
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020.

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Monday, March 23, 2020.

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

Pledge of allegiance.

Report.

Report of the Department of Energy Resources (pursuant to Chapter 25A, Section 12 and Chapter 30A of the Massachusetts General Laws) submitting its 225 CMR 21 Clean Peak Standard Rules and Regulations (received March 20, 2020),-- was placed on file.

DOER,-- Clean Peak Standard. SD2880

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Brownsberger) "congratulating Joseph Markarian on his one hundredth birthday."

Joseph Markarian.

Orders.

Mr. Cyr presented an Order relative to granting the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery until May 15, 2020, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 1144 and 1160, relative to Mental Health and Substance Use matters (Senate, No. 2607).

Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery,-- extension order.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Timilty, and, after remarks, the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

Mr. Eldridge presented an Order relative to granting the committee on the Judiciary relative to granting the committee on the Judiciary until May 12, 2020, within which time to make its final report on current Senate document numbered 2571, relative to Judiciary (Senate, No. 2606).

The Judiciary,-- extension order.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Eldridge, and, after remarks, the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Orders.

The following House Orders (severally approved by the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently) were considered as follows:

Ordered, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Joint Rule 10, the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities be granted until Friday, May 1, 2020 within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 42, 44, 57, 76, 77, 784, 816 and 1242, and House documents numbered 98, 122, 139, 147, 150,

Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities,-- extension order.

174, 1314 and 3221.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Timilty, and the order (House, No. 4570) was considered forthwith; and adopted, in concurrence.

Ordered, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Joint Rule 10, the committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies be granted until Monday, June 1, 2020 within which time to make its final report on current House document numbered 4529.

Economic
Development and
Emerging
Technologies,--
extension order.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Fattman, and the order (House, No. 4574) was considered forthwith; and adopted, in concurrence.

Ordered, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Joint Rule 10, the committee on Higher Education be granted until Thursday, April 30, 2020 within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 737, 741, 744, 752, 754, 758, 765, 769 and 1089, and House documents numbered 43, 481, 1202, 1210, 1211, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1221, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1240, 1245, 1247 and 1248.

Higher Education,--
extension order.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Timilty, and the order (House, No. 4576) was considered forthwith; and adopted, in concurrence.

Ordered, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Joint Rule 10, the committee on Education be granted until Friday, June 5, 2020 within which time to make its final report on current Senate document numbered 289, and House documents numbered 445 and 495.

Education,--
extension order.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Fattman, and the order (House, No. 4540) was considered forthwith; and adopted, in concurrence.

Ordered, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Joint Rule 10, the committee on Transportation be granted until Wednesday, March 25, 2020 within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 7, 2034, 2047, 2049, 2056, 2069, 2071, 2072, 2123, 2137, 2289 and 2536, and House documents numbered 2963, 3040, 3073, 3083, 3116, 3126, 3135, 3156, 3672, 3980 and 4359.

Transportation,--
extension order.

The rules were suspended on motion of Mr. Timilty and the order was considered forthwith.

Pending the question on adoption of the order, Mr. Boncore presented an amendment that the order be amended by striking out the date March 25, 2020 and inserting in place thereof the date Monday, June 1, 2020.

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

The order (House, No. 4520), as amended, was then adopted.

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

Report of a Committee.

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, on House, No. 4398, in part, reported a "Bill granting authority to postpone 2020 municipal elections in the commonwealth and increase voting options in response to the declaration of emergency to respond to COVID-19" (Senate, No. 2608).

Municipal elections,-
- postpone.

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

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Recess.

There being no objection, at twenty-seven minutes before twelve o'clock noon, the Chair (Mr. Eldridge) declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair; and at seventeen minutes past one o'clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Mr. Eldridge the Chair.

Recess.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE

Emergency Preamble Adopted; Engrossed Bill Enacted.

An engrossed Bill granting authority to postpone 2020 municipal elections in the commonwealth and increase voting options in response to the declaration of emergency to respond to COVID-19 (see Senate, No. 2608), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage and containing an emergency preamble, - was laid before the Senate; and, a separate vote being taken in accordance with the requirements of Article LXVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the preamble was adopted, in concurrence, by a vote of 3 to 0.

Municipal elections,-
- postpone.

The bill was signed by the Acting President, (Mr. Eldridge) and sent to the House for enactment.

Subsequently, the bill, which originated in the Senate, came from the House with the endorsement that it had been enacted in that branch.

The Senate then passed the bill to be enacted; and it was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Eldridge) and laid before the Governor for his approbation.

Orders Adopted.

Ms. Spilka offered the following Order:

Ordered, That notwithstanding Senate Orders numbered 2434, amended and 2436 previously adopted setting forth March 31, 2020, as the day for holding elections to fill the vacancies in the Plymouth and Barnstable district and Second Hampden and Hampshire district, due to the governor's executive order 591, declaration of a state of emergency to respond to COVID-19, and to ensure the safety of the citizens of the commonwealth, the Senate hereby amends the date of said elections to fill the said vacancies in said senatorial districts to be Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

Special elections,--
date change.

Nothing in this order shall affect the election results of the primary elections held pursuant to said orders previously adopted.

The rules were suspended on motion on Mr. Fattman and the order was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Timilty,--

Ordered, That when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M., and the Clerk be directed to dispense with the printing of a calendar.

Time of meeting.

On motion of the same Senator, at a twenty-nine minutes past one o'clock P.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday at eleven o'clock A.M.