

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024

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Monday, January 22, 2024.

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

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

Pledge of allegiance.

Reports of a Committees.

By Ms. Comerford, for the committee on Higher Education, on Senate, No. 843 and House, No. 1284, a Bill to authorize state universities to offer clinical and professional doctorate programs (Senate, No. 843);

Doctorate programs,-
- state universities.

By Ms. Jehlen, for the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, on Senate, Nos. 1186 and 1232 and House, No. 1952, a Bill expanding the community college training incentive program (Senate, No. 1186);

Community college,-
- training incentive.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing a Commonwealth citizen service initiative (Senate, No. 1213); and

MA Service
Alliance,-- creation.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, Nos. 1145 and 1205 and House, Nos. 1879 and 1961, a Bill relative to bereavement leave (Senate, No. 2562);

Employees,--
bereavement leave.

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

By Ms. Moran, for the committee on Revenue , on petition, a Bill relative to real property tax abatements for active duty military personnel in the town of Sutton (Senate, No. 2493) [Local approval received];

Sutton,-- military tax
abatements.

By the same Senator, for the same committee , on petition, a Bill relative to real property tax deferrals in the town of Hamilton (Senate, No. 2508) [Local approval received]; and

Hamilton,-- tax
deferrals.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Easton to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (Senate, No. 2515) [Local approval received];

Easton,-- property
tax.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

The annual report (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4261) of the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (under sections 21, 102 and 103 of Chapter 32 of the General Laws) relative to the percentum change in the average cost-of-living as shown by the United States consumer price index for the year 2024 compared with such index for the year 2023,-- was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Public Service.

PERAC,-- annual
report.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4264) of Marjorie C. Decker and Sal N. DiDomenico (with the approval of the city council) that the city of Cambridge be

Cambridge,-- parking
fines.

authorized to increase the fines for failure to move parked vehicles during street cleaning in said city above certain set limits,-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.**

Bills

Authorizing the town of Charlemont to continue the employment of fire department member Dennis Annear (House, No. 3988,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Charlemont,-- Dennis Annear.

Authorizing the town of Rowe to continue the employment of fire department member Dennis Annear (House, No. 3989,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Rowe,-- Dennis Annear.

Relative to changing the term of the elected office of moderator for the town of Stoneham (House, No. 4075,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Stoneham,-- town moderator.

Authorizing the town of Lincoln to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption program (House, No. 4262,-- on House, No. 2810) [Local approval received on House, No. 2810];

Lincoln,-- senior property tax exemption.

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

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Creem and Mr. Collins) “recognizing the seventy-ninth anniversary of the Liberation of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp and International Holocaust Remembrance Day.”

International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

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 Barry R. Finegold for legislation relative to deceptive and fraudulent deepfakes in election communications.

Elections,-- deepfakes.

The rules were suspended on motion of Mr. Durant, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Election Laws.

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 addressing the trauma associated with substance abuse treatment.

Substance abuse,-- treatment.

The rules were suspended on motion of Mr. Durant, 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.

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

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 John R. Stowe, Jr. to purchase creditable service from the Barnstable County Retirement Board (House, No. 3656).

John R. Stowe, Jr,-- retirement.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Durant, and the bill was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows:- “An Act authorizing John R. Stowe, Jr. to purchase creditable service from the Barnstable county retirement board”.

Matters Taken Out of the Orders of the Day.

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

The Senate Bill changing the name of the board of selectmen of the town of Rockport to the select board (Senate, No. 2459) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Rockport,-- select board.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The Senate Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Danielle Marie Cruz, an employee of the trial court of the commonwealth (Senate, No. 2537) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Danielle Marie Cruz,-- sick leave.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The House Bill expanding and improving equity in the sewer system in the town of Provincetown (House, No. 2096) (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.**

Provincetown,-- waste water treatment.

The House Bill authorizing the city of Revere to pay a certain sum of money to the estate of George J. Rotondo, Jr (House, No. 2055),-- was read a third time.

Revere,-- Rotondo estate.

Mr. Tarr, for the committee on Bills in the Third Reading, reported, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the matter.

The report of the committee was accepted.

The bill was then passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4270) of Kenneth I. Gordon relative to administrative costs of the Department of Family and Medical Leave;

Paid family and medical leave.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Labor and Workforce Development.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4271) of James Arciero and Peter Barbella relative to local taxes based on personal or business income instead of local real property taxes;

Municipal income-based taxation.

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

A Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Cheryl Thouin, an employee of the Hampshire County Sheriff's Office (House, No. 4233,-- on petition),-- was read.

