The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, April 30, 2020

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

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

Pledge of allegiance.

Communications.

The following communications were severally received and placed on file, to wit: Communication from the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to Section 2 of Chapter 41 of the Acts of 2019) submitting its report on payments made from the settlements and judgments account (1599-3384) during the third quarter of FY2020, as of March 31, 2020 (received April 27, 2020); and

Communication from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (pursuant to line item 7061-0010 of Chapter 142 of the Acts of 2019) submitting its FY20 Increasing Student Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Services Legislative Report (received April 28, 2020).

Reports.

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

Report of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (pursuant to Section 89(kk) of Chapter 71 of the General Laws) submitting its FY20 Annual Charter School Data Legislative Report (received April 27, 2020);

Report of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (pursuant to lineitem 7010-1202 of Chapter 41 of the Acts of 2019) submitting its FY20 Digital Literacy Legislative Report (received April 27, 2020); and

Report of the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds (pursuant to Section 2KKK of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its plan for the expenditure from the County Registers Technological Fund (copies having been forwarded as required to the Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Post Audit and Oversight) (received April 28, 2020).

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Pacheco, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on petition, a Bill relative to a special commission to study an appropriate location for a public library in South Boston (Senate, No. 1817); and

By Mr. Boncore, for the committee on Transportation, on petition, a Bill funding a study of passenger service on the housatonic rail line (Senate, No. 2096);

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

By Mr. Welch, for the committee on Financial Services, on petition, a Bill relative to prescription drug voice synthesizers (Senate, No. 577);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to ensure dependent health coverage for adults with disabilities (Senate, No. 585);

Comptroller,-settlements and judgments 3rd quarter report. SD2928 DESE,-- FY20 student access report. SD2930

DESE,-- FY20 charter school report. SD2926

DESE,-- FY20 digital literacy report. SD2927

Barnstable ROD,-tech fund. SD2929

South Boston library,-- study.

Berkshire,-housatonic rail line.

Voice-synthesizers,-coverage.

Health insurance,-adults with disabilities. By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to require health care coverage for the emergency psychiatric services (Senate, No. 590);

By Ms. Comerford, for the committee on Public Health, on petition, a Bill relative to incident reporting at state licensed Department of Public Health and Department of Mental Health Facilities (Senate, No. 1217);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill expanding care for medically underserved areas of the commonwealth (Senate, No. 1221); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1295), a Bill to reduce healthcare costs by promoting non-biased prescriber education (Senate No. 2671);

Severally referred, under Joint Rule 1E, to the committee on Health Care Financing.

By Chang-Diaz, for the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 67), a Bill providing immediate childcare assistance to homeless families (Senate No. 2667);

By Mr. Feeney, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on Senate, Nos. 125 and 137, a Bill to mandate domestic violence and sexual assault awareness education for aestheticians, barbers, cosmetologists, electrologists, hairdressers, manicurists, and massage therapists (Senate, No. 125);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to authorizing temporary liquor licenses to benefit charities (Senate, No. 128);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, a Resolve relative to disclosure of radio frequency notifications (Senate, No. 129, changed in line 38, by striking out the figure "2019" and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- "2020");

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 150), a Bill to modernize public accountancy (Senate No. 2668);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 179), a Bill further regulating business practices between motor vehicle dealers, manufacturers, and distributors (Senate No. 2669);

By Ms. Jehlen, for the committee on Elder Affairs, on Senate, No. 156 and House, No. 599, a Bill protecting the rights of assisted living residents (Senate, No. 2670);

By Ms. Jehlen, for the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, on petition, providing for the protection of emergency responders from dismissal (Senate, No. 1078);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, a Bill relative to justice in the workplace (Senate, No. 1096, changed in line 3, by striking out the figure "6" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- "3");

By Mr. Cyr, for the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, on petition, a Bill relative to best practices for sober homes (Senate, No. 1141);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 1147 and House, No. 1737, a Bill relative to a behavioral health workforce commission (Senate, No. 1147);

By Mr. Moore, for the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, on petition, a Bill establishing a municipal bulk purchasing program for extractors for fire departments (Senate, No. 1410);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to enhance child passenger safety (Senate, No. 1411);

By Mr. Finegold, for the committee on Public Service, on petition, a Bill correcting pension inequity for James G. Clothier (Senate, No. 1495);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 1514 and House, No. 2269, a relative to retirement for nuclear reactor operators (Senate, No. 1514);

Psychiatric services,-- coverage.

Incident reporting.

Loan forgiveness,-health care workers.

Prescriber education,-- promote.

Homeless families,-childcare.

