
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020.

[41]

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Thursday, April 23, 2020.

Met according to adjournment at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Mr. Donato of Medford in the Chair (having been appointed by the Speaker, under authority conferred by Rule 5, to perform the duties of the Chair).

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Donato), the members, guests [sic] and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of
allegiance.

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Mr. Fernandes of Falmouth, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Dylan A. Fernandes relative to authorizing the county of Dukes County to borrow funds for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 as a result of COVID-19 based financial impacts.

COVID-19,—
Dukes County
funds.

By Mr. Gentile of Sudbury, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Carmine Lawrence Gentile and others relative to credit card debt collection during the COVID-19 outbreak.

COVID-19,—
credit card
debt.

By Mr. González of Springfield, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Carlos González and others relative to providing aid to nonprofit and charitable organizations in gateway cities for the provision of services during the COVID-19 outbreak.

COVID-19,—
gateway city
charities.

By Mr. Madaro of Boston, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Adrian C. Madaro and others relative to establishing voting by mail.

Voting
by mail.

By Ms. Robinson of Framingham, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Maria Duaine Robinson and others for legislation to provide hazard pay for essential workers in the COVID-19 emergency.

COVID-19,—
hazard pay.

Severally, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Papers from the Senate.

The Senate Bill providing additional support to those affected by the novel coronavirus through the unemployment insurance system (Senate, No. 2618, amended), came from the Senate with the endorsement that said branch had concurred with the House in its amendment (striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 4648) with a further amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 2651. The further amendment was referred, under Rule 35, to the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

Unemployment
insurance.

A Bill providing assistance to vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 emergency (Senate, No. 2647) (on a part of House, No. 4398), passed to be engrossed

COVID-19,—
emergency
assistance.

by the Senate, was read; and it was referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

A Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Jessica Zamansky, an employee of the Department of Transitional Assistance (Senate, No. 2603) (on a petition), passed to be engrossed by the Senate, was read; and it was referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Jessica Zamansky,—
sick leave.

Petitions were referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, as follows:

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2652) of Bruce E. Tarr, Anne M. Gobi, Patrick M. O'Connor and Brendan P. Crighton for legislation relative to preventing price gouging during an emergency. To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Price gouging protection.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2653) of Cynthia Stone Creem for legislation relative to voting by mail and early voting; and

Voting.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2654) of Rebecca L. Rausch and Adrian C. Madaro for legislation to establish vote by mail in 2020.

Id.

Severally to the committee on Election Laws.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2655) of James B. Eldridge, Nika C. Elugardo, Jack Patrick Lewis, Patrick M. O'Connor and other members of the General Court for legislation to concern business interruption insurance. To the committee on Financial Services.

Business interruption insurance.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2656) of Michael O. Moore, Marcos A. Devers, Frank A. Moran, Brian M. Ashe and other members of the General Court for legislation to provide emergency assistance to gateway cities for temporary homeless shelters. To the committee on Housing.

Homeless shelters.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2657) of James B. Eldridge and James Arciero for legislation relative to patient safety in nursing homes. To the committee on Public Health.

Nursing homes,—
safety.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2658) of Michael O. Moore, Brian M. Ashe, Paul R. Feeney, Peter Capano and other members of the General Court for legislation to provide emergency assistance for municipal public safety overtime. To the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

Public safety,—
emergency assistance.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2659) of James B. Eldridge, Ruth B. Balsler, Liz Miranda, Maria Duaine Robinson and other members of the General Court for legislation to provide equal stimulus checks to immigrant taxpayers. To the committee on Revenue.

Immigrants,—
stimulus checks.

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules and the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the following petitions:

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Josh S. Cutler relative to notification of changing polling locations during a state of emergency. To the committee on Election Laws.

COVID-19,—
polling locations.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Tommy Vitolo and others relative to the showing of residential real property during the COVID-19 state of emergency declaration. To the committee on Housing.

