

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2018.

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.

Thursday, September 6, 2018.

Met at seventeen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Collins in the Chair) (having been appointed by the President, under authority conferred by Senate Rule 4, to perform the duties of the Chair).

The Chair (Mr. Collins), members, guests and staff then recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of allegiance.

Distinguished Guest.

There being no objection, the Chair (Mr. Collins) handed the gavel to Mr. Tarr for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. Tarr then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, Groveland Fire Chief Robert Lay. Fire Chief Lay was congratulated on his 44 years of service with the Groveland Fire Department, having assumed the titles of Lieutenant, Station Captain, Deputy Fire Chief, and most recently as Fire Chief. He is the first chief to serve under Section 42 of Chapter 48 of the Massachusetts General Laws, known as the "Strong Chiefs Law." He was accompanied by his wife, Linda. The Senate welcomed them with applause, wished him well on his upcoming retirement and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Groveland Fire Chief
Robert Lay.

Communications.

The following communications were severally received and placed on file, to wit:

Communication from the Department of Public Health (pursuant to Section 3b of Chapter 7 of the General Laws) submitting notice of a new fees for Mobile Integrated Health (received September 4, 2018);

DPH,-- MIH fees.
SD2758

Communication from the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to Section 2E of Chapter 154 of the Acts of 2018) submitting a revised Fiscal Year 2019 transfer schedule for the following account:

Comptroller,--
revised transfer
schedule.
SD2759

1595-6370 Regional Transit Authorities (received August 30, 2018); and

Communication from the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to Section 5 of Chapter 62F of the General Laws) submitting its letter to certify certain State Tax Revenues for Fiscal Year 2018 (received August 30, 2018).

Comptroller,-- FY18
state tax revenues.
SD2760

Reports.

The following reports were severally received and placed on file, to wit:

Report of Massachusetts Department of Transportation (pursuant to Section 196 of Chapter 46 of the Acts of 2015) submitting the MBTA's annual report on procurement (copies having been forwarded as required to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and Joint Committee on Transportation) (received August 31, 2018);

MassDOT,-- MBTA
procurement report.
SD2757

Report of the Massachusetts Capital Resource Company (pursuant to Section 12 of Chapter 816 of the Acts of 1977) submitting its annual report on the current status of said corporation (received September 5, 2018); and

MCRC,-- annual
report.
SD2761

Report of the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation (pursuant to

Consumer Affairs,--

Section 57 of Chapter 98 of the General Laws) submitting the 2018 Annual Report for the Division of Standards (received September 5, 2018).

DOS annual report.
SD2763

Petition.

Mr. Pacheco presented a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Marc R. Pacheco and Keiko M. Orrall for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Kelli Jones, an employee of the Department of Mental Health;

Kelli Jones,-- sick
leave.
SD2762

Referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Resolutions.

The following resolutions (having been filed with the Clerk) were considered forthwith and adopted, as follows:-

Resolutions (filed by (Mr. deMacedo) “commending Steven Karidoyanes on his twenty fifth season as conductor of the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra.”

Steven Karidoyanes.

Matters Taken Out of the Orders of the Day.

There being no objection, the following matters were taken out of the Orders of the Day and considered as follows:

The Senate Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Tiffany Sonnier, an employee of the Department of Mental Health (Senate, No. 2639),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Tiffany Sonnier,--
sick leave.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The Senate Bill concerning health insurance benefits for surviving spouses of firefighters in the city of Boston (printed as House, No. 4057),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Boston firefighters,--
survivor benefits.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The House Bill authorizing the city of Beverly to issue additional liquor licenses (House, No. 4628),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Beverly,--liquor
license.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Engrossed Bills.

The following engrossed bills (all of which originated in the House), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, were severally passed to be enacted and were signed by the Acting President (Mr. Collins) and laid before the Governor for his approbation, to wit:

Establishing a sick leave bank for Daisy F. Bolden, an employee of the Teachers’ Retirement Board (see House, No. 4448);

Bills laid before the
Governor.

Permitting the city of Revere to establish penalties and liens for water meter ordinance violations (see House, No. 4458);

Establishing a sick leave bank for David Palazzo, an employee of the Department of Developmental Services (see House, No. 4508); and

Establishing a sick leave bank for Keri Volk, an employee of the Department of Correction (see House, No. 4616).

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

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

Time of meeting.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Collins), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Jaser Daham Al-Rakah and Theeb Al-Yami.

Moment of silence.

Adjourn In Memory of Jaser Daham Al-Rakah and Theeb Al-Yami

The Senator from Hampden and Hampshire, Mr. Lesser, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Mr. Jaser Daham Al-Rakah and Mr. Theeb Al-Yami, two international students from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who gave their lives in an effort to rescue several children from drowning.

On June 29, 2018, Mr. Jaser Daham Al-Rakah, age 25, and Mr. Theeb Al-Yami, age 27, who were cousins, were present on Red Bridge Road in Wilbraham, when they observed several young children struggling with the currents in the Chicopee River. Both men selflessly put themselves in peril to try to save the children, and while the children were rescued, both Mr. Al-Rakah and Mr. Al-Yami perished.

Mr. Al-Rakah was a student in the engineering program at Western New England University located in Springfield and Mr. Al-Yami was studying engineering at the University of Hartford, Connecticut. Both men will receive posthumous degrees from their respective universities.

Following their tragic deaths, the United States Department of State offered condolences on behalf of the United States of America, saying:

“The young men drowned while courageously attempting to save children in distress...their heroism represents the very best of the international students who enrich communities across the United States.”

In August, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud posthumously awarded both Mr. Al-Rakah and Mr. Al-Yami with the Order of King Abdulaziz of the First Degree for their bravery and service. The award, which is the one of the highest honors in Saudi Arabia, was given in recognition of major services performed for the country, one of its institutions, services and works of significant moral value, or to those who make great sacrifices.

The sacrifice of these two men reaffirms our faith in humanity and we are grateful to them for their bravery and selflessness.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect in memory of both Mr. Al-Rakah, and Mr. Al-Yami, at twenty-seven minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.