

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024.

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JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Thursday, December 19, 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.

Silent Tributes.

At the request of Speaker Mariano of Quincy, the members, guests and employees stood in a moment of silent tribute to former Attorney General and Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth Francis X. Bellotti.

Francis X.
Bellotti.

Frank Bellotti was a giant. From his service to our country in the Navy, to his time as Lieutenant Governor, to his trailblazing work as Attorney General, to the enormous impact that he had in private life as a lawyer and businessman, very few people have touched as many lives, in such a profound manner, as Frank did. Despite the incredible longevity of Frank's career, he never wavered when it came to the values that he held dear. Frank marched with Dr. King, protested the war in Vietnam, and fought hard for civil rights, gay rights, and to protect the environment. Frank inspired so many folks to enter public service, setting an example for all those who came after him. He made Quincy proud. Frank will be remembered as someone who was incredibly tough, yet kind, a combination that made him the perfect advocate, time and time again, for vulnerable residents who needed their government to step up and protect them. The House of Representatives offers our condolences to the Bellotti family and Frank's loved ones. There will never be another Frank Bellotti. May he rest in peace.

At the request of Representative Biele of Boston, the members, guests and employees stood in a moment of silent tribute to the memory of Richard Litto who passed away unexpectedly on September 23, 2024 with his wife and children by his side.

Richard
Litto.

Born and raised in South Boston, Richard enlisted in the United States Marine Corps directly out of high school and proudly served his country until his retirement. An Iraq War combat veteran, Richard served in Africa during Operation Enduring Freedom and was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant in 2010.

He began his career in law enforcement at the Charles Street Jail and worked as a Boston Housing Police Officer. In 1992, Richard joined the Boston Police Department and served as the Community Police Officer for the South End.

Husband to Lorrie Litto, devoted father to Jillian, Richard, Matthew, Patrick, and Michael, doting grandfather to Evelyn and Emelia, son of Frances Owens and late Dominic Litto, brother to Jeanne Jankowski and late husband John Jankowski, Steven Owens and wife Stacey Owens, and the late Scott Owens, Richard is survived by many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Message from the Governor.

A message from Her Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to providing for the terms of certain bonds to be issued by the Commonwealth (House, No. 5142), was filed in the office of the Clerk on Monday, December 16.

Bonds,—
terms.

The message was read; and under suspension of Joint Rule 1F, on motion of Mr. Finn of West Springfield, the message was referred, on further motion of the same member, to the committee on Ways and Means. Sent to the Senate for concurrence in the suspension of Joint Rule 1F.

Appointments of the Speaker.

The Speaker announced that he had appointed Nicholas Ashford and Todd Lizotte as his designees (under Section 148 of Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2024) to the special legislative commission to study and investigate emerging firearm technology.

Firearm
technology
commission.

Statement of Representative Cabral of New Bedford.

A statement of Mr. Cabral of New Bedford was spread upon the records of the House, as follows:

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to call to the attention of the House the fact that I was absent from the House Chamber for the taking of roll call number 124 on Thursday, June 20, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted in the affirmative on passing to be engrossed the House Bill promoting access to midwifery care and out-of-hospital birth options (House, No. 4785).

Statement of
Mr. Cabral of
New Bedford.

Guests of the House.

During the session, the Chair declared a brief recess and introduced, the Division One MIAA State Field Hockey Champions from Walpole High School. The Porkers, as they are proudly known, went 22-0-1 and defeated the Andover Golden Warriors 2-0 for the state championship out at Worcester State last month. They were the guests of Representatives Philips of Sharon, Rogers of Norwood, McMurtry of Dedham and Vaughn of Wrentham.

Walpole
High School
field hockey
team.

Communications.

Communications

From the Capital Debt Affordability Committee of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (see Section 60B(f) of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting the committee's annual report estimate of the total amount of new Commonwealth debt that may be prudently authorized for the next fiscal year;

Debt
authorization.

From the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulations (see Section 57 of Chapter 98 of the General Laws) submitting the Division of Standards annual report for calendar year 2023;

Standards.

From the Division of Banks (see Section 14C of Chapter 167 of the General Laws) submitting the annual report of the Small Business Loan Review Boards for fiscal year 2024;

Small business
loan review.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

From the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (see Section 22 of Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024) submitting the monthly Working Training for Emergency Assistance Residents report for December, 2024;

Working training.

From the Executive Office for Housing and Livable Communities (see item 7004-9030 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting the Alternative House Voucher Program (AHVP) report for expenditures for fiscal year 2024;

Housing voucher program.

From the Executive Office for Administration and Finance and the Executive Office for Housing and Livable Communities (see item 1599-0514 of Section 2 of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023 and Section 19 of Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024) submitting the December 12, 2024 biweekly report on the emergency housing assistance program;

Emergency housing assistance.

From the Department of Higher Education (see item 7066-0000 of Section 2 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting the FAFSA Completion Initiative report for fiscal year 2024;

FAFSA completion.

From the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (see item 4003-0123 of Section 2 of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023) submitting the monthly Resettlement Agency Report for November, 2024; and

Resettlement agency.

From the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (see item 2200-0107 of Section 2 of Chapter 126 of the Acts of 2022) submitting the Department of Environmental Protection's car seat recycling program report;

Car seat recycling.

Severally were placed on file.

Monthly Reports.

Monthly reports

Of the Department of Unemployment Assistance (under Section 14F of Chapter 151A of the General Laws) relative to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund for November 2024; and

Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

Of the Executive Office of the Trial Court (under Section 15 of Chapter 239 of the General Laws, as amended by Section 64 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its report on filings, actions, and dispositions of summary process cases relative to permanent rental protections;

Permanent rental protections.

Severally were placed on file.

Petitions.

