
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020.

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JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Thursday, March 19, 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 and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of
allegiance.

Petition.

Representative Haddad of Somerset and Senator Rodrigues presented a joint petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Patricia A. Haddad and Michael J. Rodrigues for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Racquel Jean-Louis, an employee of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Racquel
Jean-Louis,—
sick leave.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules and the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, then reported recommending that Joint Rule 12 be suspended. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mrs. Haddad of Somerset, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Public Service. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Mr. Arciero of Westford, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of James Arciero and others relative to creating a presumption of job relatedness for certain public safety personnel and first responders suffering from incapacitation or inability to perform their duties as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection or exposure.

Responders,—
COVID-19
exposure.

By Mr. Donato of Medford, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Paul J. Donato that the State Secretary be authorized to regulate elections in certain emergency situations.

Elections,—
emergencies.

By Messrs. Pignatelli of Lenox and Barrett of North Adams, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Smitty Pignatelli, John Barrett, III and others for legislation to establish a fund providing financial assistance to residents who experience certain financial hardship as a result of COVID-19.

COVID-19,—
financial
assistance.

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

Papers from the Senate.

The House Bill relative to the gender neutral redraft of the home rule charter of the town of Easton (House, No. 3984), came from the Senate with the endorsement that it had been passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in

Easton,—
charter.

Senate document numbered 2600. The amendment was referred, under Rule 35, to the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

The House Bill relative to strengthening the local and regional public health system (House, No. 4503), came from the Senate with the endorsement that it had been passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with 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 the following emergency preamble:

Public health,—
local and
regional
systems.

“Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to defeat its purpose [sic], which is to strengthen forthwith the local and regional public health system, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health.”

The amendments were referred, under Rule 35, to the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

Report of a Committee.

By Mr. Parisella of Beverly, for the committee on Public Service, on Senate, No. 2585 and House, No. 4548, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Jose Lopez, an employee of the Department of Transportation (House, No. 4548). Read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Jose Lopez,—
sick leave.

Emergency Measure.

The engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Jessica Renehan, an employee of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (see House, No. 4410), 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.

Jessica
Renehan,—
sick leave.

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 3 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.

Engrossed Bill.

The engrossed Bill authorizing the town of Norwood to continue the employment of police chief William G. Brooks, III (see House, No. 2356) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, 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 eleven minutes after eleven o'clock A.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.