
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, November 4, 2024.

Met at seventeen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Ms. Edwards in the Chair) (having been appointed, by the President, under authority conferred by Senate Rule 4, to perform the duties of the Chair).

World War II veteran Mitchell John Benjamino led the Chair (Ms. Edwards), members, guests and staff in the recitation of the pledge of allegiance to the flag .

Pledge of
allegiance.

Distinguished Guests.

There being no objection, the Chair (Ms. Edwards) handed the gavel to Mr. Timilty for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. Timilty then introduced, on the Rostrum, World War II veteran Mitchell John Benjamino of Randolph. Mr. Benjamino bravely fought for our country between 1943 and 1946 in the South Pacific, as a member of the Marine Corps. He served as Staff Sergeant of the 1st Squadron, 1st Marine Air Wing, and was stationed in New Hebrides, Guadalcanal, and the Admiralty Islands. He was visiting the State House in recognition of his 100th birthday celebration, and was accompanied by family members: Lance Benjamino, Terése Benjamino, Marc Benjamino, Kathleen Benjamino, and his wife Dianne Benjamino. The Senate thanked him for his outstanding service and sacrifice for our country, he signed the guest book and addressed the Chamber from the Rostrum.

Mitchell John
Benjamino.

Communication.

Communication from the Office of the Comptroller relative to the status of the filing of the Statutory Basis Financial Report (pursuant to Section 12 of Chapter 7A of the General Laws) (received November 1, 2024),-- **was placed on file.**

Comptroller,--
SBFR filing.
SD3512

Reports.

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

Report of the Middlesex County Restoration Center Commission (pursuant to Section 225 of Chapter 69 of the Acts of 2018, as amended under Chapter 126 of the Acts of 2022) submitting its annual report on its year six findings and recommendations report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery) (received October 31, 2024);

MCRCC,-- annual
report.
SD3509

Report of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (pursuant to Section 22 of Chapter 40B of the General Laws, as amended by Section 15 of Chapter 150 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its report on HAC delays (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Housing) (received November 1, 2024); and

EOHLC,-- HAC
delays report.
SD3510

Report of the Executive Office of Veterans Services (pursuant to Section 12 of Chapter 115 of the General Laws as amended under Section 71 of Chapter 178 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its 2024 annual report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs) (received November 1, 2024).

EOVS,-- 2024
annual report.
SD3511

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Notice was received from the House of Representatives announcing the following appointment by the Minority Leader:

Representative Kelly W. Pease of Westfield has been appointed to serve as his designee (under Section 215 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) to the Commission for Higher Education Quality and Affordability.

Higher Education
Quality and
Affordability
Commission,-- appt.

A Bill allowing the town of Williamstown to expand age eligibility for senior property tax exemption (House, No. 5005, changed,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.**

Williamstown,--
senior property tax.

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. Edwards) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Establishing a sick leave bank for Mary Katherine Sheehan, an employee of the trial court of the commonwealth (see Senate, No. 2966); and

Bills laid before the
Governor.

Relative to medically necessary breast screenings and exams for equity and early detection (see House, No. 4918, amended).

Emergency Preamble Adopted.

An engrossed Bill designating a certain overpass in the city of New Bedford as the Andre Lopes Korean War Veteran overpass (see House, No. 4954, amended), 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.

New Bedford,--
Andre Lopes
Korean War
Veteran Overpass.

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

Report of Committees.

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 Michael F. Rush for legislation to protect Norwood healthcare access.

Norwood,--
healthcare services.
SD3470

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Health Care Financing.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

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 North Reading to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (House, No. 4784),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

North Reading,--
senior property tax
exemption.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

The House Bill regarding the continued employment of a certain employee of the town of Oxford (House, No. 4797),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows: “An Act authorizing the town of Oxford to continue the employment of Craig Gagner”.**

Oxford,-- Craig Gagner.

The House Bill relative to the appointment of an associate member of the town of Bernardston board of health (House, No. 4886),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows: “An Act authorizing the select board of the town of Bernardston to appoint an associate member to the board of health”.**

Bernardston,-- board of health.

The House Bill authorizing the Dudley town administrator to sign warrants (House, No 4887),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows: “An Act further regulating the fiscal authority of the town administrator of the town of Dudley”.**

Dudley,-- town administrator.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Rowley to continue employment of call firefighter Donald Dupray (House, No. 5024),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows: “An Act authorizing the town of Rowley to continue the employment of call firefighter Donald Dupray”.**

Rowley,-- firefighter Robert Dupray.

Report of a Committee.

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Senate Bill to increase housing production in the city of Lowell (Senate, No. 2470),-- ought to pass with an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2977).

Lowell,-- housing production.

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

The bill (Senate, No. 2977) was then ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5097) of John H. Rogers that the Department of Public Health be authorized and directed to maintain the provision of health care services in the towns of Norwood and Foxborough,-- **was referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Health.**

Norwood,-- healthcare access.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. O’Connor,--

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

Time of meeting.

On motion of the same Senator, at twenty-nine minutes before twelve o’clock noon, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday at eleven o’clock A.M.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.