The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



MONDAY, JULY 21, 2025.

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Monday, July 21, 2025.

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.

Statement of Representative Lawn of Watertown.

A statement of Mr. Lawn of Watertown 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 unable to be present in the House Chamber for the sitting of Wednesday, July 16. Had I been present, I would have voted in the negative on Yea and Nay No. 63 and in the affirmative on Yea and Nay Nos. 64 and 65.

Statement of Representative Lawn of Watertown.

Guests of the House.

At the beginning of the session, the Chair (Mr. Donato of Medford), declared a brief recess and introduced, seated in the House Chamber, His Excellency Mr. Lokdarshan Regmi, Ambassador of Nepal to the United States of America.

Ambassador of Nepal to the U.S.

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Duffy of Holyoke, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4299) of Patricia A. Duffy (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Holyoke be authorized to exempt the position of fire chief in said city from the provisions of the civil service law. To the committee on Public Service.

Holyoke, civil service.

By Representative Luddy of Orleans and Senator Cyr, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4300) of Hadley Luddy (by vote of the town) that the town of Chatham be authorized to establish a real property transfer fee in said town. To the committee on Revenue.

Chatham,—transfer fee.

Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Representative Arriaga of Chicopee presented a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Shirley B. Arriaga relative to the sale of parrots; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Parrots,—sales

Papers from the Senate.

Bills

Relative to the uniform child custody jurisdiction and enforcement act (Senate, No. 2550) (on Senate bill No. 1052); and

Relative to fairness in debt collection (Senate, No. 2559) (on Senate bill No. 2551, amended);

Severally passed to be engrossed by the Senate, were read; and they were referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

A petition (accompanied by bill) of Kelly A. Dooner for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Gregory Baker, an employee of the Suffolk County Sherriff's office, came from the Senate referred, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Service.

The House then concurred with the Senate in the suspension of said rule; and the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2560) was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Public Service.

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 Leigh Davis for legislation to authorize the Dalton Fire District to continue the employment of interim fire chief Christopher Francis Cachat. To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Carol A. Doherty for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Carlos Borges, an employee of the Department of Correction. To the committee on Public Service.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Ms. Kerans of Danvers, the reports were considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 then was suspended, in each instance. Severally 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:

Relative to the town of Cheshire's special election (House, No. 801) [Local Approval Received];

Authorizing the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to provide sewer services to a certain parcel of land in the town of Sharon (House, No. 1024);

Relative to further increasing the fines for cruelty to animals, and establishing a fund dedicated to improvements for local animal shelters (House, No. 2247);

Relative to the position of treasurer-collector in the town of Berkley (House, No. 2320) [Local Approval Received];

Amending the charter of the town of Sandwich (House, No. 2357) [Local Approval Received];

Making amendments to the Massachusetts Business Corporation Act (House, No. 3323);

Authorizing the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to provide sewer services to a certain parcel of land in the town of Sharon (House, No. 4009);

Establishing a charter for the city of Medford (House, No. 4263) [Local Approval Received];

Child custody.

Debt collection.

Gregory Baker, sick leave.

Christopher Cachat,— employment.

Carlos Borges, sick leave.

Cheshire, special election.

Sharon,—land.

Animal cruelty.

Berkley, treasurer.

Sandwich,—charter.

Business corporations.

Sharon, sewer services.

Medford,—charter.

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 Mr. Finn of West Springfield, for the committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets, that the Bill financing long-term improvements to municipal roads and bridges (House, No. 4257), ought to pass [Bond Issue: \$1,185,000,000.00]. Read; and referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Municipal roads and bridges.

By Ms. Farley-Bouvier of Pittsfield, for the committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity, on a petition, a Bill relative to protecting sensitive information from security breaches (House, No. 93) [Representative Gaskey of Carver dissenting].

Security breaches.

By Mr. Chan of Quincy, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on a petition, a Bill relative to the Board of Registration of Cosmetology and Barbering exams (House, No. 404).

Cosmetology and barbering exams.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to streamlining licensure, compliance, and contracting opportunities (House, No. 421, changed in lines 13 by striking out the year: "2023" and inserting in place thereof the year: "2025" and in line 52 by striking out the year: "2023" and inserting in place thereof the year: "2026").

Streamlining licensure.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 407, a Bill regulating the practice and licensure of veterinary technicians (House, No. 4278).

Veterinary technicians.

By Mr. Ryan of Boston, for the committee on Public Service, on a petition, a Bill relative to benefits for teachers (House, No. 2932).

Teacher benefits.

By Mr. Madaro of Boston, for the committee on Revenue, on House, No. 3256, a Bill relative to the separation of agricultural land for renewable energy purposes (House, No. 4295) [Representatives Lombardo of Billerica and Boldyga of Southwick dissenting].

Agricultural land,— separation.

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

By Ms. Farley-Bouvier of Pittsfield, for the committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity, on a petition, a Bill relative to surveillance pricing in grocery stores (House, No. 99) [Representative Gaskey of Carver dissenting].

Surveillance pricing.

By Mr. Chan of Quincy, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on a petition, a Bill relative to partial payment (House, No. 362).

Residential contracting agreements.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill updating real estate appraiser record retention requirements (House, No. 405).

Real estate appraisers.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to telemarketer disclosures (House, No. 438).

Telemarketer disclosures.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill eliminating the residency requirement for fortune tellers (House, No. 475).

Fortune tellers.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the sale of malt beverages produced by a pub brewery (House, No. 478).

Malt beverages.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 386, a Bill authorizing the town of Hudson to grant 1 additional license for the sale of wine and

Hudson, liquor license.

malt beverages not to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 4272) [Local Approval Received].

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 387, a Bill authorizing the town of Maynard to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 4273) [Local Approval Received].

Maynard, liquor license.

By Mr. Madaro of Boston, for the committee on Revenue, on a petition, a Bill allowing the town of Williamstown to expand financial eligibility for senior property tax exemption (House, No. 3026) [Local Approval Received].

Williamstown,—property taxes.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to taxes due upon the death of active duty personnel and the elderly (House, No. 3051).

Taxes,—death.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the assessment of local property taxes in the city of Springfield (House, No. 3213) [Local Approval Received].

Springfield,—property taxes.

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 Daniel Yender, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (House, No. 4104), 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.

Daniel Yender, 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.

Bill enacted.

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.

Mark Kratman, sick leave.

The engrossed Bill establishing relative to a sick leave bank for Mark Kratman, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (House, No. 4161), 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.

Bill enacted.

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 4 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.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

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

Next sitting.

At thirteen minutes before twelve o'clock P.M., on motion of Ms. Ferguson of Holden (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Wednesday at eleven o'clock A.M.