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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 2024

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Friday, August 16, 2024.

Met at twenty-two minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Brownsberger 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 (Mr. Brownsberger), members, guests and staff then recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of allegiance.

Communication.

Communication from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center submitting notice that outlines the reasons for the delay and updated timelines of submission of its annual report (received August 15, 2024),-- was placed on file.

Reports.

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

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 July 2024 (received August 15, 2024);

Report of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (pursuant to Section 15 of Chapter 358 of the Acts of 2022) submitting its Direct Vision Study of the Commonwealth (received August 15, 2024); and

Report of the Department of Unemployment Assistance (pursuant to Section 14F of Chapter 151A of the General Laws) submitting the August 2024 Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund report and quarterly outlook report (received August 15, 2024).

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A message from Her Excellency the Governor recommending legislation providing for the terms of certain bonds to be issued by the Commonwealth (House, No. 5000),-- was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5002) of John Barrett, III (by vote of the town) relative to establishing the recall of elected officials in the town of Williamstown;

To the committee on Election Laws.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5003) of John Barrett, III (by vote of the town) relative to the town charter of the town of Williamstown; and

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5004) of John Barrett, III (by vote of the town) relative to the enforcement of the charter of the town of Williamstown;

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5005) of John Barrett, III (by vote of the town) that the town of Williamstown be authorized to expand age eligibility for the senior

MCEC,-- delay and updated annual report. SD3379

EOTC,-- rental protections report. SD3378

MassDOT,-- direct vision study. SD3382

DUA,-- UI Trust Fund report. SD3383

Bonds,-- terms.

Williamstown,-recall elections.

Williamstown,-charter.

Williamstown,-charter enforcement.

Williamstown,-senior property tax. property tax exemption;

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5006) of John Barrett, III (by vote of the town) for legislation to establish a means tested senior property tax exemption in the town of Williamstown; and

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5007) of John Barrett, III (by vote of the town) that the town of Williamstown be authorized to expand financial eligibility for the senior property tax exemption;

Severally to the committee on Revenue.

A Bill regarding the appointment of officials and employees of the town of Andover (House, No. 4639, changed,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- was read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.

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 (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Authorizing the town of Littleton to provide water to the inhabitants of the town of Boxborough (see House, No. 4246); and

Authorizing the appointment of retired firefighters as special firefighters in the city of Qunicy (see House, No. 4666).

Report of a Committee.

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 designating a portion of state highway Route 7 in the town of Sheffield as the Brigadier-General John G. Barnard highway (House, No. 4617) (the committee on Rules recommending that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 2940).

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Tarr, and the bill was read a second time and was amended, as recommended by the committee on Rules.

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, its tile having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows:- "An Act designating a portion of United States highway route 7 in the town of Sheffield as the Brigadier-General John G. Barnard highway".

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

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 authorizing the city of Watertown to place municipal charges liens on certain properties in the city of Watertown for nonpayment of any local charge, fee or fine (House, No. 4508) (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.

Id.

Williamstown eligibility tax exemptions.

Andover,-- certain appointments.

Bills laid before the Governor.

Sheffield,--Brigadier-General John G. Barnard highway.

Watertown,-municipal liens.

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The House Bill designating a portion of state highway route 41 in the town of West Stockbridge as the Gene Dellea highway (House, No. 4617, amended) (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.

The House Bill designating a portion of state highway route 23 west and state highway route 41 south in the town of Egremont as the George McGurn Memorial highway (House, No. 4619, amended) (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.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

Bill authorizing the town of Northfield to continue the employment of Floyd Dunnell, III (House, No. 4687,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- was read.

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.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Tarr:--

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

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

West Stockbridge,--Gene Dellea highway.

Egremont,-- George McGurn Memorial highway.

Northfield,-- Floyd Dunnell.

Time of meeting.