

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, September 13, 2021.

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

Pledge of allegiance.

Report.

Report of the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds (pursuant to Section 2KKK(a) of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its plan for 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 September 9, 2021),-- was placed on file.

Norfolk ROD,-- tech fund report. SD2757

Petition.

Ms. Creem presented a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2530) of Cynthia Stone Creem and Tommy Vitolo (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize citizens in the town of Brookline who have reached the age of sixteen years or older to register and vote in municipal election with the town [Local approval received];

Brookline,-- youth voters.

Referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Election Laws. Sent to the House for concurrence.

Report of a Committee.

By Mr. Lewis, for the committee on Education, on Senate, Nos. 370 and 1973 and House, Nos. 563 and 692, a Bill concerning genocide education (Senate, No. 2525) [Representative Pease of Westfield dissenting];

Genocide education.

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

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE

Emergency Preamble Adopted.

An engrossed Bill providing for the terms of certain bonds for transportation improvements to be issued by the Commonwealth (see House Bill, printed in House, No. 3972), 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.

Bond and notes,-- terms.

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

Communication.

The following communication, which was received in the Office of the Clerk of the Senate at thirteen minutes before two o'clock P.M. on Thursday, September 9, 2021, was read and placed on file to wit:

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

September 9, 2021

The Honorable Karen E. Spilka
Senate President
24 Beacon Street – Room 332
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senate President Spilka,

I hereby irrevocably resign from my position as State Senator for the First Suffolk and Middlesex district as of 11:59P.M. on September 10, 2021.

It has been my pleasure serving under your leadership and serving in this body has been the honor of my lifetime.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Boncore
State Senator

First Suffolk and Middlesex District

On motion of Mr. Fattman, the above communication was ordered printed in the Journal of the Senate.

Ordered printed.

Order Adopted.

Ms. Spilka offered the following order, to wit:

Ordered, That by the authority of Article IV of Section II of Chapter I of the Constitution, the Senate declares that, by reason of the resignation of Joseph A. Boncore as Senator from the First Suffolk and Middlesex district, the office of senator from the First Suffolk and Middlesex district is vacant. By the authority of Article XXIV of the Amendments to the Constitution, the Senate directs the president of the Senate to issue a precept setting forth January 11, 2022, as the day for holding an election to fill the vacancy in the First Suffolk and Middlesex district, comprising of the cities of Boston, ward 1, precincts 1 to 14, inclusive, ward 3, precincts 1 to 4, inclusive, 6 and 8, and ward 5, precinct 1, 3 to 5, inclusive, and 11, Revere and the town of Winthrop, all in the county of Suffolk; and the city of Cambridge, ward 2, precincts 2 and 3, ward 4, precincts 1 and 3, and ward 5, all in the county of Middlesex.

Precepts,-- First
Suffolk and
Middlesex District.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Fattman, and the order (Senate, No. 2531) was considered forthwith and adopted.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Collins) “commending the Greater Boston Sickle Cell Disease Association, Inc., for its recognition of September 2021 as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month.”

The Greater Boston
Sickle Cell Disease
Association, Inc.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Matter Taken Out of the Orders of the Day.

The following matter was taken out of the Orders of the Day and considered as follows:

The House Bill authorizing Justin Brown to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the town of Arlington (House, No. 3755),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Arlington,-- Justin Brown.

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Li Zang, an employee of the Department of Unemployment Assistance (Senate, No. 2527);

Li Zang,-- sick leave.

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 and ordered to a third reading.

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Lisa Sbrogna, an employee of the Department of Mental Health (Senate, No. 2528);

Lisa Sbrogna,-- sick leave.

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 and ordered to a third reading.

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 Patrick M. O'Connor for legislation relative to small businesses and the sale of certain cultural products;

Small businesses,-- cultural products. SD2551

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Fattman, and the report was considered forthwith, Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

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 Paul R. Feeney and Tackey Chan for legislation to revitalize agriculture, conditioning and simulcasting;

TRACS Act. SD2738

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Fattman, and the report was considered forthwith, Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

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 Patrick M. O'Connor for legislation relative to an insulin patient assistance program;

Insulin,-- patient assistance. SD2739

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Fattman, and the report was considered forthwith, Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Financial Services.

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 Patrick M. O'Connor for legislation relative to H-2B worker mobility.

H-2B worker mobility. SD2736

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Fattman, and the report was considered forthwith, Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Transportation.

