

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2023

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, December 28, 2023.

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

Pledge of allegiance.

Distinguished Guests.

There being no objection, the Chair (Ms. Jehlen) handed the gavel to Mr. Fattman for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. Fattman then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, the Charlton Scout Troop 338. The group was on a field trip to the State House learning about the different aspects of state government. The Senate welcomed them with applause and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Charlton Scout Troop 338.

Communications.

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

Communication from the Department of Public Health relative to its plans of correction for the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department inspection on November 14, 15, and 16, 2023, Norfolk County House of Correction and Alternative Center, Dedham inspection on December 1, 2023 and Northeastern Correctional Center inspection on September 28, 2023 (received on December 22, 2023); and

DPH,-- plans of correction. SD2911

Communication from the Norfolk County Sheriff's Office submitting a plan of corrective action following an inspection of Norfolk County Sheriff's Office Correctional Center and Dedham Alternative Center conducted on December 4, 2023 (received on December 22, 2023).

Norfolk,-- plan of correction. SD2912

Reports.

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 Bridgewater Complex Food Service and MCI Framingham (received on December 22, 2023),-- was placed on file.

DPH,-- facility inspections. SD2910

Report of the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (under the provisions of Section 50 of Chapter 7 of the General Laws) submitting amendments to the rules and regulations governing retirement of public employees in Massachusetts 840 CMR 2.00 Retirement Board Travel, 840 CMR 4.00 Financial Operations/Standard Method of Accounting, 840 CMR 8.00 Applicability of \$30,000 Salary Cap, 840 CMR 11.00 Service After Age 70, 840 CMR 12.00 Service Between Age 65 and 70, 840 CMR 15.00 Miscellaneous, and 840 CMR 25.00 The Conduct of Field Examinations of Contributory Retirement Systems(Senate, No. 2540) (received December 20, 2023),-- was referred to the committee on Public Service.

PERAC,-- 840 CMR amendments.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Petition.

Mr. Moore presented a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Michael O. Moore and Hannah Kane for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Nicole Halal, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation,-- **and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.**

Nicole Halal,-- sick leave.
SD2909

Report of a Committee.

By Mr. Moore, for the committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity, on Senate, Nos. 26, 30, 31, 32, 35, 36, 37 and 198 and House, Nos. 66, 76, 77, 82 and 84, a Bill relative to cybersecurity and artificial intelligence (Senate, No. 2539);

Cybersecurity and artificial intelligence.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4231) of Lindsay N. Sabadosa and Paul W. Mark (by vote of the town) relative to the provision of health insurance for eligible employees and retirees in the town of Worthington;

Worthington,-- town employees.

To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4232) of Kenneth I. Gordon (by vote of the town) that all positions within the government of the town of Bedford subject to the civil service law be exempt from any provisions pertaining to age limits;

Bedford,-- government positions.

To the committee on Public Service.

A Bill establishing an appointed town clerk in the town of Rutland (House, No. 3985, - on petition) [Local approval received],-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.**

Rutland,-- town clerk.

Engrossed Bill.

An engrossed Bill establishing a trust to administer a length of service award program for the Swansea fire department (see House, No. 4047) (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 and signed by the Acting President (Ms. Jehlen) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.**

Bill laid before the Governor.

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 Pavel M. Payano for legislation relative to uniform partition of heirs property.

Heirs property,-- partition.
SD2816

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 the Judiciary.

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 Nick Collins for legislation to prevent overdoses in the commonwealth.

Overdoses,-- prevent.
SD2860

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 Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

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 John F. Keenan for legislation relative to expanding the newborn screening panel.

Newborn,-- screening panel.
SD2820

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 Public Health.

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 Nick Collins for legislation relative to equal access on DCR roadways.

DCR roadways,-- equal access.
SD2818

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 State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Severally sent to the House for 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 Senate Bill amending the charter of the city of Westfield (Senate, No. 2423),-- **was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.**

Westfield,-- charter.

The House Bill authorizing the city of Leominster to establish an age limit for original appointment to the position of police officer (House, No. 2555),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Leominster,-- police officer age limit.

The House Bill exempting the position of police chief in the town of Lancaster from the civil service law (House, No. 2571) (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.**

Lancaster,-- police chief.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill authorizing the town of Holliston to continue the employment of Mark Dellicker as deputy fire chief until a maximum age of 70 (House, No. 3998,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- was read.

Holliston,-- Mark Dellicker.

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.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4235) of Aaron L. Saunders and others for legislation to further regulate access to certain library materials;

Library materials,-- access.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4236) of Sean Garballey, Cindy F. Friedman and David M. Rogers for legislation to repeal the prohibition of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority from locating a facility within a certain distance of the Arlington Catholic High School;

Arlington,-- MBTA facility.

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

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

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.

Time of meeting.

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