

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021.

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, March 11, 2021.

Met at twenty-one minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Brownsberger 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. 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:

Communication from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (pursuant to line item 4000-0005 of Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2020) submitting its Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) FY20 Annual Report (received March 8, 2021); and

EOHHS,-- SSYI report. SD2517

Communication from the Department of Public Health (pursuant to Chapter 287 of the Acts of 2020) submitting its updated status of the Long Term Care Facility Report (received March 9, 2021).

DPH,-- LTCF report status update. SD2521

Reports.

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

Report of the Bristol County District Attorney's Office (pursuant to Section 99R of Chapter 272 of the General Laws) submitting its annual report of wiretap interceptions for the 2020 calendar year (received March 8, 2021);

Bristol DA,-- wiretap. SD2518

Report of the Office of the Inspector General (pursuant to Section 86 of Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2020) submitting its report entitled "MassHealth and Health Safety Net: 2020 Annual Report" (received March 8, 2021);

OIG,-- health safety net report. SD2520

Report of the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (pursuant to Section 21(3)(f) of Chapter 32 of the General Laws) submitting its report relative to Cost of Living Adjustments for retirees and beneficiaries (received January 11, 2021);

PERAC,-- COLA report. SD2522

Report of the Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office (pursuant to Section 99R of Chapter 272 of the General Laws) submitting its annual report of wiretap interceptions for the 2020 calendar year (received January 11, 2021);

Cape & Islands DA,-- wiretap. SD2523

Report of the Essex County District Attorney's Office (pursuant to Section 99R of Chapter 272 of the General Laws) submitting its annual report of wiretap interceptions for the 2020 calendar year (received January 11, 2021); and

Essex DA,-- wiretap. SD2524

Report of the Office of the Attorney General (pursuant to Section 99R of Chapter 272 of the General Laws) submitting its annual report of wiretap interceptions for the 2020 calendar year (received January 11, 2021).

AGO,-- wiretap. SD2525

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Petitions.

The following petition (having been presented prior to five o'clock P.M., on Friday, February 19, 2021) was referred, as follows:

By Mr. Collins, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 33) of Nick Collins (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to direct the city of Boston police department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Daryle Lamonica [Local approval received];

To the committee on Senate Rules.

Boston,--
Daryle Lamonica.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Mr. Brady, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 31) of Michael D. Brady, Walter F. Timilty and Alyson M. Sullivan (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize certain investments by the Treasurer of the town of East Bridgewater [Local approval received];

Under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Senate Rules.

East Bridgewater,--
investments.

By Mr. Brownsberger (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Joan Hoffman for legislation relative to COVID vaccine eligibility; and

COVID,-- vaccine
eligibility.
SD2519

By Ms. DiZoglio, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Diana DiZoglio for legislation relative to public employee income protection;

State employee,--
wages. SD2526

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

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Ms. Maureen Cavanagh of North Reading has been appointed to serve as his designee to the Advisory Council established (under Chapter 309 of the Acts of 2020) on the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund.

Opioid Recovery and
Remediation Fund
Advisory Council.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Velis) "commending the World Sikh Parliament on their observance of the Sikh new year on March 14, 2021."

World Sikh
Parliament.

Report of a Committee.

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the House Bill further providing for early voting by mail (House, No. 73) [also based on Senate, No. 28],-- ought to pass, with an amendment adding the following section:-

Early voting.

"SECTION 8. Said chapter 255 is hereby further amended by adding the following subsection:-

(m) A voter who is blind or has a vision impairment, a mobility or dexterity disability or other disability that makes it difficult or impossible for the voter to effectively access a paper vote by mail ballot because the voter cannot independently read, write, hold or physically manipulate standard print materials may request an accommodation from their local election official by phone or electronically. The request shall be received by the local election official not later than the fourth

business day before the election. Upon receiving such a request from a voter, the local election official shall make reasonable efforts to grant accommodations to the voter.”.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Boncore and the bill was read a second time and, after remarks, was amended, as recommended by the committee on Ways and Means.

The bill, as amended, was then ordered to a third reading and read a third time.

The question on passing the bill to be engrossed was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at ten minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Lewis as follows, to wit (yeas 40 – nays 0) [**Yeas and Nays No. 18**]:

YEAS.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Barrett, Michael J. | Gomez, Adam |
| Boncore, Joseph A. | Hinds, Adam G. |
| Brady, Michael D. | Jehlen, Patricia D. |
| Brownsberger, William N. | Keenan, John F. |
| Chandler, Harriette L. | Kennedy, Edward J. |
| Chang-Diaz, Sonia | Lesser, Eric P. |
| Collins, Nick | Lewis, Jason M. |
| Comerford, Joanne M. | Lovely, Joan B. |
| Creem, Cynthia Stone | Montigny, Mark C. |
| Crighton, Brendan P. | Moore, Michael O. |
| Cronin, John J. | Moran, Susan L. |
| Cyr, Julian | O'Connor, Patrick M. |
| DiDomenico, Sal N. | Pacheco, Marc R. |
| DiZoglio, Diana | Rausch, Rebecca L. |
| Eldridge, James B. | Rodrigues, Michael J. |
| Fattman, Ryan C. | Rush, Michael F. |
| Feeney, Paul R. | Spilka, Karen E. |
| Finegold, Barry R. | Tarr, Bruce E. |
| Friedman, Cindy F. | Timilty, Walter F. |
| Gobi, Anne M. | Velis, John C. – 40. |

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at three minutes before twelve o'clock noon, the bill was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence with the amendment.

