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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.**



**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2024**

[104]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Wednesday, November 27, 2024.

Met at six minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Ms. Jehlen 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 (Ms. Jehlen), 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 Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, announcing the appointment of Chief Thomas Fowler (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 November 26, 2024); and

Special Comm. on Combatting Antisemitism,-- appt. SD3554

Communication from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security relative to the appointment of Jeff Farnsworth (pursuant to Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2024) to the Special Commission on Emerging Firearms Technology (received November 26, 2024).

Special Comm. on Emerging Firearms Technology. SD3555

Reports.

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

Report of the Office of Veteran Advocate (pursuant to Section 4 of Chapter 115B of the General Laws) submitting its FY2024 annual report (copies having been forwarded to Her Excellency the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Senate Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs) (received November 25, 2024);

Veteran Advocate annual report. SD3548

Report of the Office of Veteran Advocate (pursuant to Section 2 of Chapter 115B of the General Laws) submitting its testimony in support of H4172 HERO Act (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs) (received November 25, 2024);

OVA,-- HERO Act testimony. SD3549

Report of the Office of Veteran Advocate (pursuant to Section 2 of Chapter 115B of the General Laws) submitting its FY2025 Budget request (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means) (received November 25, 2024);

OVA,-- FY2025 Budget request. SD3550

Report of the of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (pursuant to line-item 7004-9316 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) FY2025 Q1 quarterly report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means) (received November 25, 2024);

HLC,-- RAFT FY25 Q1 quarterly report. SD3551

Report of the Department of Higher Education (pursuant to line-Item 7066-0036 of the FY2023 Budget) submitting its Year Eight STEM Starter Academy Report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Higher Education and the Joint Committee on Education) (received November 26, 2024); and

Dept. Higher Ed.-- STEM Starter Academy report. SD3552

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

Report of the Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority (pursuant to Section 8(g) of Chapter 161B of the General Laws) submitting its financial statements and supplementary information for the year ended June 30, 2024 (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation) (received November 26, 2024).

MV RTA,--  
auditor's report.  
SD3553

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A communication from the Department of Energy Resources of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (under the provisions of section 12 of Chapter 25A of the General Laws) submitting proposed amendments to regulations 225 CMR 22.00 and 23.00 – governing the Stretch and Specialized Code Regulations (House, No. 5122),-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.**

DOER,-- proposed  
regulations.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5120) of Brandy Fluker Oakley (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the appointment of Pierre Charles Darius as a police officer in the city of Boston, notwithstanding the maximum age requirement; and

Boston,-- Pierre  
Charles Darius.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5124) of Meghan K. Kilcoyne and John J. Cronin (by vote of the town) that the town of Lancaster be authorized to continue the employment of Steven A. Hilliger, a firefighter of said town, notwithstanding the maximum age requirement;

Lancaster,-- Steven  
A. Hilliger.

**Severally to the committee on Public Service.**

**Bills**

Extending the mandatory retirement age for Daniel Santos as deputy chief of the town of West Brookfield fire department (House, No. 4780,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

West Brookfield,--  
Daniel Santos  
retirement.

Authorizing the town of West Brookfield to continue the employment of George Kenneth Collette (House, No. 4781,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

West Brookfield,--  
George Collette  
retirement.

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

*Reports of Committees.*

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Kate Sout-Sorm, an employee of the department of transitional assistance (Senate, No. 2986);

Kate Sout-Sorm,--  
sick leave.

**The bill was read. 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.**

By Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules, reported that the following matter be placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session:

The House Bill relative to the Adams Fire District (House, No. 2031).

Adams fire district.

**There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Timilty, and the bill 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 Adams Fire District to maintain an Enterprise Fund".**

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

By Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules, reported that the following matter be placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session:

The House Bill repealing certain fiscal stability procedures in the towns of Chesterfield and Goshen (House, No. 4525).

Chesterfield/Goshen  
-- fiscal stability.

