

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.**



**THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022**

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, April 21, 2022.

Met at five 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.

Communication.

Communication from the Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate, announcing the appointment of L'Merchie Frazier (pursuant to Section 20 of Chapter 6 of the General Laws) to the State House Art Commission (received April 20, 2022),-- was placed on file.

Art Commission,-- appointment.

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 March 2022 (received April 15, 2022);

EOTC,-- summary process report. SD3110

Report of the Department of Transitional Assistance (pursuant to Section 2(B)(s) of Chapter 18 of the General Laws) submitting its FY22 Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Photo Requirement Exemptions Report (received April 19, 2022);

DTA,-- EBT report. SD3111

Report of the Department of Transitional Assistance (pursuant to Section 2(B)(r) of Chapter 18 of the General Laws) submitting its FY22 Report on Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) Eligible Noncitizen Status Clients (copies having been forwarded as required to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities) (received April 19, 2022);

DTA,-- noncitizen report. SD3112

Report of the Department of Transitional Assistance (pursuant to Section 32 of Chapter 158 of the Acts of 2014) submitting its fiscal year 2022 report on agency paper reduction efforts (received April 19, 2022); and

DTA,-- paper reduction report. SD3113

Report of the PFAS Interagency Task Force (pursuant to Section 98 of Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2020, as amended by Section 65 of Chapter 42 of the Acts of 2022) submitting its final report of findings and recommendations (received April 21, 2022).

PFAS Interagency Task Force,-- report. SD3117

Petition.

Ms. Jehlen presented a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2841) of Patricia D. Jehlen, Christine P. Barber, Mike Connolly and Erika Uytterhoeven (with approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the city of Somerville to continue the employment of Charles J. Femino as acting chief of police [Local approval received];

Somerville,-- chief of police.

Referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Public Service.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

*Report of a Committee.*

By Mr. Hinds, for the committee on Revenue, on petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Brookline to establish a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption (Senate, No. 2803) [Local approval received];

Brookline,-- property tax exemption.

**Read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.**

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A message from His Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to eliminating a sub-precinct in the town of Medway (House, No. 4708),-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Election Laws.**

Medway,-- voting precinct.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4712) of John Barrett, III and Adam G. Hinds (by vote of the town) that the town of Lanesborough be authorized to continue the employment of certain members of the fire department of said town,-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Public Service.**

Lanesborough,-- fire department.

A Bill relative to tax title expense (House, No. 2150, changed,-- on petition),-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules.**

Tax title,-- expense.

*Reports of Committees.*

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 Marc Plante for legislation relative to health insurance companies requiring re-authorization.

Health insurance,-- re-authorization. SD2874

**Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Ms. Lovely, 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 Gina Martiniello for legislation relative to vehicle registration and road safety.

Motor vehicle insurance. SD3087

**Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Ms. Lovcly, 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.**

**Severally sent to the House for concurrence.**

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill authorizing the town of Amherst to continue the employment of Walter (Tim) Nelson (House, No. 4593,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- was read.

Amherst,-- fire chief employment.

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

*Resolutions.*

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Fattman) “commending the Dudley Gendron Post 414 American Legion in the town of Sutton on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of its establishment”; and

Dudley Gendron Post 414 American Legion.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Tarr) “congratulating the Knights of Columbus, Council

Knights of Columbus, Council

215 in the city of Gloucester on its one hundred and twenty fifth anniversary.”

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*Moment of Silence.*

At the request of the Chair (Ms. Lovely), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection in memory of George Corriea Mello.

Moment of silence.

*Report of a Committee.*

Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules, reported that the following matter be placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session:

The House Bill designating the Podokesaurus holyokensis as the official dinosaur of the Commonwealth (House, No. 3190) (also based on Senate, No. 2028).

Dinosaur of the Commonwealth.

**There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Ms. Lovely, and the bill was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

*Matter Taken Out of the Orders of the Day.*

There being no objection, the following matter was taken out of the Orders of the Day and considered as follows:

The House Bill authorizing the town of Lancaster to continue the employment of Maurice Bateman (House, No. 3760),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Lancaster,-- Maurice Bateman.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

The Senate Bill renaming the Board of Selectmen in the town of Cohasset to the Select Board and making certain other related gender-neutral changes (Senate, No. 2706),-- came from the House passed to be engrossed, in concurrence *with an amendment*, striking out section 15 and inserting in place thereof the following 2 sections:-

Cohasset,-- select board.

“SECTION 15. Notwithstanding sections 21 and 32 of chapter 40 or section 5 of chapter 40A of the General Laws or any general or special law to the contrary, the select board of the town of Cohasset may amend the general by laws and zoning by-laws of the town by majority vote to revise all references to the board of selectmen and its members to select board and select board member respectively.

SECTION 16. This act shall take effect upon its passage.”

**The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Tarr, and the House amendment was considered forthwith and adopted, in concurrence.**

*Emergency Preamble Adopted.*

An engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Kim Souza, an employee of the Trial Court (see Senate, No. 2702), 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.

Kim Souza,-- sick leave.

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

*Engrossed Bills.*

The following engrossed bills (both of which originated in the Senate), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, were severally passed to be enacted and were signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for his approbation, to wit:

Establishing a sick leave bank for Kim Souza, an employee of the Trial Court (see Senate, No. 2702); and

Establishing a sick leave bank for Shana Hicks, an employee of the department of public health (see Senate, No. 2792).

Bills laid before the Governor.

*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., and that the Clerk be directed to dispense with the printing of a calendar.

Time of meeting.

*Adjournment in Memory of George Corriea Mello.*

The Senator from Essex, Ms. Lovely, moved that when the Senate adjourns today it do so in memory of George Corriea Mello.

George Corriea Mello passed away peacefully on January 14, 2022, surrounded by his loving family at the age of 101. Born on April 11, 1920, to Manuel and A. Mello, George and his siblings all grew up and lived in the North Shore.

In 1942, George enlisted in the Navy, and spent three years serving his country in the Pacific Theater during World War II. After he was honorably discharged, George received the World War II Victory Medal, as well as the Asiatic Pacific Ribbon, as a true merit to his service. After returning home from the War, George worked in the mechanical division of AC Lawrence, and was also a truck driver for them for many years. George was introduced to the love of his life, Hilda Szopka, at the St. Joseph's Club and they were happily married for over 50 years, until Hilda's passing in 2005.

In the later part of his life, George continued to serve his community as a transport driver for the Salem Council on Aging. When George wasn't working, spending quality time with his family, or out dancing with his wife Hilda, he was likely out fishing, or on the water. Even into his 90's, George would walk and exercise every day and would continue his Navy Calisthenics long after he left the service. Above all else, George will be remembered for being a great dad.

George is survived by his sons; George Mello Jr. and his wife Susan; and Richard Mello and his wife Beverly; his grandson Kevin Mello and his wife Erica; his great-grandchildren; Alyssa, Amber, Anthony and Samuel Mello; and his faithful dog Lincoln. George is predeceased by his parents, Manuel and A. Mello; his loving wife Hilda; his siblings Mildred, Jeannette, Emma, Florence, John and William Mello; and his grandson Barry Mello.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of George Corriea Mello, at twenty-four minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.