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill relative to accountability for vulnerable children and families (House, No. 88,-- on House, No. 87),-- **was read and, on motion of Ms. Lovely, referred to the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.**

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Report of a Committee.

Mr. DiDomenico, for the committee on Bills in the Third Reading, to whom was referred the amendment recommended by His Excellency the Governor to the engrossed Bill creating a next-generation roadmap for Massachusetts climate policy (see Senate, No. 9) [for message, see Senate, No. 13],-- reported, that the amendment recommended by the Governor be considered in the form reported by committee (for

Vulnerable children.

Climate policy.

report, see Senate, No. 30).—

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Boncore, and the report was considered forthwith

Pending the question on acceptance of the report, after remarks, Mr. Tarr moved that the matter be laid on the table; and, under the provisions of Senate Rule 24, the further consideration thereof was laid over until the next session.

Moment of Silence.

The Chair (Mr. Brownsberger), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Doris Bunte.

Moment of silence.

Recess.

There being no objection, at eleven minutes before one o'clock P.M., the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair; and, at twelve minutes past five o'clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair.

Recess.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE

Emergency Preamble Adopted; Engrossed Bill Enacted.

An engrossed Bill further providing for early voting by mail (see House, No. 73, amended), 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 2 to 0.

Early voting.

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

Subsequently, the bill, which originated in the House, 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. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for his approbation.

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. in a full formal session with a calendar.

Time of meeting.

Adjournment in Memory of Doris Bunte.

The Senator from Middlesex and Norfolk, Ms. Creem, and the Senator from the Second Suffolk District, Ms. Chang-Diaz, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn in memory of Doris Bunte of Boston and Brookline, who passed away on February 15, 2021 at the age of 87.

Doris was born in New York City on July 2, 1933 and grew up on the Lower East side of Manhattan where she attended public schools. She relocated to Boston

in 1953 and lived with her three children in the Orchard Park Housing Projects. There she became a tenants' activist, joining the Management Council and co-founding the Boston Public Housing Tenants Policy Council in 1968.

In 1969, Boston Mayor Kevin White selected Doris to serve on the Board of the Boston Housing Authority (BHA).

In 1972, Doris became the first African American woman elected to the Massachusetts legislature. She was elected State Representative for the 7th Suffolk District representing Roxbury and parts of Dorchester, and she went on to be re-elected five times, serving from 1973 until 1984. During her tenure she founded the Massachusetts Committee of Women Legislators and was one of three founding members of the Massachusetts Legislative Black Caucus. She also returned to school, and in 1978 Doris earned a certificate of environmental studies from Harvard Graduate School of Design, and received a Master's Degree in education in 1982.

In 1984, Boston Mayor Ray Flynn appointed Doris to lead the Boston Housing Authority. She was the first former resident of public housing to head a major public housing authority in the United States. At that time the BHA was grappling with court-ordered integration of BHA properties and rehabilitation of thousands of public housing units systemwide. She served until 1992. She went on to work at Boston University School of Public Health and Northeastern University Center for Sport in Society before retiring in 2010.

Doris was a lifelong advocate for public housing and for assistance to low income residents. She was an activist for social justice, as well as a young mother in politics when that was nearly unheard of. Doris was pivotal for other young mothers and people on welfare, supporting and providing them the tools to advocate for themselves. She was a voice for people who didn't come from means and pushed systems to treat Black residents on welfare with dignity at a time when many others in our political discourse were rushing to vilify them with ugly stereotypes. The Massachusetts Senate has recently honored her legacy by including her in the HERstory II photo exhibit in Senate President Karen Spilka's office at the State House.

Doris was a member of NAHRO, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Organizations, and the founder of the Alliance of Black Directors of Public Housing Agencies nationally. In 2018 the Boston Housing Authority renamed the Walnut Park Project at 1990 Columbus Avenue in her honor, and these units are now known as the Doris Bunte Apartments.

Doris is survived by a daughter, a son, three grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and six great-great grandchildren. She will be missed by the communities of Boston and Brookline and by all those who knew her and all those now just learning about her impressive history.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Doris Bunte, at twenty minutes past five o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.