

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.**



**MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023**

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## JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, December 11, 2023.

Met at eighteen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Collins in the Chair) (having been appointed by the President, under authority conferred by Senate Rule 4, to perform the duties of the Chair).

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The Chair (Mr. Collins), members, guests and staff then recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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Pledge of allegiance.

### *Communications.*

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

Communication from the Honorable Bruce E. Tarr, Minority Leader, announcing the following changes in membership to Joint Standing Committees of the House and Senate and to the Standing Committees of the Senate:

Minority committee changes.

### *Senate Standing Committees.*

*Ways and Means.*-- Senator Peter J. Durant of Worcester and Hampshire to replace Senator Bruce E. Tarr of First Essex and Middlesex.

*Juvenile and Emerging Adult Justice.* -- Senator Peter J. Durant of Worcester and Hampshire to replace Senator Bruce E. Tarr of First Essex and Middlesex.

*Personnel and Administration.* -- Senator Peter J. Durant of Worcester and Hampshire to replace Senator Patrick M. O'Connor of First Plymouth and Norfolk.

*Post Audit and Oversight.* -- Senator Peter J. Durant of Worcester and Hampshire to replace Senator Patrick M. O'Connor of First Plymouth and Norfolk.

### *Joint Standing Committees.*

*Community Development and Small Business.*-- Senator Peter J. Durant of Worcester and Hampshire to replace Senator Patrick M. O'Connor of First Plymouth and Norfolk.

*Economic Development and Emerging Technology.* -- Senator Peter J. Durant of Worcester and Hampshire to replace Senator Patrick M. O'Connor of First Plymouth and Norfolk.

*Public Health.* -- Senator Peter J. Durant of Worcester and Hampshire to replace Senator Patrick M. O'Connor of First Plymouth and Norfolk.

*Cannabis Policy.* -- Senator Peter J. Durant of Worcester and Hampshire to replace Senator Ryan C. Fattman of Worcester and Hampden.

*Elder Affairs.* -- Senator Peter J. Durant of Worcester and Hampshire to replace Senator Ryan C. Fattman of Worcester and Hampden.

*Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development.* -- Senator Peter J. Durant of Worcester and Hampshire to replace Senator Ryan C. Fattman of Worcester and Hampden.

*Municipalities and Regional Government.* -- Senator Peter J. Durant of Worcester and Hampshire to replace Senator Bruce E. Tarr of First Essex and Middlesex.

*State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.* -- Senator Peter J. Durant of Worcester and Hampshire to replace Senator Bruce E. Tarr of First Essex and Middlesex; and

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

Communication from the Department of Public Health relative to its plan of correction for the Western Massachusetts Recovery and Wellness Center inspection on November 30, 2023 (received December 11, 2023).

DPH,-- plan of correction.  
SD2891

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Bills

Authorizing the town of Reading to dissolve its Affordable Housing Trust Fund (House, No. 1341, amended,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Reading,-- Affordable Housing Trust Fund.  
Lexington Housing Assistance Board, Inc.

Reorganizing the Lexington Housing Assistance Board, Inc (House, No. 3775,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Lee,-- board of public works.

Amending the board of public works in the town of Lee (House, No. 3890, amended,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Arlington,-- town manager.

Amending the town manager act of Arlington relative to the appointment of the town manager (House, No. 4026,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Swampscott,-- select board.

Amending the charter of the town of Swampscott (House, No. 4086,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Somerville,-- licensing commission.

Authorizing the city of Somerville to appoint an alternate member to the licensing commission (House, No. 4205,-- on House, No. 3969) [Local approval received on House, No. 3969];

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

A report of the committee on Education, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4019) of Lindsay N. Sabadosa and Paul W. Mark relative to repealing certain fiscal stability procedures of the Chesterfield-Goshen Regional School District, and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government,-- **was considered forthwith, under Senate Rule 36, and accepted, in concurrence.**

Chesterfield and Goshen,-- fiscal stability.

*Resolutions.*

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Feeney) “congratulating Duncan A. Macleod on his one hundredth birthday.”

Duncan A. Macleod.

*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 appointing the town clerk of the town of Wenham (Senate, No. 2387),-- was read a third time.

Wenham,-- town clerk.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Tarr presented an amendment substituting a new draft entitled “An Act changing the position of town clerk in the town of Wenham from an elected position to an appointed position” (Senate, No. 2524).

**The amendment was adopted.**

**The bill (Senate, No. 2524) was then passed to be engrossed.**

**Sent to the House for concurrence.**

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4206) of Rodney M. Elliott and James Arciero that the Division of Animal Health be authorized to regulate the preservation of existing pet cemeteries;

Pet cemeteries.

**Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Agriculture.**

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4207) of Rodney M. Elliott for legislation to authorize school districts to provide portable airway clearance devices on-site at school facilities where instructions are provided;

Airway clearance devices,-- schools.

**Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Education.**

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4208) of Simon Cataldo relative to retirement benefits for licensed electricians employed at regional school districts; and

School electricians,-- retirement.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4209) of Joseph D. McKenna and Ryan C. Fattman for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Kelly Wheeler, an employee of the Department of Developmental Service;

Kelly Wheeler,-- sick leave.

**Severally, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Service.**

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4210) of Josh S. Cutler and Matthew NeJame for the issuance of an annual proclamation by the Governor to designate October 2 as learning disability screening day;

MA Learning Disability Screening Day.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4211) of Rodney M. Elliott relative to eligibility for veteran license plates;

Veteran,-- license plate eligibility.

**Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Transportation.**

*Engrossed Bills.*

The following engrossed bills (all of which originated in the House), 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. Collins) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Authorizing the city of Pittsfield to award a 1-year or multiple-year contract for an audit of the books and accounts of the city (House, No. 2045, amended);

Bills laid before the Governor.

Authorizing the town of Conway to continue the employment of police officer Randall Williams (House, No. 2448, amended);

Changing the name of the board of selectmen of the town of Westport to select board (House, No. 3751, amended); and

Relative to creditable service for Abby Levin, a member of the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System (House, No. 4168, amended).

*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.

Time of meeting.

On motion of the same Senator, at twenty-two minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.