Domestic violence,-education.

Temporary liquor licenses,-- charities.

Cell phones,-- RF radiation.

Public accountancy,-modernization.

Motor vehicle dealers,-- business practices.

Assisted living residents,-- rights.

Emergency responders,-protection. Workplace,-discrimination complaints.

Sober homes,-- best practices.

Behavioral health,-commission.

Extractors,-- bulk purchasing program.

Child passenger,-safety.

James G. Clothier,-pension inequity.

Nuclear reactor operators,-retirement.

By Mr. Pacheco, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on petition, a Bill modernizing procedure for boards and commissions (Senate, No. 1823);

By Mr. Boncore, for the committee on Transportation, on petition, a Bill relative to school bus safety (Senate, No. 2098); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to child passenger safety (Senate, No. 2118);

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

By Ms. Jehlen, for the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1074), a Bill relative to the pooling of tips (Senate No. 2666) [Representative Crocker of Barnstable dissenting]; and

By Mr. Hinds, for the committee on Revenue, on petition, a Bill relative to taxes due upon the death of active duty personnel and the elderly (Senate, No. 1665);

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Bills

Authorizing the county of Dukes County to borrow funds to pay costs of acquiring land, constructing buildings and other facilities as the county shall require, making capital improvements to county facilities, acquiring items of capital equipment, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto (House, No. 4094,-- on petition); and

Changing the position of treasurer in the county of Dukes County to an appointed position (House, No. 4673,-- on House, No. 4095);

Were severally read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules.

Report of Committees.

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 Community Development and Small Business, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 10), on the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2564) of Diana DiZoglio for legislation to support MassMakers.

The rules were suspended, on motion of the Mr. Tran; and, on motion of the same Senator, the petition was recommitted to the Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Business.

Of the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 10), on the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2602) of Michael O. Moore, New England Police Benevolent Association, Hannah Kane, Steven S. Howitt and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to emergency hazard health duty.

The rules were suspended, on motion of the Mr. Tran; and, on motion of the same Senator, the petition was recommitted to the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Home and Security.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill authorizing the town of Leicester to continue the employment of Paul S. Doray (House, No. 4240,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- was read.

Boards and commissions,-- procedures.

Summer's Law.

Child passenger,-safety.

Tips,-pooling.

Active duty personnel,-- taxes.

Dukes County,-funds.

Dukes County,-treasurer.

MassMakers,-support.

Emergency hazard health duty.

Paul S. Doray,-employment.

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

A Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Paula Euber, an employee of the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (House, No. 4662,-- on petition),-- was read.

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

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 Health Care Financing be granted until Friday, June 19, 2020 within which time to make its final report on all matters referred to them, except that said committee shall have 30 days to report on any matter referred to them less than 30 days from said date.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Tran, and the order (House, No. 4675) was considered forthwith; and adopted, in concurrence.

Ordered, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Joint Rule 10, the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities be granted until Tuesday, September 1, 2020 within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 57 and 77, and House documents numbered 139 and 174.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Tran, and the order (House, No. 4674) was considered forthwith; and adopted, in concurrence.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4683) of Tami L. Gouveia and James B. Eldridge that the Water Supply District of Acton be authorized to enter into a lease, license or other disposition of land held for water supply purposes for the construction, operation and maintenance of a solar energy generating and energy storage facility,-- was referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Tran,--

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

Adjournment in Honor of the 72nd Anniversary of the Founding of the State of Israel.

The Senator from Middlesex and Norfolk, Ms. Creem, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in honor of the 72nd Anniversary of the Founding of the State of Israel.

On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition the British mandate of Palestine and, through that vote, created the State of Israel. On May 14, 1948, Israel was officially declared an independent nation.

This year April 29, 2020 marks the 72nd anniversary of the founding of the modern Jewish State of Israel. Since its establishment, the State of Israel has rebuilt a nation and forged a new, democratic and dynamic society. The country has created a unique and vital

Paula Euber,-- sick leave.

Health Care Financing,-extension order.

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

Acton,-- Water Supply District.

Time of meeting.

economic, political, cultural and intellectual life with a rich and diverse culture.

At this time, as Israel shares great challenges with the rest of the world, we recognize the enormous achievements of the State of Israel. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has enjoyed the bonds of friendship and cooperation which have existed between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Israel for more than 7 decades and has partnered with Israel in numerous areas, including life sciences and technology.

The Massachusetts Senate extends its congratulations and best wishes to the State of Israel on its 72nd Anniversary.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect in honor of the 72nd Anniversary of the Founding of the State of Israel, at twenty-five minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Tran, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.