Representative Vargas of Haverhill presented a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5144) of Andres X. Vargas (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize Freddy Castaneda to take the civil service examination for the position of police officer in the city of Haverhill, notwithstanding the maximum age requirement; and the same was referred to the committee on Public Service. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Haverhill,—
Freddy
Castaneda.

Representative Saunders of Belchertown (by request) presented a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Tammy Ryan that the commissioner of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance be authorized to grant Lampson Brook Farm in the town of Belchertown to the Nipmuc Indian Development Corporation, and to the New England Small Farm Institute; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Belchertown,—
Lampson
Brook Farm.

Papers from the Senate.

The House Bill relative to the regulation of money transmission by the Division of Banks (House, No. 4840), came from the Senate passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 2997. The amendment was referred, under Rule 35, to the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

Money transmissions,—
regulation.

Subsequently, the amendment (having been reported by said committee to be correctly drawn) was considered forthwith; and it was adopted, in concurrence.

A Bill changing the name of the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership to the Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts (Senate, No. 2993) (on Senate bill No. 2766), passed to be engrossed by the Senate was read; and it was referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Mohawk Trail
Woodlands
Partnership.

Reports of Committees.

Mr. Madaro of Boston, for the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches, with reference to the Senate amendments (striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 2921; and striking out the title and inserting in place thereof the following title: “An Act relative to accessing harm reduction initiatives.”) of the House Bill relative to treatments and coverage for substance use disorder and recovery coach licensure (House, No. 4758), reported a bill with the same title (House, No. 5143). Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Substance
use disorder,—
treatment.

Mr. Honan of Boston, for said committee, then reported that the matter be scheduled for consideration by the House.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Cabral of New Bedford, the report was considered forthwith; and it was accepted. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

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:

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.

Creating select board-town manager form of government in the town of Holliston (House, No. 5119) [Local Approval Received];

Holliston,—
select board.

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.

Authorizing the town of Lexington to grant ten additional licenses for the sale of wine and malt beverages to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 5126) [Local Approval Received]; and

Lexington,—
liquor licenses.

Increasing membership on the town of Paxton select board (House, No. 5134) [Local Approval Received];

Paxton,—
select board.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

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. Chan of Quincy, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Clinton to grant 6 additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 5140) [Local Approval Received]. Read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Clinton,—
liquor
licenses.

Orders of the Day.

The Senate amendment of the House Bill authorizing the town of Charlemont to continue the employment of Dennis Annear as an on-call firefighter (House, No. 3988), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was adopted, in concurrence.

Charlemont,—
Dennis
Annear.

The Senate amendment of the House Bill authorizing the town of Rowe to continue the employment of Dennis Annear as an on-call firefighter (House, No. 3989), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was adopted, in concurrence.

Rowe,—
Dennis
Annear.

The Senate amendments of the House Bill to prohibit hunting on property owned by the Department of Correction and located at 28A Union turnpike in the town of Concord (House, No. 4200), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, were adopted, in concurrence.

Concord,—
hunting.

The Senate amendments of the House Bill repealing the prohibition on the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority from locating a facility within a certain distance of Arlington Catholic high school (House, No. 4236), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, were adopted, in concurrence.

MBTA,—
Arlington.

House bills

Authorizing Gabriel Rosa to take the civil service examination for the position of police officer in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 5069);

Third
reading
bills.

Authorizing Juan Jimenez to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 5070);

Authorizing the town of Uxbridge to grant 2 additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk off the premises (House, No. 5096); and

Exempting the office of chief of police in the city of Worcester from the civil service law (House, No. 5107);

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.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

The House Bill authorizing the appointment of retired police officers in the town of Sterling to serve as special police officers (House, No. 5025), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Sterling,—
special police.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Walsh of Peabody moved to amend it in section 1 by adding the following paragraph:

“(j) A special police officer appointed pursuant to this act shall comply with all requirements of chapter 6E of the General Laws, including: (i) maintaining certification and good standing with the Massachusetts peace officer standards and training commission; and (ii) complying with all annual in-service and other training requirements mandated by the municipal police training committee.”

The amendment was adopted; and the bill (House, No. 5025, amended) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Recess.

At four minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Ms. Ferguson of Holden (Mr. Garballey of Arlington being in the Chair), the House recessed subject to the call of the Chair; and at ten minutes before two o'clock P.M. the House was called to order with Mr. Garballey in the Chair.

Recess.

Emergency Measure.

The engrossed Bill repealing the prohibition on the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority from locating a facility within a certain distance of Arlington Catholic high school (see House, No. 4236, 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.

MBTA,—
Arlington.

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 2 to 0. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

Authorizing the town of Provincetown to grant 2 additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (see Senate, No. 2860) (which originated in the Senate);

Bills
enacted.

Amending the board of public works in the town of Lee (see House, No. 3890, amended);

Authorizing the town of Charlemont to continue the employment of Dennis Annear as an on-call firefighter (see House, No. 3988, amended);

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

Prohibiting hunting on property owned by the department of correction in the town of Concord (see House, No. 4200, amended);

Increasing the membership of the select board for the town of Lancaster (see House, No. 4818);

Authorizing the town of Lee to continue the employment of Glenn M. Wilcox as assistant fire chief (see House, No. 4858); and

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Relative to treatments and coverage for substance use disorder and recovery coach licensure (see House, No. 5143);

(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.

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.

Speaker Mariano of Quincy moved that when the House adjourns today, it do so in respect to the memory of Francis X. Bellotti of Quincy, Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts in 1963 and 1964; and Attorney General from 1975 to 1986, inclusive; and the motion prevailed.

Accordingly, at twelve minutes after two o'clock P.M., on motion of Ms. Ferguson of Holden (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.