documents (House, No. 4553).

Order (filed by Mr. Gordon of Bedford) relative to extending until Friday, June 14, 2024 the time within which the committee on Public Service is authorized to report on a current House document (House, No. 4556).

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

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Day of Stoneham, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Michael S. Day and Jason M. Lewis for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Kendra Winner, an employee of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Kendra Winner,—
sick leave.

By Representative Puppolo of Springfield, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., for legislation to further regulate sentences for murder in the first degree.

Murder sentences.

Severally, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Papers from the Senate.

A Bill authorizing the city of Everett to grant 2 additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not be drunk on the premises and 1 additional license for the sale of wine and malt beverages not to be drunk on the premises (Senate, No. 2471) (on Senate, No. 159) [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.

Everett,—
liquor licenses.

The following order, having been approved by the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, came from the Senate with the endorsement that it had been adopted by said branch, as follows:

Ordered, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Joint Rule 10, the committee on the Judiciary be granted until April 30, 2024, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 313, 906, 912, 914, 916, 920, 923, 928, 936, 938, 940, 941, 942, 945, 947, 954, 955, 962, 972, 973, 977, 978, 980, 982, 983, 988, 991, 993, 1000, 1003, 1005, 1009, 1011, 1014, 1016, 1020, 1023, 1024, 1027, 1032, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1050, 1052, 1053, 1057, 1059, 1060, 1069, 1070, 1076, 1079, 1082, 1098, 1101, 1104, 1107, 1108, 1111, 1114, 1129, 1130, 1140, 1142, 2450, and 2483, relative to judicial matters..

Judiciary committee,—
extension of time for reporting.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus, the order (Senate, No. 2586) was considered forthwith; and it was adopted, in concurrence.

A petition (accompanied by bill) of Barry R. Finegold for legislation relative to deceptive and fraudulent deepfakes in election communications, came from the Senate referred, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Election Laws.

Elections,—
deepfakes.

The House then concurred with the Senate on suspension of said rule; and the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2730) was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Election Laws.

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Cahill of Lynn, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on House, Nos. 790, 799, 809, 810, 852, 854, 860, 868, 872, 877, 884, 912, 919, 920 and 921, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Environment and Natural Resources to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to hunting, sewers, hazardous waste sites and other related matters (House, No. 4555) [Representative Boldyga of Southwick dissenting]. Referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently,

Hunting, sewers, hazardous waste sites, etc.,—
study.

Subsequently, Mr. Galvin of Canton, for said committees, reported asking to be discharged from further consideration of the order; and recommending that the same be referred to the House committee on Rules. Under Rule 42, the report was considered forthwith; and it was accepted.

Subsequently, Mr. Galvin of Canton, for said committee, on the foregoing order reported, in part, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 868) of Tram T. Nguyen, Margaret R. Scarsdale and Vanna Howard relative to further testing after combined sewage overflow events,— and recommending that the same be recommitted to the committee on Environment and Natural Resources. Under Rule 42, the report was considered forthwith; and it was accepted.

Sewage
overflow
events.

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:

Relative to regional planning agencies (House, No. 2426);

Planners.
Retirement
boards.

Relative to documentary material or data received by retirement boards (House, No. 2453);

Retired police.

Relative to public safety personnel (House, No. 2488);

Retirement
boards.

Relative to the fifth member of the public employee retirement systems (House, No. 2508);

Relative to death benefits to surviving spouses of call and volunteer firefighters (House, No. 2533);

Firefighters,—
spouses.

Relative to the reinstatement of positions in a departmental unit according to seniority for the city of Methuen (House, No. 2547) [Local Approval Received];

Methuen,—
seniority.

Clarifying call firefighter rights (House, No. 2574);

Firefighters.
Barnstable,—
retirement.

To protect the retirement classification of Barnstable County dispatchers and dispatch retirees (House, No. 2628);

Accidental
disability.

Relative to police officers and firefighters relative to Chapter 41, Section 111F (House, No. 2638);

Fitchburg,—
retirees.

Relating to the regular compensation of certain active and retired employees of the city of Fitchburg (House, No. 3864) [Local Approval Received].

Hudson,—
special police.

