

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2024

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, June 24, 2024.

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

The Chair (Mr. Brownsberger), 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. Brownsberger) handed the gavel to Mr. O'Connor for the purpose of introducing several guests.

Mr. O'Connor introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, the Notre Dame Academy girls soccer team. The team was recognized for winning the 2023 MIAA Division 2 state championship title, in a 1-0 win against Mansfield High School. The student-athletes were applauded for their hard work and dedication and for completing the season with a 9-3-1 record. The team was accompanied by Head Coach Kelly Turner and Representative Meschino of Hull.

Notre Dame Academy girls soccer team.

Mr. O'Connor then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, the Notre Dame Academy girls lacrosse team. The team was recognized for winning the 2024 MIAA Division 2 state championship title, in a 14-10 win against Walpole High School. The student-athletes were applauded for winning their third straight championship title, their hard work and dedication, and for completing the season with a 17-1 record. The team was accompanied by Head Coach Meredith Frank McGinnis and Representative Meschino of Hull. Both teams, coaches and guests then withdrew from the Chamber.

Notre Dame Academy girls lacrosse team.

Communications.

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

Communication from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (pursuant to item 4000-0500 of Section 2 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its report comparing the rate differential for inpatient psychiatric hospitals and substance abuse treatment hospital per diem payments (received June 20, 2024); and

EOHHS,-- MassHealth IP Psych and SUD payment report. SD3309

Communication from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (pursuant to item 4000-0300 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its MassHealth pharmaceutical utilization report (received June 20, 2024).

EOHHS,-- MassHealth PU report. SD3310

Petition.

Mr. Fattman presented a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Ryan C. Fattman for legislation to provide for the disposition of certain property in the town of Upton,-- and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Upton,-- disposition of certain property. SD3308

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4779) of Brian W. Murray (by vote of the

Milford,-- deputy

town) relative to employment contracts with persons serving as deputy police chief in the town of Milford;

police chief.

To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4780) of Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr. and Peter J. Durant (by vote of the town) that the town of West Brookfield be authorized to continue the employment of Daniel Santos as deputy chief in the fire department of said town until the age of 70;

West Brookfield,-- Daniel Santos retirement.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4781) of Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr. and Peter J. Durant (by vote of the town) that the town of West Brookfield be authorized to continue the employment of George Kenneth Collette as a lieutenant in the fire department of said town until the age of 70;

West Brookfield,-- George Collette retirement.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4782) of Brian W. Murray (by vote of the town) relative to the minimum years of service required to be eligible for a civil service promotion to the position of fire lieutenant in the town of Milford; and

Milford,-- fire lieutenant promotion.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4783) of Brian W. Murray (by vote of the town) that the town of Milford be authorized to continue limited employment of certain police officers on superannuation retirement;

Milford,-- police officers retirement.

Severally to the committee on Public Service.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4784) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr. and Bruce E. Tarr (by vote of the town) that the town of North Reading be authorized to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption in said town;

North Reading,-- senior property tax exemption.

To the committee on Revenue.

Bills

To modernize the Massachusetts insurer’s insolvency fund (House, No. 4772,-- on House, No. 962); and

Insurers insolvency fund.

Promoting access to midwifery care and out-of-hospital birth options (House, No. 4785,-- on Senate, Nos. 1335, 1375, 1414, 1457 and House, Nos. 2163, 2187, 2209, 2265 and 3616);

Midwifery care,-- access.

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

A Bill relative to city employment and candidacy in the offices of mayor, city councillor-at-large, ward councillor and school committee of the city of Revere (House, No. 4638,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.**

Revere,-- city employment and candidacy.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Lovely and Messrs. Crighton, Finegold, and Tarr) “congratulating Mary Sarris on the occasion of her retirement as executive director of the North Shore Workforce Investment Board.”

Mary Sarris.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill designating a portion of state highway Route 41 in the town of West Stockbridge as the Gene Dellea highway (House, No. 4618, amended-- on petition),-- was read.

West Stockbridge,-- Gene Dellea highway.

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.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

A Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Alicia Orlow, an employee of the Department of Correction (House, No. 4749-- on House, No. 4740),-- was read.

Alicia Orlow,-- sick leave.

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

Report of a Committee.

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the House Bill relative to the Affordable Homes Act (House, No. 4726),-- ought to pass with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 2834 (General Obligation Bonds: \$5,196,000,000.00).

Affordable Homes Act.

Order Adopted.

Mr. Rodrigues presented the following order, to wit:

Ordered, That notwithstanding Senate Rule 7 or any other rule to the contrary, the House Bill relative to the Affordable Homes Act (House, No. 4726) (the committee on Ways and Means having recommended that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 2834) shall be placed in the Orders of the Day for a second reading on Thursday, June 27th, 2024.

Procedural order.

All amendments shall be filed electronically in the office of the Clerk of the Senate by 5:00 P.M, on Tuesday, June 25th, 2024. All such amendments shall be second reading-amendments to the Senate Ways and Means new text (Senate, No. 2834), but further amendments in the third degree to such amendments shall be in order. The Clerk shall further specify the procedure and format for filing all amendments, consistent with this order.

After the bill as amended is ordered to a third reading, it shall immediately be read a third time and the question shall then immediately be on passing it to be engrossed, and no amendments shall be in order at the third reading of the bill unless recommended by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Rodrigues, and the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

The bill will be considered on Thursday, June 27th, 2024, for a second reading with the amendment pending.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

Time of meeting.

Ordered, That when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourns to meet again tomorrow, at eleven o'clock A.M. in a full formal session with a calendar.

On motion of the same Senator, at a quarter before twelve o'clock noon, the Senate adjourned to meet again tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M.