

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Wednesday, October 23, 2024.

Met at nine 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.

Distinguished Guests.

There being no objection, the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) handed the gavel to Mr. O'Connor for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. O'Connor then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, Bill Norton of Weymouth. Bill was visiting the State House in recognition of the kickoff event for the "Kevin for Kids" toy drive, organized in honor of his late partner Kevin McLean. In the past 15 years he has collected over 30,000 toys for less fortunate children during the holiday season. He was accompanied by Bridgewater Town Council member Paul Murphy, Nick Andrasy, USMC, John Bourne, US Army, Staff Sergeant Andrew Doll, Sergeant Mike Wedel, Sergeant Armando Treadwell, PFC Matthew Mchargue, Sergeant Jomel Dellomes, LCPL Scott Graham, CPL Alicia Wehrenberg and CPL Quinn Sharrow. The Senate welcomed them with applause and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Bill Norton.

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 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 October 21, 2024 (received October 21, 2024),-- was placed on file.

Emergency Housing Assistance Program,-- bi-weekly report. SD3491

Reports.

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

Report of the Office for Refugees and Immigrants (pursuant to item 4003-0123 of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its September report detailing expenditures of resettlement agencies (RAs) that resettle and support refugees and immigrants (received October 21, 2024); and

Office for Refugees and Immigrants,-- RA report. SD3492

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 October 21, 2024 (received October 21, 2024).

A&F,-- monthly training report. SD3493

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Bills

Authorizing the city known as the town of Franklin to utilize alternative methods for notice of public hearings (House, No. 2108,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Franklin,-- public hearing notices.

Authorizing the town of Dracut to adopt alternative methods for notice of public

Dracut,-- public hearing notices.

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hearings (House, No. 4430,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Authorizing the town of Sharon to adopt alternative methods for notice of public hearings (House, No. 4857,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Establishing a means tested senior property tax exemption in the town of Williamstown (House, No. 5006,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

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

Sharon,-- public hearing notices.

Williamstown,-- senior property tax.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Velis) “commending the Doctor I.R. Calkins Assembly of the Society of American Magicians on their observance of October 31, 2024 as National Magic Day.”

Doctor I.R. Calkins Assembly of the Society of American Magicians.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE

Engrossed Bill.

An engrossed Bill exempting the position of police chief in the city known as the town of Barnstable from the civil service law (see Senate, No. 2746) (which originated in the Senate), **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. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.**

Bill laid before the Governor.

Recess.

There being no objection, at nineteen minutes before twelve o'clock noon, the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair; and at eight minutes past three o'clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair.

Recess.

Committee of Conference Report.

Mr. Barrett for the committee of conference, on the disagreeing votes of the two branches, with reference to the House amendments to the Senate Bill upgrading the grid and protecting ratepayers (Senate, No. 2838) (*amended by the House* by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of House document numbered 4884 and by striking out the title and inserting in place thereof the following title: “An Act accelerating a responsible, innovative and equitable clean energy transition”),-- reports, a “Bill promoting a clean energy grid, advancing equity and protecting ratepayers.” (Senate, No. 2967),-- was read.

Climate,-- grid enhancements.

Senate Rule 26 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Barrett.

After remarks, on motion of Mr. Tarr, the further consideration thereof was postponed until Thursday, October 24th.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

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

Time of meeting.

On motion of the same Senator, at thirteen minutes past three o'clock P.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M.