COVID-19,—
real estate showings.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Jay D. Livingstone, David M. Rogers and others relative to unemployment insurance for the gig economy, so-called; and

Unemployment insurance.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Jay D. Livingstone and others relative to employment under the unemployment insurance program.

Id.

Severally to the committee on Labor and Workforce Development.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Michelle L. Ciccolo, Tommy Vitolo and others relative to authorizing remote participation at representative town meetings due to the COVID-19 emergency. To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

COVID-19,—
town meetings.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Vitolo of Brookline, the reports were considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 then was suspended, in each instance. Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, for the committee on Ways and Means, reported that the Senate Bill providing for virtual notarization to address challenges related to COVID-19 (Senate, No. 2645), ought to pass with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 4668.

COVID-19,—
virtual notarization.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of the same member, the bill was read a second time forthwith.

The amendment recommended by the committee on Ways and Means then was adopted; and the bill, as amended, was ordered to a third reading.

Subsequently under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Speliotis of Danvers, the bill (having been reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn), was read a third time; and it was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence. The bill (Senate, No. 2645, amended) then was sent to the Senate for concurrence in the amendment.

By Mr. Petrolati of Ludlow, for the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, that the following House bills be scheduled for consideration by the House:

Establishing a sick leave bank for Marta Romero, an employee of the Department of Disability Services (House, No. 4632);

Marta Romero,—
sick leave.

Establishing a sick leave bank for Kimberly Brantley, an employee of [sic] Department of Developmental Services (House, No. 4653);

Kimberly Brantley.

Establishing a sick leave bank for Jessica Ocasio, an employee of [sic] Department of Transitional Assistance (House, No. 4654);

Jessica Ocasio,—
sick leave.

Establishing a sick leave bank for Amanda Caruso, an employee of the Massachusetts department of corrections [sic] (House, No. 4657); and

Amanda Caruso,—
sick leave.

Establishing a sick leave bank for Paula Euber, an employee of the Department of Massachusetts rehabilitation commission [sic] (House, No. 4662);

Paula Euber,—
sick leave.

Under suspension of Rule 7A, in each instance, on motion of Ms. Farley-Bouvier of Pittsfield, the bills severally were read a second time forthwith; and they were ordered to a third reading.

Orders of the Day.

House bills

Authorizing the county of Dukes County to borrow funds to pay costs of acquiring land, constructing buildings and other facilities as the county shall require,

Third reading bills.

making capital improvements to county facilities, acquiring items of capital equipment, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto (House, No. 4094); and

Authorizing the town of Leicester to continue the employment of Paul S. Doray (House, No. 4240);

Severally reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, were read a third time; and they were passed to be engrossed. Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The Senate Bill designating United States Cadet Nurse Corps Day (Senate, No. 2178, changed), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

United States
Cadet Nurse
Corps Day.

Pending the question on passing the bill to engrossed, in concurrence, Messrs. Speliotis of Danvers and Robertson of Tewksbury moved to amend it by adding the following section:

“SECTION 2. The superintendent of the bureau of the state house shall, subject to the approval of the art commission of the state house as to size and content, install and maintain a plaque in a suitable space in Nurses Hall in the state house in honor of the Massachusetts members of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps.”.

The amendment was adopted; and the bill (Senate, No. 2178, changed and amended) was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence. Sent to the Senate for concurrence in the amendment.

The Senate amendments of the House Bill relative to strengthening the local and regional public health system (House, No. 4503), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was considered.

Local public
health systems.

Ms. Garlick of Needham then moved that the House concur with the Senate in its amendments (striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 2594; and inserting before the enacting clause an emergency preamble) with a further amendment by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contain in House document numbered 4671. The further amendment was adopted.

The House then concurred with the Senate in its amendments, as amended. Sent to the Senate for concurrence in the further amendment.

Recess.