Cheryl Thouin-- sick leave.

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

Engrossed Bills.

The following engrossed bills (the first 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. Collins) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Changing the position of town clerk in the town of Wenham from an elected position to an appointed position (see Senate, No. 2524);

Bills laid before the Governor.

Authorizing the town of Reading to dissolve its Affordable Housing Trust Fund (see House, No. 1341, amended); and

Relative to the Middleborough gas and electric board of commissioners in the town of Middleborough (see House, No. 2092).

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Collins), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Matthew Carver.

Moment of silence.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Durant,--

Ordered, That when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Thursday 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 Matthew Carver.

The Senator from Suffolk, Mr. Collins, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it does so in memory of Matthew Carver of Marshfield, Braintree and Dorchester.

Matthew "Matty" Carver passed away at the age of 59 on January 14, 2024 where he joined his loving parents, Raymond and Carol. Matty grew up in the Neponset section of Dorchester. He attended St. Ann's Elementary School and was a graduate of Madison Park High School. St Ann's is where he met his lifelong friends, these friendships meant the world to him. Back in the day Matty hung at Garvey Park, the Neponset Post, the Devine Rink, Tenean Beach and Florian Hall where he boxed his way to a Golden Gloves championship. Wonderful memories were made and will forever be cherished.

Matty was the kind of friend that would give you the shirt off his back and ask for nothing in return. He was always the first one to offer his help no matter what was asked of him. He believed in helping others, this belief began his life of service. First as an engineer with Cablevision then joining the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department where he was promoted to Sergeant, a position he loved and excelled at. He was proud to be a member of Local 419. He valued and appreciated his brothers and sisters of the department. The love and respect for his extended family at The SCSD was reciprocal. He volunteered countless hours participating in and representing the honor guard, a position he adored. He made it his mission to ensure that those deserving of honor received it.

After a long, successful career with the Sheriff's department Matty took a well-deserved break. Once retired he spent many glorious sun filled days relaxing in his beach chair, crocs in the sand on Fieldston Beach at the end of Old Beach Rd. Matty loved Marshvegas, the beach, Rexhame General Store, Gerard's turkey sandwiches, the community, all of it! Sitting in his beach chair, peering through his binoculars admiring the ocean, he heard it calling to him. So, he came out of retirement and became a seasonal Assistant Harbor Master. Matty took to his new profession like a fish to water (pun intended, in true Matty fashion). He loved his new part-time gig and his coworkers quickly became his friends. Matty was known for his sense of humor and his goofy "dad" jokes. He was loud and his appearance was stoic but deep down he was fun, caring and a gentle soul. Always a gentleman. He was friendly, polite, a great friend and neighbor. He was quick to hold open a door for a stranger, change a flat tire for someone on the side of the road, bring flowers to a friend just because he was thinking of them. He'd be the first to text well wishes for all holidays and never forgot a birthday. He was awful with names but

never forgot a face. Matty was an all-around “Nice Guy”.

Matty loved all things Boston: the Bruins, the Celtics, the Red Sox, and the Patriots. He loved all things Irish, especially Shamrocks and the Irish Hit Parade. He loved all things Red, White and Blue...his favorite being the American Flag. He loved summer, where he could be found standing behind the back stop at Flaherty Field or Braintree High School watching Rachel and Lily’s softball games. He’d be the one cheering and whistling the loudest. Matty loved Halloween, dressing up in a scary costume, jumping out and frightening the neighbors. His treat for the neighborhood kids was any canned good that he pulled from the pantry. Ultimately, he’d exchange it for candy but the decked-out Carver house in Braintree was definitely not to be missed on Halloween.

The amount of family and friends that Matty loved and was loved by is immeasurable. He will forever be remembered by Rachel, Lily, Nancy, Olivia, Paul, Susan, Jackie, Allie, Peter, Liz, Sean, Maeve, Liam, Mairead, Andrew, Phil, Pam, Logan, Chloe, Quinn, Pam, Kenny, Eric, Paula, Charlene, John, Jonathan, Mark, Eileen, Mark, Kelsey, Brian, and Sean, his Garvey Park crew, his Braintree neighbors and friends, the Leon Street Rockers, his fellow Corrections Officers at SCSD, his coworkers at the Marshfield Harbor Masters Office and his buddy Bruin.

Matty had the biggest heart and ultimately it was his big heart that took him from us way too soon. Peace is yours, Matty.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr. Matthew Carver, at twenty-two minutes before twelve o’clock noon, on motion of Mr. Durant, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o’clock A.M.