
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023.

[72]

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Thursday, August 17, 2023.

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.

Silent Tribute.

At the request of Ms. Sabadosa of Northampton, the members, guests and employees stood in a moment of silent tribute in respect to the memory of nurse and community leader Kirsten Kowalski, who passed away on June 27. Kirsten was the beloved co-founder and service director of Seven Sisters Midwifery in Northampton, the only midwife-owned and operated independent birth center in Western Massachusetts. She devoted her life to making healthcare more kind, respectful, and accessible for all.

Kirsten
Kowalski.

After years of working as a birth doula and apprenticing to become a home birth midwife, Kirsten attended Yale University to become a nurse midwife and women's health nurse practitioner. In 2020, Kirsten opened the Seven Sisters Birth Center in Northampton. Under her careful, passionate leadership, the Center created unprecedented access to out-of-hospital birth. She and her team made transformative, supportive care available to people from all walks of life and paved the way for more birth centers in the Commonwealth. Indeed, Seven Sisters Birth Center played a key role in the legislature-created Commission on Racial Inequities in Maternal Health, which filed its report in July of 2022.

Kirsten was also a respected national midwifery leader, guiding grantmaking and advocating for racial equity and birth justice on the board of the Foundation for the Advancement of Midwifery and co-founding the Birth Future Foundation. Colleagues remark that she was generous with her time and expertise to support other midwives and inform policy. Kirsten always said that her love for midwifery came from a place of endless delight in the strength of mothers and birthing people, and it showed in each day of her work.

Quarterly Reports.

Quarterly reports

Of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (under Section 14F of Chapter 151A of the General Laws) relative to the condition of the Commonwealth's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund through July, 2023; and containing projections for estimated contributions, benefit payments, and Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund balances for the five-year outlook period beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2027; and

Unemployment
Insurance
Trust Fund.

Of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (under Section 2 of Chapter 35 of the Acts of 2021) submitting its Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit (SAECK) report for the quarter ending June 30, 2023; Severally were placed on file.

Sexual assault evidence collection kits.

Paper from the Senate.

The petition of Michael J. Rodrigues for legislation relative to the conveyance of a certain parcel of land in the city of Fall River, came from the Senate with the endorsement that said branch had non-concurred with the House in its reference to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government; and insisted on its reference to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Fall River,—land.

On motion of Ms. Fiola of Fall River, the House then receded from its reference; and the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2439) was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Report of a Committee.

By Mr. Honan of Boston, for the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, that the House Bill to designate the Route 9 highway bridge between Belchertown and Ware as the Kenneth J. Iwasinski memorial bridge (House, No. 4008), be scheduled for consideration by the House.

Belchertown and Ware,—Iwasinski bridge.

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

Emergency Measure.

The engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Tanya Pizzi, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (see House, No. 3836, amended), 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.

Tanya Pizzi,—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 3 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 Bill.

The engrossed Bill authorizing the town of Shrewsbury to grant abatement of real estate taxes for the daughter of fallen firefighter Christopher Roy (see House, No. 3906) (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 House Bill amending the act establishing a charter for the town of Wrentham (House, No. 3717), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Wrentham,—
charter.

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. 4061), which was read.

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

The House Bill permitting the town of Wakefield to convey an easement to the Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Department (House, No. 3995), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Wakefield,—
gas and light
department.

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. 4062), 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 Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Next
sitting.

At twenty-two minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Vieira of Falmouth (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.