

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.**



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024**

[85]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, September 26, 2024.

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

Pledge of allegiance.

Communications.

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

Communication from the Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate, announcing the appointment of Eneida Román and Liliane Costa (pursuant to Section 73 of Chapter 3 of the General Laws) to the permanent commission on the Status of Latinos and Latinas (received September 24, 2024);

Status of Latinos and Latinas Commission,-- appointments. SD3447  
Emergency Housing Assistance Program,-- bi-weekly report. SD3449  
Special Commission on Combatting Antisemitism,-- appt. SD3454

Communication from the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (under the provisions of item 1599-0514 of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023 and Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024) submitting a copy of its bi-weekly report on the status of the Emergency Housing Assistance Program dated September 19, 2024 (received September 23, 2024); and

Communication from the Honorable Bruce E. Tarr, President of the Minority Leader, announcing the appointments of Marc Freedman of North Andover (under the provisions of Section 201 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) to the Special Commission on Combatting Antisemitism in the Commonwealth (received September 26, 2024).

Reports.

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

Report of the Middlesex District Attorney (pursuant to Section 47(d) of Chapter 94C of the General Laws) submitting its 2024 report relative to the use of monies in the trust fund for the purposes of drug rehabilitation, drug education, and other anti-drug or neighborhood crime watch programs (received September 23, 2024);

Middlesex DA,-- 2024 forfeiture report. SD3446

Report of the Hampden District Attorney (under the provisions of Section 47(d) of Chapter 94C of the General Laws) submitting its 2024 report relative to the use of monies in the trust fund for the purposes of drug rehabilitation, drug education, and other anti-drug or neighborhood crime watch programs (received September 24, 2024);

Hampden DA,-- 2024 forfeiture report. SD3448

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Section 22 of Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its monthly approved and authorized training programs report as of September 19, 2024 (received September 23, 2024);

A&F,-- monthly training report. SD3450

Report of the Office for Refugees and Immigrants (pursuant to item 4003-0123 of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its August report detailing expenditures of resettlement agencies (RAs) that resettle and support refugees and immigrants (received September 23, 2024);

Office for Refugees and Immigrants,-- RA report. SD3451

Report of the Department of Public Health, in accordance with instructions from the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Section 3B of Chapter 7 of the General Laws) submitting notice that the Board of Registration in Pharmacy within the

DPH,-- proposed fee changes. SD3452

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

Department of Public Health seeks to establish new licensure fees for the Board of Registration in Pharmacy in 801 CMR 4.02 (received September 19, 2024); and

Report of the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation (pursuant to Section 10 of Chapter 221A of the General Laws) submitting its fiscal year 2024 annual report (received September 26, 2024).

MLAC,-- annual report.  
SD3453

*Petition.*

Ms. Miranda presented a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2958) of Liz Miranda (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to direct the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officer for Antonio Pires [Local approval received];

Boston,-- Pires police officer.

**Referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Public Service.  
Sent to the House for concurrence.**

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Bills

Authorizing the town of Warwick to continue the employment of David A. Shoemaker as police chief until a maximum age of 70 (House, No. 4908,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Warwick,-- police chief David Shoemaker.

Authorizing the town of Rowley to continue employment of call firefighter Donald Dupray (House, No. 5024,-- on House, No. 4724) [Local approval received on House, No. 4724];

Rowley,-- firefighter Donald Dupray.

**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 severally considered forthwith and adopted, as follows:-

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Fattman) “congratulating the Blackstone Valley Community Chorus on the occasion of its twentieth anniversary”; and

Blackstone Valley Community Chorus.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Oliveira, Ms. Friedman, Messrs. Fattman, Kennedy, Barrett, Moore, Velis, Eldridge and Payano, Ms. Comerford and Messrs. Collins, DiDomenico, Gomez and Mark) “commending Polish Center of Discovery and Learning, Inc. on its observance of October 2024 as Polish American Heritage Month.”

Polish Center of Discovery and Learning, Inc.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE

*Engrossed Bill.*

An engrossed Bill designating a certain bridge in the town of Ashland as the Harold Wadhams Gates memorial bridge (see House, No. 3883) (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 (Mr. Cyr) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.**

Bill laid before the Governor.

*Report of a Committee.*

By Mr. Eldridge, for the committee on the Judiciary, on petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Mary Katherine Sheehan, an employee of the trial court (Senate, No. 2957).

Mary Katherine Sheehan,-- sick leave.

**The bill was read. 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.**

*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 promoting animal welfare and further regulating the reporting of animal cruelty, abuse or neglect (House, No. 4911) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and, after remarks, was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Animal welfare.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5058) of Kathleen R. LaNatra for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Mary Katherine Sheehan, an employee of the Trial Court,-- **was referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on the Judiciary.**

Mary Katherine Sheehan,-- sick leave.

*Recess.*

There being no objection, at twenty-six minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., the Chair (Mr. Cyr) declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair; and, at twenty-nine minutes before twelve o'clock noon, the Senate reassembled, Mr. Collins in the Chair.

Recess.

*Order Adopted.*

On motion of Mr. Durant,--  
*Ordered,* That when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourns to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Time of meeting.

*Adjournment in Memory of Richard F. Litto.*

The Senator from Suffolk, Mr. Collins, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Richard F. Litto of South Boston.

Mr. Richard F. Litto, a retired Boston Police Officer and retired Gunnery Sergeant of the United State Marine Corps, passed away unexpectedly, with his wife and children by his side, on September 23, 2024. Husband to Lorrie Litto (Kearns). Devoted father to Jillian Scuderi and her husband Christopher Scuderi, Richard Litto and his wife Aline Litto, Matthew Litto, Patrick Litto and partner Jodie Martin, and Michael Litto. Doting Papa to Evelyn and Emelia Scuderi. Son of Frances Owens and late Dominic Litto; brother to Jeanne Jankowski and late husband John Jankowski, brother to Steven Owens and wife Stacey Owens, and brother to the late Scott Owens. Survived by many nieces and nephews that he was extremely proud of; and forever grateful to his Shea family, "Jim" Shea (USMC), Joan Shea, Lisa Solares, Colleen Connerty, Jim Shea, and Joan Margret Veit. Richie was born and raised in South Boston.

He voluntarily enlisted in the United States Marine Corps directly out of high school, where he proudly served his country until he retired. He was an Iraq War Combat veteran, served in Africa during Operation Enduring Freedom, and was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant in 2010. He began his career in law enforcement at the old Charles Street Jail. He worked as a Boston Housing Police Officer for many years, until he joined the Boston Police Department in 1992. Rich was the Community Police officer for the South End in District 4. He worked tirelessly for that community, and they loved him for that. Even after

retirement, he visited many of the establishments and checked in on many of the residents.

Richie was a member of the South Boston and Savin Hill Yacht Club. He served two terms as the South Boston Yacht Club as Commodore and was currently serving on the Board of Trustees. He loved all things adventure: sailing, hiking, motorcycles, and traveling. If he had something in mind, it was done the next day. Richie was a firm believer of getting up early and living life to the fullest. He was such a staple in the community, he was one of a kind, he was everyone's "go-to guy". We will laugh forever over memories and a good "Richie Litto Story".

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Richard F. Litto, at twenty-six 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.