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 Sean P. Gleason for legislation to designate a certain bridge in the city of Haverhill as the Ted and Mary Murphy Bridge.

Haverhill,-- bridge. SD2689

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Fattman, and the report was considered forthwith, Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Transportation.
Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4108) of Carmine Lawrence Gentile, James B. Eldridge and Michael J. Barrett (by vote of the town) that the town of Sudbury be authorized to transfer a certain parcel of land in said town to Theodore Orenstein and Judith Aronson Webb;

Sudbury,-- land transfer.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 7B, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4109) of Christine P. Barber relative to collaborative drug therapy management optimization;

Drug therapy,-- management.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4110) of Steven Ultrino, Paul J. Donato and Jason M. Lewis relative to charter schools and the uniform procurement act;

Charter schools,-- uniform procurement.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Engrossed Bill.

An engrossed Bill providing for the terms of certain bonds for transportation improvements to be issued by the Commonwealth (see House Bill, printed in House, No. 3972) (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, two-thirds of the members present having voted in the affirmative, and it was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Crighton) and laid before the Governor for his approbation.**

Bill laid before the Governor.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Crighton), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection in memory of Madeline Varitimos.

Moment of silence.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Fattman,--

Ordered, That when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Thursday 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 Madeline Varitimos.

The Senator from Essex, Ms. DiZoglio, moved that when the Senate adjourns today it do so in memory of Madeline Varitimos of Methuen.

Madeline (Broaca) Varitimos passed away peacefully after a short period of declining health on Tuesday, August 24, 2021.

Madeline was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, daughter of the late Victor and Stephanie (Orpel) Broaca. She attended St. Laurence O'Toole and was a proud member of Lawrence High School, class of 1957. Madeline attended Merrimack College and took several classes at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

She was President and CEO of Hi-Ridge Manufacturing, worked for many years for the Methuen Public School Department, and retired from working life as Executive Assistant for the City of Methuen. Madeline also cherished her role as business partner in Madeline & Pollard, a clothing boutique in Andover.

Much of Madeline's personal and professional life was dedicated to community activism and service. She took great joy in helping others and improving her adopted hometown of Methuen.

Madeline turned her passion for historic preservation into a role as a founding member of the Tenney Preservation Association. It was thanks to her tireless advocacy, organization, and work in the early 1980s to mobilize residents and government to save the former Tenney Estate that these beloved treasures are still here for us to enjoy today.

Madeline served on the City of Methuen's Historic District Commission, Conservation Commission, and Edwin J. Castle Fund, and was most recently Chairwoman of the Board of Registrars. She was also a member of the Friends of the Nevins Library and a longtime supporter and volunteer at the Methuen Festival of Trees. Madeline also gave her time to the Board of the Stephen Barker PTO.

She was also known for being quick to lend a hand and was a regular in Massachusetts politics. A "volunteer's volunteer," she was forever knocking on doors, leading phone banks, and arguing passionately with friends, family, and strangers about the issues of the day. She was a leader in the local chapter of the League of Women Voters, attended local and state-wide caucuses and was named Democrat of the Year in 1996. She served on the Commonwealth's Energy Facilities Siting Council at the appointment of Governor Michael Dukakis.

Faith was central to Madeline's life. After converting to Greek Orthodoxy in 1968. She served as Treasurer of the Ladies Philoptochos for many years. Proud of her Polish and Lithuanian heritage, she nonetheless became an ardent Hellene, mastering Greek cooking and traditions.

Yet nothing held a larger place in Madeline's life than her family and friends. She was a huge proponent of the "big tent" approach to life—the more people, the better. She loved to entertain, keeping her heart and home open to anyone who wanted to be in it. Madeline enjoyed 53 years of magic with her husband, Ted—who never stopped making her smile and blush with his piercing blue eyes. Her loss leaves a hole in the hearts of so many.

Madeline is survived by her husband, Theodore Varitimos, and their two children, Antonina Edwards and her husband, Charles of Charlotte, NC, and Eleni Varitimos and her husband, Kevin Higginbottom of Methuen; as well as her cherished sister, Elizabeth Heffernan of Andover. She also leaves behind four grandchildren: Stephanie Margaret Edwards, Theodore Richard Higginbottom, Madeline Pamela Edwards, and Henry James Tiberius Higginbottom. Also left to mourn are her brother-in-law, Nick Varitimos; a niece and nephew; several great-nieces, great-nephews, and many cousins.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Madeline Varitimos, at twenty minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Fattman, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.