

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021.

[16]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, February 18, 2021.

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

The Chair (Mr. Brownsberger), 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:

Communications from the Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate, announcing the following appointments (pursuant to Section 105 of Chapter 253 of the Acts of 2020) to the special commission established to conduct a study on government use of facial recognition technology in the commonwealth (received February 16, 2021):

Special commission on facial recognition.

- Senator Cynthia Stone Creem
• Senator Adam Gomez
• Professor Maurice Dyson;

Communications from the Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate, announcing the appointment of Senator Michael F. Rush (pursuant to House Order No. 65, amended) as the Senate Chair of the special joint oversight committee on the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke (received February 18, 2021);

Soldiers' Home in Holyoke,-- special oversight committee.

Communication from the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to Section 2E of Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2020) submitting the revised fiscal year 2021 transfer schedules for the following accounts: 1595-1068 Medical Assistance Trust Fund (MATF), 1595-1070 Safety Net Provider Trust Fund (SNTF) and 1595-6370 Regional Transit Authorities (RTA) (received February 12, 2021);

Comptroller,-- revised transfer schedules. SD1641

Communication from the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to Section 2TT of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its report of the activities of the Liability Management and Reduction Fund (received February 18, 2021); and

Comptroller,-- LMRF report. SD1647

Communication from the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to Section 2E of Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2020) submitting the fiscal year 2021 transfer schedules for the following accounts: 1595-0508 Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF), 1595-1071 Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Trust Fund (CBHPP) and 1595-4512 Behavioral Health Outreach, Access and Support Trust Fund (BHOAS) (received February 17, 2021).

Comptroller,-- transfer schedules. SD1648

Reports.

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

Report of the Executive Office of the Trial Court (pursuant to Section 2(c) of Chapter 257 of the Acts of 2020) submitting its report on filings, actions, and dispositions of summary process (eviction) cases for January 2021 (received February 16, 2021);

EOTC,-- summary process report. SD1429

Report of the Department of Mental Health (pursuant to Section 23 of Chapter

DMH,-- CBH annual

19 of the General Laws) submitting its Children’s Behavioral Health Knowledge Center FY2020 Annual Report (received February 18, 2021); and

Report of the Office of the State Auditor (pursuant to Section 17(8) of Chapter 11 of the General Laws) submitting its Bureau of Special Investigations FY2020 Annual Report (received February 18, 2021).

report.
SD1643
Auditor,-- BSI FY20
annual report.
SD1646

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Notice was received from the House of Representatives announcing the following appointment by the Minority Leader:

Norwood Police Chief William G. Brooks, III to the special legislative commission established (under Section 105 of Chapter 253 of the Acts of 2020) to conduct a study on government use of facial recognition technology in the Commonwealth;

Facial Recognition
Commission.

Representative David T. Vieira of Falmouth (under Section 106 of Chapter 253 of the Acts of 2020) to the Special Legislative Early Education and Care Economic Review Commission;

Early Education and
Care Review
Commission.

Representative Hannah Kane of Shrewsbury (under Section 26 of Chapter 260 of the Acts of 2020) to the Rare Disease Advisory Council;

Rare Disease
Advisory Council.

Representative Timothy R. Whelan of Brewster to the special legislative commission established (under Section 107 of Chapter 253 of the Acts of 2020) to study and examine the civil service law, personnel administration rules, hiring procedures and by-laws for municipalities not subject to the civil service law and state police hiring practices; and

Civil Service Law
Commission.

Representative Matthew J. Muratore of Plymouth (under Section 1 of Chapter 253 of the Acts of 2020) to the Permanent Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities.

Status of Persons
with Disabilities
Commission.

Messages were severally referred, in concurrence, as follows:

A message from His Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to financing the reconstruction of the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke (House, No. 64);

Holyoke,--
Soldiers’ Home.

To the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

A message from His Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges (House, No. 57);

Roads and bridges.

To the committee on Transportation.

House Order.

The House Order relative to the oversight committee established to make an investigation and study of the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke COVID-19 outbreak (House, No. 65),-- came from the House adopted by that branch.

Holyoke,-- Soldiers’
Home.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Ms. O’Connor, and the order was considered forthwith.

Pending the question on adoption of the order, Ms. Lovely presented an amendment that the order be amended by striking the text in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following new text:-

“*Ordered*, That, notwithstanding the provisions of an order previously adopted, the member designated as the House chair of the joint committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs for the 191st session of the General Court and a member designated by the President of the Senate shall serve as the House and Senate chair, respectively, of the oversight committee established to make an investigation and study of the

Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke COVID-19 outbreak.”

The amendment was adopted.

The House order, as amended, was adopted in concurrence, with amendment.

Sent to the House for concurrence in the Senate amendment.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of John K. Spencer.

Moment of silence.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

The House Order establishing special joint committee for redistricting (House, No. 66),-- came from the House adopted by that branch.

Redistricting.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O’Connor, and the order was considered forthwith and adopted, in concurrence.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. O’Connor,--

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

Time of meeting.

Adjournment in Memory of John K. Spencer.

The Senator from Essex, Ms. Lovely, presented a request that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of John K. Spencer, of Topsfield.

John K. Spencer passed away peacefully on December 21, 2020 due to complications from cancer. He was born on March 19, 1948 in Winchester, Massachusetts, the son of Patricia and Kendall Spencer.

John graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Architecture from Princeton University in 1970, and later attended American University and Harvard University for graduate degrees. He married his wife Judy in 1990, and together they raised their two children, Alan and Erin.

John spent many summers on Conomo Point in Essex growing up, and later Cape Ann. An avid boater, John enjoyed spending time by the water surrounded by family and loved ones.

John was a passionate supporter of the Town of Topsfield and its people. He served as President and Board Member of ABC Masconomet, was a dedicated member of the Masconomet Regional School Committee for 15 years, and most recently was Chairman of the Select Board of Topsfield.

John touched countless lives over the years and is remembered as a thoughtful, caring, supportive and incredible leader and visionary.

He is survived by his wife, Judy; children Alan and Erin; and a sister Jane Sears and her children.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect in memory of John K. Spencer, at nineteen minutes past eleven o’clock A.M., on motion of Mr. O’Connor, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o’clock A.M.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.