

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.**



**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024**

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, February 5, 2024.

Met at fourteen 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.

Reports.

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

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Section 35VV of Chapter 10 of the General Laws) submitting its annual report on the status on the Social Innovation Financing Trust Fund (received February 2, 2024); and

A&F,-- Social Innovation Financing Trust Fund. SD2993

Report of the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (pursuant to Section 21(3)(f) of Chapter 32 of the General Laws) submitting its 2023 annual report relative to Cost of Living Adjustments for retirees and beneficiaries (received January 19, 2024).

PERAC,-- 2023 COLA report. SD2994

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Lewis, for the committee on Education, on Senate, Nos. 243 and 261 and House, No. 308, a Bill establishing farm to school grants to promote healthy eating and strengthen the agricultural economy (Senate, No. 243);

Farm to school grants.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to establish food allergy plans (Senate, No. 250);

Food allergy,-- plans.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill stopping harm inflicted by the exploitation of life and development (Senate, No. 314);

Sexual abuse,-- children.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to improve augmentative and alternative communication opportunities for children with disabilities (Senate, No. 326);

Children with disabilities,-- communication.

By Ms. Rausch, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on Senate, Nos. 475 and 578, a Bill relative to maintaining adequate water supplies through effective drought management (Senate, No. 475);

Drought management,-- task force.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 483 and House, No. 859, a Bill relative to the Douglas State Forest Maintenance Trust Fund (Senate, No. 483);

Douglas State Forest Trust Fund.

By Mr. Collins, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on petition, a Bill discouraging employers from closing call centers and customer service operations in the Commonwealth and relocating overseas, and for other purposes (Senate, No. 2004); and

Call centers,-- location retainment.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to equity in public contracting in honor of Bruce C. Bolling (Senate, No. 2028);

Public contracting,-- equity.

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

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

By Mr. Lewis, for the committee on Education, on petition, a Bill to update accuracy of membership to the state advisory council on early education and care (Senate, No. 345);

Early education and care,-- membership.

By Mr. Collins, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on petition, a Bill establishing the annual observance of September 11th Remembrance Day (Senate, No. 2036); and

September 11th,-- Remembrance Day.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill designating the first Wednesday in May as State Parks Day (Senate, No. 2066);

MA State Parks Day.

**Severally read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules.**

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Bills

Increasing the membership of the select board of the town of Merrimac from 3 members to 5 members (House, No. 4097,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Merrimac,-- select board.

Amending the charter of the town of Westborough (House, No. 4202,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Westborough charter.

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

*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 House Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Jonathan Corey, an employee of the Suffolk county sheriff's department (House, No. 4250),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Jonathan Corey,-- sick leave.

The Senate Bill authorizing the town of Tewksbury to lease the Trahan Elementary School for a term of years not exceeding 99 years (Senate, No. 2485),-- was read a third time.

Tewksbury,-- Trahan Elementary School.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Finegold presented an amendment substituting a new draft entitled "An Act authorizing the town of Tewksbury to lease the Louise Davy Trahan Elementary School for not more than 99 years" (Senate, No. 2582).

**The amendment was adopted.**

**The bill (Senate, No. 2582) was then passed to be engrossed.**

**Sent to the House for concurrence.**

*Reports of Committees.*

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 dissolving the Hampshire County Regional Housing Authority and incorporating its functions into the Northampton Housing Authority (House, No. 3810).

Hampshire County Regional Housing Authority.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Timilty and the bill was read a second time.

Pending the question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Mr. Mark presented an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 2575.

**The amendment was adopted.**

**The bill, as amended, was then ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence with the amendment.**

**Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.**

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Nicole Halal, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (printed as Senate, No. 2556,-- on petition),-- was read.

Nicole Halal,-- sick leave.

**There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Tarr, 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. 4305) of Richard M. Haggerty relative to charter school expansion;

Charter school,-- expansion.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4306) of Smitty Pignatelli and Paul W. Mark relative to expense reimbursements for Mass Wildlife board members;

MA Wildlife Board,- reimbursement.

**Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.**

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4307) of Daniel Cahill and Joan B. Lovely for legislation to further regulate insurance claims;

Insurance claims,-- regulations.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4308) of Daniel J. Hunt for legislation to provide creditable service for certain teachers for retirement purposes;

Teachers,-- retirement.

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

*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 (Ms. Jehlen) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Establishing a special purpose revolving fund in the town of North Andover (see Senate, No. 2454);

Bills laid before the Governor.

Further regulating at-large town meeting members in the town of Milford (see House, No. 2089);

Validating the results of the annual town election held in the town of Lancaster (see House, No. 3578);

Increasing the membership of the select board in the town of Sterling (see House, No. 3727); and

Relative to the select board of the town of Northborough (see House, No. 3902, amended).

*Emergency Preamble Adopted.*

An engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Jonathan Corey, an employee of the Suffolk county sheriff's department (see House, No. 4250), 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 3 to 0.

Jonathan Corey,-- sick leave.

**The bill was signed by the Acting President (Ms. Jehlen) and sent to the House for enactment.**

*Reports of Committees.*

FIRST Act.  
SD2985

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 Susan L. Moran for legislation relative to fusion investment and research for sustainable technology.

**Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Timilty, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Revenue.**

**Sent to the House for concurrence.**

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

*Engrossed Bills.*

The following engrossed bills (both 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 (Ms. Jehlen) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Bills laid before the  
Governor.

Authorizing the city of Somerville to appoint an alternate member to the licensing commission (see House, No. 4205); and

Establishing a sick leave bank for Jonathan Corey, an employee of the Suffolk county sheriff's department (see House, No. 4250).

*Order Adopted.*

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

Time of meeting.

*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.

On motion of Mr. Timilty, at twenty-three minutes before twelve o'clock noon, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.