

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, November 21, 2024.

Met at six minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Collins in the Chair).

The Chair (Mr. Collins), 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 Nichelle Sadler (pursuant to Section 149 of Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2024) to the special commission to study the commonwealth's funding structure for violence prevention services (received November 18, 2024);

Funding structure for violence prevention services,-- appt. SD3432

Communication from the Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate, announcing the re-appointment of Mary Lampert (pursuant to Section 14 of Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2016) to the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (received November 18, 2024); and

Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel. SD3533

Communication from the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to 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 November 14, 2024 (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means) (received November 19, 2024).

Emergency Housing Assistance Program,-- bi-weekly report. SD3534

Reports.

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

Report of the Department of Economic Research (pursuant to Section 14F of Chapter 151A of the General Laws) submitting the November 2024 Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development) (received November 18, 2024);

DER,-- UI trust fund report. SD3531

Report of the Office for Refugees and Immigrants (pursuant to item 4003-0123 of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its October report detailing expenditures of resettlement agencies (RAs) that resettle and support refugees and immigrants (received November 19, 2024);

Office for Refugees and Immigrants,-- RA report. SD3535

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 November 18, 2024 (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means) (received November 19, 2024);

A&F,-- EA monthly training report. SD3536

Report of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Department of Energy Resources (pursuant to Section 12 of Chapter 25A of the General Laws) submitting Building Energy Reporting Regulations (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy) (received November 20, 2024);

DOER,-- building energy report. SD3537

Report of the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (pursuant to Section 8(g) of

STRA,-- auditors'

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Chapter 161B of the General Laws) submitting its audited financial statements and supplementary information for the year ended June 30, 2024 (received November 20, 2024); and

reports.
SD3538

Report of the Special Commission on Emergency Housing Assistance Programs (pursuant to Section 23 of Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its report outlining recommendations on: (i) the sustainability, efficiency and effectiveness of the emergency housing assistance program; (ii) how to best support and ensure the long-term sufficiency of those seeking shelter; and (iii) creating a regional based response to support families in need of shelter (received November 21, 2024).

Special
Commission on
Emergency Housing
Assistance
Programs,-- report.
SD3540

Petition.

Mr. Fattman presented a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Ryan C. Fattman for legislation regarding the disability pension for Michael Palmer,-- **and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.**

Michael Palmer,--
disability pension.
SD3539

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A message from Her Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to commercial driver's licenses (House, No. 5109),-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Transportation.**

Commercial driver's
licenses.

Bills

Relative to providing for recall elections in the town of North Brookfield (House, No. 4272,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

North Brookfield,--
recall elections.

Amending the town charter in the town of Grafton relative to appointments by the town select board and the town administrator and the reference to the town's website (House, No. 4682,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Grafton,-- town
charter.

Amending the town charter in the town of Grafton relative to the town school committee and the Grafton housing authority (House, No. 4683,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Id.

Authorizing Jason Restituyo to take the civil service examination for the position of police officer in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4952,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Haverhill,-- Jason
Restituyo.

Authorizing Michael E. Jarvis, Jr. to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4953,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Haverhill,-- Michael
E. Jarvis, Jr.

Relative to the recall of elected officials in the town of Williamstown (House, No. 5002,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Williamstown,--
recall elections.

Changing the Holyoke Treasurer position from elected to appointed (House, No. 5062 amended,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Holyoke,--
treasurer.

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 considered forthwith and adopted, as follows:-

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Lewis) "commending local public health advocates including the Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition for their commitment to fostering healthier generations."

Mystic Valley
Public Health
Coalition.

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 Senate Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Jonathan Turner, an employee of the Norfolk county sheriff's office (Senate, No. 2981) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Jonathan Turner,--
sick leave.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The Senate Bill authorizing the town of Sandwich to grant additional licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (Senate, No. 2861),-- was read a third time.

Sandwich,-- liquor
licenses.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Ms. Moran presented an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2985).

The amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 2985) was then passed to be engrossed.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The House Bill including the Salem harbor designated port area as part of the Salem harbor port area (House, No. 4398) (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.**

Salem,-- port area.

The House Bill increasing the age limit for the appointment of special police officers in the city of Springfield (House, No. 4822),-- was read a third time.

Springfield,--
special police
officers.

Pending the question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Mr. Gomez presented an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 2984.

The amendment was adopted.

The bill, as amended, was then passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with the amendment.

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Stephen Brophy, an employee of the Department of Correction (House, No. 5075,-- on House, No. 5073),-- was read.

Stephen Brophy,--
sick leave.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, and the bill was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5115) of Colleen M. Garry that the Dracut water supply district be authorized to supply and sell water for domestic and other purposes;

Dracut Water
Supply District.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5116) of Adam Scanlon for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Daniel McKim, an employee of Worcester County Sheriff's Office;

Daniel McKim,--
sick leave.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Service.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5117) of Brian W. Murray and others

Commercial driver's

relative to disqualification from operating commercial motor vehicles; and

licenses.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5118) of Smitty Pignatelli and Paul W. Mark that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation be directed to designate a portion of state highway Route 7A in the town of Lenox as the Ross B. Dindio memorial highway;

Lenox,-- Ross B. Dindio Memorial highway.

