

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

---

**JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.**



**MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024.**

[117]

---

# JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

---

Monday, December 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.

### *Communication from the Clerk.*

The following communication from the Clerk of the House was spread upon the records of the House, to wit:

December 16, 2024.

The Honorable Ronald Mariano, Speaker of the House.  
State House – Room 356  
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Due to my impending retirement from Commonwealth service, I hereby respectfully submit to you my resignation as Clerk of the House of Representatives, effective at the close of business on Tuesday, December 31, 2024.

House Clerk  
Steven T. James.

It has been the honor of my lifetime to serve as an employee of the House, and especially since January 6, 1999 when I was first elected to be Clerk of the House. To all of the current members and the hundreds of House members whom I have served since May 11, 1964; and to the many dedicated staff of the House and Senate, past and present, I extend my most sincere respect and warm appreciation.

To the hard working and dedicated staff of the House Clerk's Office — the office staff here in the Chamber, Stephen Zerdelian, Maria Acerra, Alison Morris, Amanda Lindqvist, Michelle McLaughlin, Maureen Harris and Bill Tierney; and your assistant clerks Tim Carroll and Betsy Thompson, I would like to convey my most sincere thank you for your hard work, amazing attention to detail, for your dedication to me and our mission of providing the very best services to the House and the citizens of the Commonwealth; and I especially thank you for your friendship, which I shall always cherish.

Very respectfully,

Steven T. James,  
*Clerk of the House.*

*Remarks of Speaker Mariano of Quincy.*

Speaker Mariano then made remarks to the members and employees, and to the citizens of the Commonwealth; and, on motion of Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, the remarks were spread upon the records of the House, as follows:

Clerk James has dedicated nearly 60 years of his life to the House of Representatives, only briefly pausing his service to Massachusetts so that he could serve his country for three years in the Navy.

Remarks  
of the Speaker.

One of the most experienced and knowledgeable parliamentarians in the entire country, the Clerk has been indispensable in educating members on the legislative process. He has a deep appreciation for the history of this body, and for his role within it.

So, on behalf of the entire House of Representatives, I want to thank Clerk James for the work that he has done for the Commonwealth, and for the guidance and wisdom that he has passed on to each of us, and to countless Representatives before.

Clerk James has been an institution within this institution, and I will be forever grateful for his friendship, and for his contributions to the House and to the people that we serve.

*Guests of the House.*

In attendance at the session of the House were many distinguished guests, including former Representatives James Cantwell of Marshfield, Edward F. Coppinger of Boston, Stephen Hay of Fitchburg, Rachel Kaprelian of Watertown, Thomas O'Brien of Plymouth, Marty Walz of Boston, and Senator Creem.

Distinguished  
guests.

Prior to the noon recess,— The Chair (Mr. Donato of Medford), declared a brief recess, and introduced, seated in the House Chamber, the Bellingham Falcon Pom 12U Cheer Team, who recently competed against and defeated 8 other finalist teams from across the nation to be crowned 12U Pom Division National Champions. The team, who participated in reciting the pledge of allegiance, are the first team in New England to win the national competition. They were the guests of Representative Soter of Bellingham.

Bellingham  
Falcon Pom  
12U Cheer  
Team.

*Resolutions.*

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

Resolutions (filed by Representatives Garballey of Arlington and Rogers of Cambridge) congratulating Rick Glassman on his retirement from the Disability Law Center and a lifetime of advocacy;

Rick  
Glassman.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Garlick of Needham) congratulating Alex Lundquist on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout of the Boy Scouts of America; and

Alex  
Lundquist.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Garlick of Needham) congratulating William Whiteley on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout of the Boy Scouts of America;

William  
Whiteley.

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. Garballey of Arlington, the resolutions (reported by the

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

*Communications.*

Communications

From the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (see Section 18Y of Chapter 6A of the General Laws) submitting its fiscal year 2024 Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit (SAECK) annual summary report;

Sexual assault evidence collection.

From the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (see Section 6A of Chapter 18B of the General Laws) submitting a report entitled: “Foster Care Review Report FY2023”; and

Foster care review.

From the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth (see item 0511-0420 of Section 2 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its fiscal year 2024 Domestic Violence Service Provider Grants report detailing the efficacy of the grant program, key accomplishments of the awarded funds; and the estimated impact of the awarded funds;

Domestic violence provider grants.

Severally were placed on file.

*Annual Report.*

The annual report of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (under Section 35QQ of Chapter 10 of the General Laws) for the Economic Empowerment Trust Fund for fiscal year 2024, was placed on file.

Economic empowerment trust fund.

*Petition.*

Representative Donato of Medford presented a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5141) of Paul J. Donato, Sean Garballey and Christine P. Barber (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to establish a linkage exaction program in the city of Medford; and the same was referred to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Medford,— linkage exaction program.

*Reports of Committees.*

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 authorizing the town of Sandwich to grant additional licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (Senate, No. 2985) [Local Approval Received]; and

Sandwich,— liquor licenses.

House bills

Directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Adam Watt (House, No. 5080) [Local Approval Received];

Boston,— Adam Watt.

Directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Jean E. Roseney (House, No. 5081) [Local Approval Received];

Boston,— Jean Roseney.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

Directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Keny Gateau (House, No. 5082) [Local Approval Received]; and

Boston,—  
Keny  
Gateau.

Authorizing the town of Acushnet to continue the employment of Call Deputy Fire Chief (House, No. 5121) [Local Approval Received].

Acushnet,—  
employment.

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 Ms. Decker of Cambridge, for the committee on Public Health, on Senate, Nos. 1391 and 1458 and House, Nos. 604 and 2151, a Bill relative to routine childhood immunizations (House, No. 604) [Senator Durant and Representative Lombardo of Billerica dissenting].

Schools,—  
immunization  
reporting.

By Ms. Decker, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 1342 and House, No. 2220, a Bill to develop a coordinated stroke care system (House, No. 2220).

Stroke  
care system.

Severally referred, under Joint Rule 1E, to the committee on Health Care Financing.

By Ms. Fiola of Fall River, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on a joint petition, a Bill increasing membership on the town of Paxton select board (House, No. 5134) [Local Approval Received].

Paxton,—  
select  
board.

By Mr. Gordon of Bedford, for the committee on Public Service, on a petition, a Bill authorizing Brittany Sproule to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 5101) [Local Approval Received].

Haverhill,—  
Brittany  
Sproule.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing Javier Vargas to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 5102) [Local Approval Received].

Haverhill,—  
Javier  
Vargas.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing Stephen Justice to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 5103) [Local Approval Received].

Haverhill,—  
Stephen  
Justice.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for Pierre Charles Darius of Mattapan (House, No. 5120) [Local Approval Received].

Boston,—  
Pierre Charles  
Darius.

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

*Emergency Measures.*

The engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Kate Sout-Sorm, an employee of the Department of Transitional Assistance (see Senate, No. 2986), 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.

Kate  
Sout-Sorm,—  
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 6 to 0. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

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

Bill  
enacted.

The engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Kimberly Martinelli, an employee of the Department of Correction (see House, No. 4980), 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.

Kimberly  
Martinelli,—  
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 5 to 0. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Subsequently, the noon recess having terminated, 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.*

The engrossed Bill relative to motor vehicle insurance (see House, No. 5111, amended) (which originated in the House), in respect to which the Senate had concurred in adoption of the emergency preamble, was passed to be re-enacted, in its amended form; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Bill  
re-enacted.

Engrossed bills

Authorizing the town of Westport to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk off the premises (see Senate, No. 2858) (which originated in the Senate);

Bills  
enacted.

Authorizing the town of Hull to issue pension obligation bonds or notes (see House, No. 2084, amended);

Designating a certain bridge in the town of Falmouth as the Deputy John Robert Kotfila Jr. memorial bridge (see House, No. 3466, amended);

Amending the charter of the town of Swampscott (see House, No. 4086);

Authorizing the town of Warren to continue the employment of Steven Perkins (see House, No. 4215);

Authorizing the town of Carlisle to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (see House, No. 4560);

Establishing the North Sherborn Water and Sewer District (see House, No. 4627); and

Changing the Holyoke Treasurer position from elected to appointed (see House, No. 5062, 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 amending the board of public works in the town of Lee (House, No. 3890), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was adopted, in concurrence.

Lee,—  
public works.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

The Senate Bill authorizing the town of Provincetown to grant 2 additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (Senate, No. 2860), reported by 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.

Third reading bill.

House bills

To extend the time for the issuance of alcoholic beverage licenses in the town of Burlington (House, No. 4909);

Third reading bills.

Relative to further regulating a certain alcoholic beverage license in the town of Southampton (printed in House, No. 5079);

Authorizing the city of Salem to convert the annual license for the sale of wine and malt beverages to be drunk on the premises pursuant to chapter 75 of the acts of 2008 to an annual license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 5093);

Authorizing the town of Tyngsborough to grant 3 additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 5094);

Increasing the age limit for retired police officers serving as special police officers in the town of Weston (House, No. 5127);

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.

*Recess.*

At twenty minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Ms. Ferguson of Holden (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House recessed until half past twelve o'clock noon; and at seven minutes before one o'clock P.M. the House was called to order with the Speaker in the Chair.

Recess.

*Valedictory Addresses.*

The following members, who were not returning for the 2024-2025 Legislative Session, then addressed the House regarding their departure from service in the House of Representatives: Representatives Balsler of Newton; Barrows of Mansfield; Capano of Lynn; Cassidy of Brockton; Driscoll of Milton; Fernandes of Falmouth; Garlick of Needham; Haddad of Somerset; Khan of Newton; Mom of Lowell; Muratore of Plymouth; Pignatelli of Lenox; Schmid of Westport and Straus of Mattapoisett.

Valedictory Addresses.

During the session, there being no objection, former Representatives Josh S. Cutler of Pembroke and Sarah K. Peake of Provincetown addressed the House regarding their departure from service in the House of Representatives.

Id.

*Order.*

Mr. Garballey of Arlington being in the Chair,—

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.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

---

At thirteen minutes after four o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Jones of North Reading (Mr. Garballey of Arlington being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Thursday at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.