Further regulating special police officers in the town of Hudson (House, No. 4113) [Local Approval Received];

Chelmsford,—
civil service.

Exempting the position of deputy fire chief of the town of Chelmsford from the civil service law (House, No. 4179) [Local Approval Received];

Schools,—
electricians.

Relative to licensed electricians employed at regional school districts (House, No. 4208);

Boston,—
Terrance
Williams.

Directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Terrance Joseph Williams (House, No. 4212) [Local Approval Received]; and

Warren,—
Steven Perkins.

Authorizing the town of Warren to continue the employment of Steven Perkins (House, No. 4215) [Local Approval Received];

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.

Report of the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 10), on the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 775) of Josh S. Cutler and Patrick Joseph Kearney for legislation to establish the Massachusetts coastal erosion innovation center and to protect coastal resources.

Coastal
protection.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus, the report was considered forthwith.

Pending the question on acceptance of the report, the petition was recommitted, on motion of Mr. Cahill of Lynn.

House reports

Of the committee on Revenue, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 10), on the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4457) of Adrian C. Madaro for legislation to establish a Massport climate resiliency trust fund to be funded by a portion of jet fuel excise taxes; and

Jet fuel,—
excise tax.

Of the same committee, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 10), on the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4458) of Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., and Bud L. Williams relative to real estate tax abatements for certain blind persons;

Blind
persons,—
real estate
taxes.

Severally were considered, under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Cusack of Braintree. Pending the question, in each instance, on acceptance of the report, the petitions were recommitted, on motions of the same member.

A report of the committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets, that the Bill [sic] the affordable homes act (House, No. 4138), ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 10), was considered forthwith, under suspension of the rules, on motion of Finn of West Springfield, the question being on rejection (under Joint Rule 10). The House then refused to reject the bill.

Affordable
homes,—
bonds.

The bill was then read; and under further suspension of the rules, on motion of the same member, it was read a second time forthwith.

Pending the question on ordering the bill to a third reading, it was referred, on motion of Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, to the committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. Roy of Franklin, for the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, on a petition, a Bill relative to lithium-ion batteries (House, No. 3178). Read; and referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Lithium-ion
batteries.

By Mr. Driscoll of Milton, for the committee on Emergency Preparedness and Management, on House, No. 4181, a Bill creating a state disaster relief fund for emergency management (House, No. 4545).

State disaster
relief fund.

By Mr. Roy of Franklin, for the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, on a petition, a Bill expanding community access to electric bicycles (House, No. 3145).

Electric
bicycles,—
access.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to increased access of small business to participation in energy savings services and programs (House, No. 3177).

Small
business,—
energy costs.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to automatic re-enrollment in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) (House, No. 3180).

Low Income
Home Energy
Assistance.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to establish standards for the pole attachment process to facilitate the construction of broadband networks (House, No. 3208).

Broadband
networks,—
poles.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to better buildings (House, No. 3213).

Buildings,—
standards.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to transparency in private utility construction contracts (House, No. 3681).	Utility contracts.
By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to transparency in private utility construction contracts (House, No. 3682).	Id.
By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 3154, a Bill relative to energy efficiency education (House, No. 4540).	Energy efficiency.
By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 3199, a Bill updating the decommissioning oversight of Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant (House, No. 4541).	Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant
By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 3202, a Bill relative to reduce [sic] administrative burden for government and industry (House, No. 4542).	Government and industry,—burdens.
By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 3859, a Bill relative to a just transition to clean energy (House, No. 4543).	Clean energy.
Severally read; and referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.	
By Mr. Day of Stoneham, for the committee on the Judiciary, on a petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Tamara M. Luciani, an employee of the Trial Court of the Commonwealth (House, No. 4531).	Tamara Luciani,—sick leave.
By Ms. Fiola of Fall River, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on a petition, a Bill establishing a building permit surcharge and special revenue fund in the town of Winchester (House, No. 4469) [Local Approval Received].	Winchester,—surcharge.
By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill relative to the election and composition of the conservation commission within the town of Southwick (House, No. 4506) [Local Approval Received].	Southwick,—conservation commission.
By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill increasing the maximum amount of fines which may be imposed for violations of ordinances in the city of Boston (House, No. 4507) [Local Approval Received].	Boston,—maximum fines.
By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing the city of Watertown to place municipal charge liens on certain properties in the city of Watertown for nonpayment of any local charge, fee or fine (House, No. 4508) [Local Approval Received].	Watertown,—municipal charge liens.
By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill amending the charter of the town of Sandwich (House, No. 4509) [Local Approval Received].	Sandwich,—town clerk.
By Mr. Gordon of Bedford, for the committee on Public Service, on a petition, a Bill relative to the retirement classification of certain employees of the city of Beverly (House, No. 4455) [Local Approval Received].	Beverly,—retirement classification.
By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing the city of Somerville to continue the employment of Charles J. Femino as acting chief of police (House, No. 4465) [Local Approval Received].	Somerville,—Charles Femino.
By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 4532, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Michael Lewis (House, No. 4539).	Michael Lewis.
By Mr. Roy of Franklin, for the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, on a petition, a Bill relative to prepaid wireless surcharges (House, No. 3134).	Wireless surcharges.
By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to municipal light plants (House, No. 3142).	Municipal light plants.
By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to energy conservation (House, No. 3207).	Energy conservation.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill requiring disclosure to consumers regarding home heating oil insurance (House, No. 3686).

