
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, December 4, 2023.

Met at six 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.

Reports.

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

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to Sections 5, 20 and 21 of Chapter 111 of the General Laws) relative to inspection of Western Massachusetts Recovery and Wellness Center (received December 4, 2023); and

DPH,-- facility inspection. SD2883

Report of the Executive Office of Economic Development (pursuant to Section 16G of Chapter 6A of the General Laws) submitting the Commonwealth's economic development plan (received December 4, 2023)

EOED,-- economic development plan. SD2884

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 Senate Bill relative to property tax deferral for seniors in the city of Taunton (Senate, No. 2368),-- was read a third time.

Taunton,-- property tax.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Pacheco moved that the bill be amended by substituting a new draft entitled "An Act establishing a senior property tax deferral program in the city of Taunton" (Senate, No. 2517).

The amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 2517), was then passed to be engrossed.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

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 Alfred "Al" Ricko.

Moment of silence.

Recess.

There being no objection, at sixteen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair; and at twenty-two minutes past three o'clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair.

Recess.

Order Adopted.

Messrs. Tarr, Durant, Fattman and O'Connor offered the following order, to wit:

Ordered, That, the provisions of Joint Rule 12A shall not apply to the following bill: House bill No. 4204, An Act making appropriations for the fiscal year 2023 for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects.

Joint Rule 12A.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Tarr, and the order was considered

forthwith and adopted.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A report of the committee of conference of the disagreeing votes of the two branches, with reference to the Senate amendments to the House Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2023 for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (House, No. 4171) (*amended by the Senate* by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 2502),-- reported, in part, a "Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2023 for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects" (House, No. 4204),-- came from the House, and was read.

Supplemental appropriations.

Mr. Rodrigues moved that the rules be suspended to consider the matter forthwith.

The question on suspension of the rules, was determined by a standing vote, on motion of Mr. Tarr, and it was suspended by a vote of 20 to 3.

The question on acceptance of the conference report, was determined by a standing vote, on motion of Mr. Tarr, and it was accepted, in concurrence by a vote of 20 to 3.

Emergency Preamble Adopted; Engrossed Bill Enacted.

An engrossed Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2023 for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (see House, No. 4204), 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 12 to 1.

Id.

The bill was signed by the President 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 President and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

Ordered, That, when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Time of meeting.

Adjournment in Memory of Alfred "Al" Ricko.

The Senator from Essex, Mr. Crighton moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Alfred "Al" Ricko who passed away peacefully on Tuesday, November 22, 2022.

Al shared 62 wonderful years of marriage with his wife Agnes. He was known for his caring nature, warm demeanor, and love for his family and community.

A lifelong resident of Lynn, Al attended Lynn Public Schools, received his Bachelor's Degree from Northeastern University and a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Anna Maria College.

Al was proud to be a veteran of the United States Army, where he was a Nike Ajax Missile Specialist, from 1958 to 1961. In addition to honorably serving his country, he was a distinguished and proud member of the Lynn Police Department for 38 years.

Al was always actively involved in his sons' activities including coaching their Little League teams. Papou, as his grandchildren called him, rarely missed functions and was a constant presence actively cheering on the sidelines of their numerous sporting events.

Throughout his exemplary life, Al taught us many lessons; about humility, kindness, the importance of gentle good humor, and the unwavering support of his loving spouse as she embarked on a life in politics at a time when women were too often not heard or recognized in the arena. Al carved out his own role as staple in local, state and national elections. He served 52 years as an elected member of the Lynn Democratic City Committee, 34 of which were as Ward 7 Chair.

Al knew that Agnes had a role to play in electing candidates who would make people's lives better and he stood by her side as she did just that. That was just one of the numerous ways Al was an example for us all.

He is survived by his beloved wife Agnes; his two sons, Alfred of Lynn and Anthony and his wife Donna of Westford; his five grandchildren, Nicole Doucette and her husband Jim of Lynn, Amanda of Peabody and Christopher, Jonathan and Jacqueline of Westford as well as his many beloved nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. He was predeceased by his sister Helen Finocchiaro of Lawrence.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Alfred "Al" Ricko, at twenty-five minutes before five o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Velis, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.