

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.**



**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020.**

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Monday, February 24, 2020.

Met at a quarter past eleven o'clock A.M., (Mr. Boncore 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. Boncore), members, guests and staff then recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of allegiance.

Distinguished Guests.

There being no objection, the Chair (Mr. Boncore) handed the gavel to Mr. Tarr for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. Tarr then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, Pasquale F. Russolillo. Major Russolillo was being recognized on his retirement after more than 26 years of service with the Massachusetts State Police. He began his law enforcement career in 1988 as a patrol officer for the Nashua Police Department. In 1993 he joined the Massachusetts State Police and served in the Division Services in Troop A in Andover. During his tenure he held the ranks of Trooper, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Executive Captain and Field Officer in charge of Troop C and in 2017 was promoted to Major and became Commander of 7 State Police Barracks. The Senate welcomed him with applause, wished him well on his retirement and he withdrew from the Chamber. He was accompanied by his wife Frances, daughter Josephine, Detective Mike Grassia, Trooper Elken Arrendondo, Trooper Dale Jenkins, Trooper Cory Mackey, Attorney Patrick Hanley, Lt. Michael Harvey, Lt. Richard Hunter, Sgt. Peter Morawiak and Paul Damore.

Pasquale F. Russolillo.

Report.

Report of Zoo New England (pursuant to Section 7 of Chapter 92B of the General Laws) submitting a copy of its FY19 Legislative Report and Audit (received February 20, 2020),-- was placed on file.

Zoo New England,- report and audit. SD2833

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows

By Mr Tran, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2557) of Dean A. Tran and Stephan Hay (by vote of the town) for legislation to amend the charter for the town of Lunenburg [Local approval received];

Lunenburg.-- town charter.

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

By Ms. Dizoglio, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2561) of Diana DiZoglio (with approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize Nikos Sofronas to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement [Local approval received]; and

Nikos Sofronas.-- civil service exam.

By the same Senator, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2562) (with approval of the mayor and city council) of Diana DiZoglio for legislation to authorize Diana Grullonto take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city

Diana Grullonto.-- civil service exam.

of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement [Local approval received];

**Severally, under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Public Service.  
Severally sent to the House for concurrence.**

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Bruce E. Tarr, Ryan C. Fattman and Dean A. Tran for legislation relative to the MBTA Pension Fund Sustainability;

MBTA,-- pension fund.  
SD2826

By the same Senator, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Bruce E. Tarr, Kenneth I. Gordon and David Allen Robertson for legislation to provide certain retirement benefits for Thomas W. Devlin, a trooper of the Department of State Police; and

Thomas W. Devlin,-- retirement benefits.  
SD2830

By Mr. Welch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of James T. Welch for legislation to protect the health and livelihood of employees of the Roderick L. Ireland Courthouse and Hampden Juvenile Court;

Ireland Courthouse,-- employees.  
SD2829

**Severally, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently**

*Reports of Committees.*

By Mr. Boncore, for the committee on Transportation, on Senate, Nos. 2048, 2051, 2067, 2077, 2106, 2108, 2109, 2145, 2147, 2149 and 2150, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Transportation to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to transportation matters (Senate, No. 2558) [Representative DeCoste of Norwell dissenting];

Transportation committee,-- study.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, Nos. 1046, 2045, 2064, 2068, 2078, 2100, 2101, 2105 and 2126, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Transportation to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to transportation matters II (Senate, No. 2559); and

Id.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, Nos. 1580, 2030, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2058, 2060, 2062, 2065, 2073, 2074, 2081, 2082, 2084, 2086, 2089, 2090, 2104, 2110, 2111, 2114, 2115, 2117, 2119, 2121, 2125, 2127, 2141, 2146, 2148, 2333 and 2380, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee Transportation to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to transportation issues (Senate, No. 2560) [Senator DiZoglio dissents inasmuch as relates to Senate, No. 2074];

Id.

**Severally referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.**

*Committees Discharged.*

Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, reported, asking to be discharged from further consideration

Of the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Public Health to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to public health issues (Senate, No. 2547);

Public Health committee,-- study.

Of the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Labor and Workforce Development, to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to labor and workforce development laws and programs (Senate, No. 2548);

Labor and Workforce Development committee,-- study.

Of the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Revenue, to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to revenue issues (Senate, No. 2549);

Revenue committee,-- study.

Of the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to mental health, substance use and recovery issues (Senate, No. 2550);

Mental Health,  
Substance Use and  
Recovery  
committee,-- study.  
Veterans and Federal  
Affairs committee,--  
study.

Of the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to veterans and federal affairs issues (Senate, No. 2551); and

Telecommunications,  
Utilities and Energy  
committee,-- study.

Of the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to telecommunications, utilities & energy issues (Senate, No. 2552);

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the committee on Rules;

**Under Senate Rule 36, the reports were severally considered forthwith and accepted.**

Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules, to whom was referred the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to children, families and persons with disabilities issues (Senate, No. 2532), reported, in part, asking to be discharged from further consideration of Senate petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 78) of Bruce E. Tarr for legislation relative to mandated reporters of disabled persons abuse,-- **and recommending that the same be recommitted to the committee on the Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.**

Mandated reporters,--  
disabled persons.

