

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, December 21, 2023.

Met at nineteen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Collins in the Chair).

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

Pledge of allegiance.

Distinguished Guests.

There being no objection, the Chair (Mr. Collins) handed the gavel to Mr. Fattman for the purpose of introducing several guests.

Mr. Fattman introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, the Uxbridge High School girls field hockey team. The Uxbridge Spartans were recognized for winning the MIAA Division 4 state championship title, defeating Monomoy 4-0. This win captured the teams' third straight title. The Senate applauded their hard work and dedication, they were presented with a Senate Citation and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Uxbridge High School girls field hockey team.

Communications.

The following communication was received, under the provisions of Senate Rule 13C, and was placed on file, to wit:

Communication from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, on an audit of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Senate with State of available resources and expenditures – statutory basis – and additional information for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021 (received in the Office of the Clerk of the Senate at a two o'clock P.M, on Thursday, December 21, 2023).

Senate Audit for Fiscal Year 2021.

The following communication was received, under the provisions of Joint Rule 24, and was placed on file, to wit:

Communication from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, on an audit of the Joint Accounts of the Massachusetts Legislature with State of available resources and expenditures – statutory basis – and additional information for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021 (received in the Office of the Clerk of the Senate at a two o'clock P.M, on Thursday, December 21, 2023).

Joint Accounts Audit for the Fiscal Year 2021.

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

Communication from the Department of Environmental Protection submitting a copy of a report of the MassDEP's Drinking Water Program and the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Lowell designed to provide the opportunity for free analysis of PFAS in drinking water samples for all Public Water Suppliers and select private wells in the Commonwealth in order to determine the extent of PFAS contamination of drinking water sources across the state (received December 20, 2023);

Dept. of Environmental Protection,-- water supply. SD2902

Communication from the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (under the provisions of item 1599-0514 of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023) submitting a copy of its bi-weekly report on the status of the Emergency Housing Assistance Program (received

Emergency Housing Assistance Program,- bi-weekly report. SD2903

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December 18, 2023); and

Communication from the Department of Public Health relative to its plans of correction for Western Massachusetts Women’s Correctional Center inspection on November 17, 2023 and Pondville Correctional Center inspection on November 29, 2023 (received December 18, 2023).

DPH,-- plans of correction.
SD2805

Reports.

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

Report of the Department of Economic Research (pursuant to Section 14F of Chapter 151A of the General Laws) submitting the December 2023 Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund report (received December 15, 2023);

DER,-- UI trust fund report.
SD2898

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to Sections 5, 20 and 21 of Chapter 111 of the General Laws) relative to inspections of Dukes County Jail and House of Correction, Old Colony Correctional Center and Hampden County Jail and House of Correction (received December 15, 2023);

DPH,-- facility inspections.
SD2899

Report of the Executive Office of the Trial Court (pursuant to Section 15(c) of Chapter 239 of the General Laws) submitting its report summary statistics on eviction filings, actions, and dispositions from January 2023 through November 2023 (received December 15, 2023).

EOTC,-- rental protections report.
SD2901

Report of the Capital Debt Affordability Committee (pursuant to Section 60B(f) of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its estimate of the total amount of new Commonwealth debt that prudently may be authorized for fiscal year 2025 (received December 16, 2023); and

DAC,-- FY25 bond cap report.
SD2904

Report of the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (pursuant to Section 17 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws) submitting its annual report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 (received December 21, 2023);

Massachusetts Clean Water Trust,-- annual report.
SD2906

Message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Message from Her Excellency the Governor (under the provisions of Section 152 of Chapter 127 of the General Laws) submitting a list of pardons granted during the calendar year 2023 (Senate, No. 2532),-- **was read and sent to the House for its information.**

Governor,-- list of pardons.

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Jehlen, for the committee on Elder Affairs, on Senate, Nos. 115 and 375 and House, No. 626, a Bill increasing the personal care allowance for long term care residents (Senate, No. 115);

Long term care,-- allowance.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 367 and House, No. 639, a Bill to increase awareness of community based PACE programs for older adults (Senate, No. 367);

Seniors,-- PACE programs.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 376 and House, No. 645, a Bill relative to Massachusetts home care eligibility (Senate, No. 376);

Home care eligibility.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 385 and House, No. 634, a Bill relative to expanding the availability of personal care homes for older adults (Senate, No. 385);

Personal care homes,-- seniors.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to reserving beds in nursing homes during certain leaves of absence (Senate, No. 393); and

Nursing homes,-- resident beds.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, Nos. 372 and 374 and House, Nos. 650 and 3927, a Bill relative to assisted living and basic health services (Senate, No. 2527);

Assisted living,-- health services.

Severally referred, under Joint Rule 1E, to the committee on Health Care

Financing.

By Mr. Crighton, for the committee on Transportation, on Senate, No. 2209 and House, No. 3439, a Bill relative to carriers of property by motor vehicle (Senate, No. 2209);

Motor vehicle fees,-- carriers.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Bills

Establishing attainable housing and Chatham elementary school special revenue accounts for the town of Chatham (House, No. 3971,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Chatham,-- elementary school revenue accounts.

Amending the act authorizing the town of Deerfield to construct and operate systems of sewers (House, No. 4220,-- on House, No. 3841) [Local approval received on House, No. 3841]; and

Deerfield,-- sewer system.

Amending the special act charter of the town of Northampton (House, No. 4221,-- on House, No. 4080) [Local approval received on House, No. 4080];

Northampton,-- charter.

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

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for William J. Torres, an employee of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department (Senate, No. 2530);

William J. Torres, -- 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 committee on Rules, reported that the following matter be placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session:

The House Bill authorizing Cynthia Falzone to purchase creditable service from the Norfolk county retirement board (House, No. 3979).

Cynthia Falzone,-- retirement.

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

Matters Taken Out of the Orders of the Day.

There being no objection, the follow matters were taken out of the Orders of the Day and considered as follows:

The House Bill amending the charter of the town of Williamstown to make all gender references neutral (House, No. 2030) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Williamstown,-- charter.

The House Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Anthony D. Fannoh, Jr., an employee of the department of mental health (House, No. 4165) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Anthony Fannoh, Jr.,-- sick leave.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4229) of John Francis Moran relative to

Public schools,-- free

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the right of students to freedom of expression in public schools;

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4230) of Natalie M. Higgins and others relative to essential services in hospitals;

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

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Fattman,--

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

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

expression.

Hospitals,-- essential services.

Time of meeting.