The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2024

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, August 15, 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 Executive Office for Administration and Finance (under the provisions of item 1599-0514 of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023) submitting a copy of its bi-weekly report on the status of the Emergency Housing Assistance Program dated August 12, 2024 (received August 13, 2024),-- was placed on file.

Emergency Housing Assistance Program,-- biweekly report. SD3380

Report.

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

Report of the Executive Office of Economic Development (under the provisions of Section 14A of Chapter 94G of the General Laws) submitting the fiscal year 2024 annual report of the Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund (received August 12, 2024);

Report of the Department of Agricultural Resources (under the provisions of Section 5A of Chapter 132B of the General Laws) submitting its annual report describing the efforts taken and the progress made toward reducing pesticide use (received August 13, 2024); and

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its monthly report on Temporary Respite Centers (received August 13, 2024).

Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund,-- FY24 report. SD3376 Dept. of AR,-pesticide report. SD3377

A&F,-- temporary respite centers. SD3381

Petition.

Mr. Cyr presented a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2939) of Julian Cyr and Sarah K. Peake (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Wellfleet to enact a pesticide reduction bylaw [Local approval received];

Wellfleet,-pesticide reduction.

Referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Edwards, for the committee on Housing, on petition, a Bill to create and implement a Massachusetts Flexible Supportive Housing Subsidy Pool Program (Senate, No. 855);

Housing Subsidy Pool Program.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill providing upstream homelessness prevention assistance to families, youth, and adults (Senate, No. 856);

Homelessness prevention,-assistance. Yes in My Back Yard.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to promote Yes in My Back Yard (Senate, No. 858);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill promoting fair housing by preventing discrimination against affordable housing (Senate, No. 859);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill improving municipal access to general existing housing data (Senate, No. 865);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to create affordable homes for persons with disabilities (Senate, No. 884);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to transformative development initiatives in rural communities (Senate, No. 889);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill promoting housing stability for families by strengthening the HomeBASE program (Senate, No. 890) [Representative Connolly of Cambridge dissenting];

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to removing barriers to creating affordable housing (Senate, No. 1308); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the Condominium Owners' Rights Act (CORA) (Senate, No. 2498);

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

By Ms. Edwards, for the committee on Housing, on petition, a Bill ensuring continued rights for public housing residents (Senate, No. 857);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to year-round housing occupancy restriction (Senate, No. 861); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to year-round housing (Senate, No. 862);

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

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on petition, a Bill relative to amending the provision of health insurance and other benefits in the town of Carver (Senate, No. 2870) [Local approval received] and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2855), a Bill relative to the appointment of retired police officers as special police officers in the town of Raynham (Senate, No. 2937) [Local approval received on Senate, No. 2855];

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

Committees Discharged.

Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, reported, asking to be discharged from further consideration

Of the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to corrections (Senate, No. 2876);

Of the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to firearms (Senate, No. 2877);

Of the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Transportation to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to fares and transportation matters (Senate, No. 2882);

Of the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate

Housing,-- discrimination.

Housing data,--access.

Housing,-- disabilities.

Rural communities,-- development.

HomeBASE,--program.

Affordable housing,-- barriers.

Condominiums,--owners' rights.

Public housing,--residents.

Year-round housing occupancy restriction. Year-round housing.

Carver,-- health insurance and benefits.

Raynham,-- special police officers.

Public Safety and Homeland Security, -- study.

Id.

Transportation,--study.

Consumer Protection and Professional

document relative to online lottery (Senate, No. 2907);

Of the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Public Health to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to public health (Senate, No. 2909);

Licensure,-- study. Public Health,-study.

Of the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on the Judiciary to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to judicial matters (Senate, No. 2926);

Judiciary,-- study.

Of the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Revenue to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to veterans' exemptions and real estate transfer fees (Senate, No. 2930);

Revenue,-- study.

Of the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Public Service to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to relative to public service matters (Senate, No. 2931);

Public Service,--study.

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the committee on Rules. Under Senate Rule 36, the reports were severally considered forthwith and accepted.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4998) of Michael J. Soter and Rebecca L. Rausch (by vote of the town) for legislation to amend the charter of the town of Bellingham, - was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Bellingham charter.

Bills

Amending the appointment and election restrictions on finance committee and capital planning members in the town of Newbury (House, No. 4742,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Newbury,-- finance committee and capital planning.

Authorizing the town of Natick to continue the employment of police officer John Haswell (House, No. 4686,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Natick,-- John Haswell.

Were severally 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

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Eliminating the age requirement for original certification of police officers in the city of Malden (see House, No. 4523); and

Authorizing the town of Deerfield to continue to employment of police department members Michael W. Habel, Robert A. Thrasher and Mark Jacques (see House, No. 4557).

Matter Taken Out of the Orders of the Day.

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

The House Bill relative to town elections in the town of Hopkinton (House, No. 4203),- was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.

Hopkinton,-- town elections.

Bills laid before the

Governor.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Lovely) "congratulating Emmett Labrie on his elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout"; and

Resolutions (filed by Mr. O'Connor) "commending Veterans Suicide Awareness & Remembrance Flag Corp. for its recognition of September 22, 2024 as Veteran Suicide Awareness and Remembrance Day."

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 town of Littleton to provide water to the inhabitants of the town of Boxborough (House, No. 4246) (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 authorizing the appointment of retired firefighters as special firefighters in the city of Quincy (House, No. 4666),-- was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Committee of Conference Report.

A report of the committee of conference of the disagreeing votes of the two branches, with reference to the Senate amendments to the House Bill promoting access to midwifery care and out-of-hospital birth options (House, No. 4785) (amended by the Senate by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 2928),-- reported, a "Bill promoting access to midwifery care and out-of-hospital birth options" (House, No. 4999),-- came from the House, and was read.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Ms. Miranda, and, after remarks, the report was accepted, in concurrence.

Engrossed Bill.

Ms. Friedman in the chair, an engrossed Bill promoting access to midwifery care and out-of-hospital birth options (see House, No. 4999) (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. Friedman) (having been appointed by the President, under authority conferred by Senate Rule 4, to perform the duties of the Chair) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Brownsberger,--

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

On motion of the same Senator, at eight minutes past twelve o'clock noon, the Senate adjourned to meet again tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M.

Emmett Labrie.

Veterans Suicide Awareness & Remembrance Flag Corp.

Boxborough residents,-- drinking water.

Quincy,-- special firefighters.

Midwifery care,--access.

Bill laid before the Governor

Time of meeting.