**There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, and the bill was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in 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 designating a certain bridge in the town of Falmouth as the Deputy John Robert Kotfila Jr. memorial bridge (House, No. 3466),-- was read a second time, and was amended, as previously recommended by the committee on Rules striking out, in line 6, the words "on the bridge".

Falmouth,-- Deputy  
John Robert Kotfila,  
Jr. bridge.

**The bill, as amended, was then ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with the amendment.**

**Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.**

The House Bill amending the appointment and election restrictions on finance committee and capital planning members in the town of Newbury (House, No. 4742),-- **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 amending the appointment of and election restrictions on finance committee and capital planning members in the town of Newbury".**

Newbury,-- finance  
committee and  
capital planning.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5128) of David Allen Robertson for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Jeanne Rainone, an employee of the Department of Children and Families;

Jeanne Rainone,--  
sick leave.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5129) of Kip A. Diggs and Julian Cyr relative to the transportation of marine vessels;

Marine vessels,--  
transportation.

**Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Transportation.**

*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 (Ms. Jehlen) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

To recall elected officials in the town of Manchester-by-the-Sea (see House Bill, printed as Senate, No. 440, amended); and

Bills laid before the  
Governor.

Regulating the appointment and removal of officials and employees of the town of Andover (see House, No. 4639, changed).

*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 Genoveffa Ruscito.

Moment of silence.

*Order Adopted.*

On motion of Mr. O'Connor,--

*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 Genoveffa (Ferrara) Ruscito.*

The Senator from Plymouth, Norfolk and Bristol, Mr. Timilty, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it does so in memory of Genoveffa (Ferrara) Ruscito, known to all as Gina, who passed away November 3rd.

Born in the quaint village of San Pietro, Irpinio, Avellino, Italy, Gina carried the warmth of her homeland in her heart throughout her life, sharing it generously with everyone she encountered.

Gina's journey brought her to the United States at the age of 17, where she continued her life's adventure. She settled in Stoughton for her final 12 years, after having lived and created a lifetime of memories in Milton and Hyde Park. Her commitment to family and her nurturing spirit were evident in every aspect of her life, as she embraced her role as a devoted wife to her beloved husband for 52 years of Antonio Ruscito, and as a loving mother to her children, Teresa Lombardo and her husband Joseph of New Jersey, Aldo Ruscito and his wife Sylvia of Canton, and Anthony Ruscito and his wife Kendra of Canton.

She was the daughter of the late Americo and Carmella Ferrara; and sister to Flora Ferrara and her husband Angelo of Salerno, Italy, Sabato Ferrara and his wife Fiorentina of Easton, Gigliola DiLetizia and her husband Renato of Canton and Bruno Ferrara and his wife Rita of Norton. Her love extended to her role as a doting grandmother, cherishing every moment with her grandchildren Joseph, John, Anthony, Chiara, Anthony, Cristiana, Sam, Francesca, Aldo and Antonio.

Gina's childhood in Italy laid the foundation for her wisdom and the values she upheld throughout her life. Her move to the United States marked the beginning of a new chapter, but she remained deeply connected to her roots, infusing her Italian heritage into the fabric of her family's life.

Her work history was not characterized by titles or accolades but by the profound impact she had on her family. She was the cornerstone of their home, a testament to her unwavering dedication and selflessness. Her involvement with her family was her most significant association, one she cherished above all else.

An incredible cook, Gina found joy in the simple pleasure of preparing meals that brought her family together around the table. Her culinary skills were matched only by her capacity for love, and her kitchen became a place of gathering, laughter, and shared stories. Her interests were deeply intertwined with her love for her family, especially her grandchildren, with whom she spent countless cherished moments.

Those who knew Gina would describe her as the epitome of love and selflessness. She had an innate ability to make everyone around her feel valued and cared for, a gift that will be profoundly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

She will be deeply missed, but the warmth of her love will forever remain in the hearts of those who loved her.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Genoveffa (Ferrara) Ruscito, 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.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**