At nineteen minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Vieira of Falmouth (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House recessed subject to the call of the Chair; and at four minutes after two o'clock P.M. the House was called to order with Mr. Donato in the Chair.

Recess.

Orders.

The following order (filed by Mr. Roy of Franklin) was referred, under Joint Rule 30, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently:

Ordered, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Joint Rule 10, the committee on Higher Education be granted until Friday, November 20, 2020 within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 737, 741, 744, 752, 754, 758, 765, 769 and 1089, and House documents numbered 43, 481, 1202, 1210, 1211, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1221, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1240, 1245, 1247 and 1248.

Higher Education,—
extension of time for reporting.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committees on Rules, reported that the order (House, No. 4669), ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Roy of Franklin, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The following order (filed by Mr. O’Day of West Boylston) was referred, under Joint Rule 30, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently:

Ordered, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Joint Rule 10, the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government be granted until Friday, June 5, 2020 within which time to make its final report on current House documents numbered 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834 and 1835.

Municipalities and Regional Government,—
extension of time for reporting.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committees on Rules, reported that the order (House, No. 4670), ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. O’Day of West Boylston, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Recess.

At six minutes after two o’clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Vieira of Falmouth (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House recessed subject to the call of the Chair; and at twenty-six minutes before five o’clock P.M. the House was called to order with Mr. Donato in the Chair.

Recess.

Report of a Committee.

Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, for the committee on Ways and Means, on House, No. 4354, reported, in part, a Bill addressing COVID-19 data collection and disparities in treatment (House, No. 4672).

COVID-19,—
data collection.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of the same member, the bill was read a second and third time forthwith.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Speliotis of Danvers moved to amend it in section 2, in lines 77 to 91, inclusive, by striking out the paragraph contained in those lines and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:

“(c) The task force shall consist of 14 members: 5 members appointed by the senate president, provided, that not more than 2 shall be members of the senate; 5 members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, provided, that not more than 2 shall be members of the house of representatives; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives; 1 member who shall be the chair of the Massachusetts Asian-American Legislative Caucus; and 1 member who shall be the chair of the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus. Task force membership shall reflect diverse representation in the commonwealth including, but not limited to, diverse geographic locations, cultural, racial, ethnic and linguistic populations, and

people with disabilities. Unless otherwise specified, members of the task force shall be knowledgeable in public health or healthcare and appointments shall give consideration to individuals who have experience addressing health care disparities in underserved or underrepresented cultural, racial, ethnic and linguistic populations and people with disabilities or working in the healthcare system with a diverse patient population. Two members of the task force shall be elected by a majority of the task force membership to serve as co-chairs; provided, however, that neither member shall be a member of the senate nor a member of the house of representatives.”.

The amendment was adopted; and the bill (House, No. 4672, amended) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Emergency Measures.

The engrossed Bill providing for virtual notarization to address challenges related to COVID-19 (see Senate, No. 2645, amended), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was considered, the question being on adopting the emergency preamble.

COVID-19,—
virtual
notarization.

A separate vote was taken, as required by the provisions of Article XLVIII (as amended by Article LXVII) of the Amendments to the Constitution; and the preamble was adopted, by a vote of 4 to 0. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Subsequently the Senate having concurred in adoption of the emergency preamble, the bill (which originated in the Senate) was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Bill
enacted.

The engrossed Bill relative to strengthening the local and regional public health system (see House, No. 4503, amended), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was considered, the question being on adopting the emergency preamble.

Local public
health systems.

A separate vote was taken, as required by the provisions of Article XLVIII (as amended by Article LXVII) of the Amendments to the Constitution; and the preamble was adopted, by a vote of 4 to 0. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Subsequently, the Senate having concurred in adoption of the emergency preamble, the bill (which originated in the House) was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Bill
enacted.

Order.

On motion of Mr. DeLeo of Winthrop,—

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

Next
sitting.

At ten minutes before five o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Vieira of Falmouth (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Monday at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.