Severally, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Transportation.

Orders.

The following House Orders (severally approved by the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently) were considered as follows:

Public Service,-- extension order.

Ordered, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Joint Rule 10, the committee on Public Service be granted until Tuesday, December 31, 2024 within which time to make its final report on current Senate document numbered 1646, and House documents numbered 2502 and 4122.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, and the order (House, No. 4792) was considered forthwith; and adopted, in concurrence.

Ordered, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Joint Rule 10, the committee on Public Service be granted until Tuesday, December 31, 2024 within which time to make its final report on current Senate document numbered 1721.

Id.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, and the order (House, No. 4812) was considered forthwith; and adopted, in concurrence.

Ordered, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Joint Rule 10, the committee on Public Service be granted until Tuesday, December 31, 2024 within which time to make its final report on current House document numbered 4894.

Id.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, and the order (House, No. 4936) was considered forthwith; and adopted, in concurrence.

Ordered, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Joint Rule 10, the committee on Public Service be granted until Tuesday, December 31, 2024 within which time to make its final report on current House document numbered 4987.

Id.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, and the order (House, No. 5040) was considered forthwith; and adopted, in concurrence.

Ordered, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Joint Rule 10, the committee on Public Service be granted until Tuesday, December 31, 2024 within which time to make its final report on current House document numbered 4988.

Id.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, and the order (House, No. 5041) was considered forthwith; and adopted, in concurrence.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of Mr. Timilty the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Dr. John Conyngham Robinson.

Moment of silence.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Timilty,--

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

Time of meeting.

Adjournment in Memory of Dr. John Robinson.

The Senator from Norfolk, Plymouth and Bristol, Mr. Timilty, moves that when the Senate adjourns today, it does so in memory of John “Jack” Conyngham Robinson who passed away at home in Milton, Massachusetts on April 20, at the age of 92.

Jack was born on August 5, 1931, in New York City to Helen Monroe and Richard Ivers Robinson and grew up in Greenwich, Connecticut.

In 8th grade, Jack entered Milton Academy where, at the age of 14, he met the love of his life, June Nordblom. He graduated from Milton Academy in 1949 and attended Princeton University, majoring in English literature. Following their junior year in college, Jack and June were married in Harwich Port on Cape Cod. In August of 2022, they gathered with extended family at the Cape to celebrate 70 years of marriage.

Upon graduating from Princeton in 1953, Jack spent four years in the Navy, based in San Diego. He served on active duty aboard the destroyer USS Stembel and became the ship’s navigator and an expert in celestial navigation in the Pacific. While based in California, Jack and June became the proud parents of two daughters, Pixie and Leslie. After the Navy, Jack and June returned to Milton, welcoming sons Richard and Mark into their family. Milton became their home base for the remainder of their wonderful lives together.

After attending Tufts Medical School, Jack completed his pediatric residency and fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital, where he served as Pediatric Chief Resident. A consummate educator and teacher, he mentored countless pediatricians and served as a teaching fellow and as an assistant clinical professor in Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School for almost 20 years. Jack started his private pediatric practice as a solo practitioner and, over time, his practice grew into Milton Pediatrics with numerous pediatricians caring for thousands of children and families, spanning across multiple generations.

Jack was beloved by his patients and their families, valued as an astute diagnostician with a compassionate and gentle demeanor. He had a special way of putting his young patients and their parents at ease with his direct but kind manner, his cheerful humming and whistling of various songs throughout the day and his marvelous collection of fun ties, specifically curated with his young patients in mind.

Upon his retirement at age 79, and in honor of more than a half century of Jack’s devotion to patients and to training new physicians, his extended family and grateful patients established the John C. Robinson Chair in Pediatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Jack remained a dedicated alumnus of Milton Academy his entire life, appreciating the education he received and, most of all, the life-long friendships he made there. He served briefly on Milton’s Board of Trustees and spent countless hours volunteering as the school’s physician from 1972 to 2000.

Jack was a life-long gardener, each summer providing fresh vegetables for the dinner table and roses for June’s floral arrangements, often corralling his children to help cultivate and harvest. He relished a competitive round of bridge, though his friends would joke that they were often tempted to forfeit the kitty in advance, knowing that Jack would typically emerge victorious.

Jack was an athlete throughout his life, and Jack and June enjoyed playing tennis and golf together for decades. June’s brother, Rod Nordblom, taught Jack to ski and sail. Jack revered Rod like an older brother.

Jack adored singing and was a romantic at heart, serenading June throughout their married life and writing poetry and songs for many special occasions. Jack’s family and friends will always remember him for his integrity, his strong moral compass, his compassion for others, and for the appreciation he had for all the wonderful people and events in his life.

Jack is survived by his brother, Peter Robinson, and by his four children and their spouses, Ailene Robinson (Tom Lewis), Leslie Will (Anthony Will), Richard Robinson (Carolyn Payne) and Mark Robinson (Tisa Hughes), ten grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, June Nordblom Robinson, and his grandson, John (Jack) Robinson.

He will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Dr. John Robinson, at twenty minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Timilty, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.