Heating oil insurance.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to tow lien reform (House, No. 3698).

Tow lien reform.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to municipal light plant emergency mutual aid (House, No. 3699).

Municipal light plants.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 3692, a Bill relative to the maximum storage charges on motor vehicles involuntarily towed (House, No. 4544).

Towed vehicles,—charges.

By Mr. Straus of Mattapoisett, for the committee on Transportation, on a joint petition, a Bill amending Chapter 250 of the Acts of 2016 to include the city of Salem designated port area as part of the Salem Harbor port area (House, No. 4398) [Local Approval Received].

Salem,—port area.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill designating a certain roundabout in the town of Orleans in honor of Dorofei Klimshuk (House, No. 4484).

Orleans,—Klimshuk roundabout.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill designating a certain bridge in the town of Harwich as the United States Army Private First Class Joseph C. Blute memorial bridge (House, No. 4485).

Harwich,—Blute bridge.

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

Emergency Measure.

The engrossed Bill financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges (see House, No. 4529), 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.

Roads and bridges,—bonds.

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 validating the results of the annual election held in the town of Whitman on May 20, 2023 (see House bill printed as Senate, No. 2698) (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 (more than two-thirds of the members having agreed to pass the same); and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Bill enacted.

Engrossed bills

Further amending the charter of the town of Middleton (see House, No. 3970, changed and amended); and

Bills enacted.

Changing the name of the board of selectmen of the town of Uxbridge to the select board (see House, No. 3986, amended);

(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.

The Senate amendment of the House Bill authorizing the town of Bernardston to continue the employment of fire chief Peter Shedd (House, No. 4064), having been reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was considered.

Bernardston,—
Peter Shedd.

Mr. Walsh of Peabody then moved that the House concur with the Senate in its amendment with a further amendment by striking out section 1 (inserted by amendment by the Senate) and inserting in place thereof the following section:

“SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, Peter Shedd, chief of the Bernardston fire department, may continue to serve in such position until Peter Shedd reaches 70 years of age, retires or is not reappointed, whichever occurs first; provided, however, Peter Shedd is mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of such position. The select board of the town of Bernardston may require Peter Shedd to be examined by an impartial physician to determine such capability. No deductions shall be made from the regular compensation of Peter Shedd pursuant to chapter 32 of the General Laws subsequent to Peter Shedd reaching the age of 65 in connection with Peter Shedd’s service to the town for retirement purposes. Upon retirement, Peter Shedd shall receive a superannuation retirement allowance equal to that which Peter Shedd would have been entitled had Peter Shedd retired upon reaching the age of 65.”

The further amendment was adopted.

The House then concurred with the Senate in its amendment, as amended. Sent to the Senate for concurrence in the further amendment.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Deerfield to continue the employment of police department members Michael W. Habel, Robert A. Thrasher, and Mark Jacques (House, No. 4291), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Deerfield,—
police.

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. 4557), which was read.

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

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-six minutes before eleven o’clock A.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.

