

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017.

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Monday, December 4, 2017.

Met at nine minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Pacheco in the Chair).

Report.

Report of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (pursuant to Section 8 of Chapter 161B of the General Laws) submitting its fiscal year 2017 annual report (received December 1, 2017,) -- was placed on file.

PVTA,-- FY17 annual report . SD2403

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2223) of Bruce E. Tarr and Ann-Margaret Ferrante (with approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation relative to increasing City of Gloucester parking fines [Local approval received];

Gloucester,-- parking fines.

Under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

By Mr. McGee, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2222) of Thomas M. McGee, Brendan P. Crighton, Daniel Cahill, Lori A. Ehrlich and others (with approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation relative to quarterly taxes in the City of Lynn [Local approval received];

Lynn,-- quarterly taxes.

Under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Revenue. Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Bills

Establishing a sick leave bank for Dave Ringer, an employee of the Department of Correction (House, No. 3947, amended,-- on petition); and

Dave Ringer,-- sick leave.

Establishing a sick leave bank for William Cuttle, an employee of the Department of Children and Families (House, No. 4021,-- on petition);

William Cuttle,-- sick leave.

Were severally read and, under Senate Rule 27, referred to the committee on Ways and Means.

A Bill validating the actions taken at a certain town meeting held in the town of North Reading (printed in House, No. 4024,-- being a message from His Excellency the Governor);

North Reading,-- town meeting.

Was read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules

Mr. Tarr raised a point of parliamentary inquiry regarding formal sessions.

The Chair, Mr. Pacheco stated the following:

Formal session ruling.

The provisions of Joint Rule 12A states that all formal business of the first annual session of the General Court shall be concluded not later than the third Wednesday of November of the calendar year.

The business that the Senate intends to take up today does not concern matters

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

before the General Court. It concerns issues that only pertain to the operation of the Senate. And the issues being considered this afternoon directly affect the office of the President of the Senate.

Under the provisions of Senate Rule 5, the Senate is solely responsible for how its operations are conducted. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure states that "It is the inherent right of every governmental body to regulate its own procedures subject to provisions of the constitution, statutes, charters or other controlling authorities." If an issue arises that would suggest that the Senate needs to be recorded on the issue, and has no bearing on the other branch of the General Court, then the Senate is entitled and required under parliamentary law and its own rules to proceed with whatever actions are necessary to accomplish the end that the body desires.

On motion of Mr. Tarr, under the provisions of Senate Rule 6, the above ruling was printed in the Journal of the Senate.

Ordered printed.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

Ordered, That when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again today at one o'clock P.M., in a full formal session without a calendar

Time of meeting.

On motion of the same Senator, at thirteen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again today at one o'clock P.M.