**Under Senate Rule 36, the report was considered forthwith and accepted.**

Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules, to whom was referred the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Election Laws to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to election laws issues (Senate, No. 2544), reported, in part, asking to be discharged from further consideration of Senate petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2290) of Walter F. Timilty, Michael D. Brady, Michelle M. DuBois and Alyson M. Sullivan (by vote of the town) for legislation to provide for recall elections in the town of East Bridgewater,-- **and recommending that the same be recommitted to the committee on the Election Laws.**

East Bridgewater,--  
recall elections.

**Under Senate Rule 36, the report was considered forthwith and accepted.**

Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules, to whom was referred the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Public Service to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to public service issues (Senate, No. 2545), reported, in part, asking to be discharged from further consideration of Senate petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1477) of William N. Brownsberger for legislation to protect non-medicare retirees,-- **and recommending that the same be recommitted to the committee on the Public Service.**

Non-medicare  
retirees.

**Under Senate Rule 36, the report was considered forthwith and accepted.**

Mr. Hinds, for the committee on Revenue, reported, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2535) of Marc R. Pacheco, Patricia A. Haddad and Norman J. Orrall (with approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the department of revenue to approve a revised tax rate for the city of Taunton for the fiscal year 2020,-- **and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on the Ways and Means;**

Taunton,-- revised  
tax rate.

**Under Senate Rule 36, the report was considered forthwith and accepted.**

Sent to the House for concurrence insomuch as relates to the discharge of the joint committee.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Bills

Authorizing the city known as the town of Watertown to grant 15 additional licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 4241,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Watertown,-- liquor license.

Authorizing the town of Reading to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (House, No. 4243,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Reading,-- senior tax exemption.

Were severally read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.

Engrossed Bill.

An engrossed Bill further regulating sewers in the town of Auburn (see House, No. 4047) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted and signed by the Acting President (Mr. Boncore) and laid before the Governor for his approbation.

Bill laid before Governor.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Lewis) "commending the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Teachers Association for their celebration of Public Schools Week"; and

American Federation of Teachers.

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Spilka) "commending the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, Inc. for its recognition of February 28, 2020 as Rare Disease Day."

Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, Inc.

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Ryan C. Fattman for legislation to provide for a medical exemption for manufacturer coupons.

Manufacturer coupons,-- exemption. SD2640

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Health Care Financing.

By Mr. Eldridge, for the committee on the Judiciary, on petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Tracey Pisano, an employee of the trial court of the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 2556).

Tracey Pisano,-- sick leave.

The bill was read. There being no objection, the rules were suspended on motion of Mr. Tarr, and the bill was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Petitions were severally referred, in concurrence, as follows, to wit:

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4481) of Peter J. Durant and Anne M. Gobi for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Geo Bernardone, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation;

Geo Bernardone,-- sick leave.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Service.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4480) of Michelle L. Ciccolo and others

Excise tax,--

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

for legislation to create a transportation excise tax to be levied on certain businesses;

**Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Revenue.**

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4479) of Sean Garballey relative to regulating educational requirements for class 2 motor vehicle licensees;

**Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Transportation.**

A Bill establishing an economic development special revenue account for the town of Ashland (House, No. 3953, amended-- on petition),-- was read.

**There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Tarr, and the bill was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

*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 House Bill authorizing the town of Holliston to convert a certain liquor license (House, No. 4118),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

The House Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Paul A. Wilson , an employee of the department of developmental services (House, No. 3900) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

*Reports of a Committee.*

The following reports were laid before the Senate, the time within which the said committee was required to report having expired:--

Of the committee on Election Laws, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 10), on the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 408) of Patricia D. Jehlen, Joan Meschino, Mike Connolly, Jack Patrick Lewis and other members of the General Court for legislation to support working parents who choose to run for public office.

**The rules were suspended, on motion of the Mr. Tarr; and, on motion of the same Senator, the petition was recommitted to the Joint Committee on Election Laws.**

Of the committee on Election Laws, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 10), on the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 389) of Harriette L. Chandler, Andres X. Vargas, Dylan A. Fernandes, Julian Cyr and other members of the General Court for legislation to ensure municipal participation of the widest eligible range.

**The rules were suspended, on motion of the Mr. Tarr; and, on motion of the same Senator, the petition was recommitted to the Joint Committee on Election Laws.**

*Order Adopted.*

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

*Ordered,* That when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M., in a full formal session with a calendar.

On motion of the same Senator, at eleven minutes before twelve o'clock noon, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

business.

Class 2 licensees,-- requirements.

Ashland,--revenue account.

Holliston,-- liquor license.

Paul A. Wilson,-- sick leave.

Working parents,-- public office.

Municipal elections, - civic engagement.

Time of meeting.