

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026.

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Thursday, January 8, 2026.

Met according to adjournment at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Mr. Garballey of Arlington 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. Garballey), the members, guests and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of
allegiance.

Silent Tribute.

At the request of Mr. Biele of Boston, the members, guests and employees stood in a moment of silent tribute to the memory of Ret. Associate Justice of the Boston Municipal Court Department and former State Representative Michael F. Flaherty, Sr. who passed away peacefully on December 22, 2025.

Michael F.
Flaherty, Sr.

Born and raised in South Boston, Michael graduated from South Boston High School and proudly served in the United States Navy. A graduate of Boston College and Portia Law School (New England Law), Michael served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives for 24 years. In 2001, Michael was appointed to Boston Municipal Court as an associate justice, serving until his retirement in 2006.

Son of the late Mary and John J. Flaherty, Sr., loving brother to nine siblings, beloved husband to the late Margaret J. "Peggy" (McGlone) and devoted father of the Honorable Margaret F. "Peggy" Albertson, First Justice of the Boston Municipal Court, former Boston City Councilor Michael F. Flaherty, Jr., and John J. Flaherty, he is survived by his nine grandchildren, one great grandchild, and many nieces and nephews.

Resolutions.

Resolutions (filed with the Clerk by Representative Smola of Warren) congratulating the Warren Public Library on the occasion of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its establishment, were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules.

Warren
Public
Library.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for said committee, reported that the resolutions ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Roy of Franklin, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Order.

The Order (filed by Representatives McMurtry of Dedham and Vitolo of Brookline) relative to extending until Wednesday, March 18, 2026 the time within which the committee on Labor and Workforce Development is authorized to report on a current House document, was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Labor and
Workforce
Development,—
extension of time
for reporting.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, reported that the order (House, No. 4913) ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Donato of Medford, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted.

Communications.

Communications

From the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulations (see Section 57 of Chapter 98 of the General Laws) submitting the Division of Standards annual report for calendar year 2024;

Division of
Standards.

From the Department of Unemployment Assistance (see Section 14F of Chapter 151A of the General Laws) relative to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund for November, 2025;

Unemployment
Insurance
Trust Fund.

From the Executive Office for Administration and Finance and the Executive Office for Housing and Livable Communities (see Section 10 of Chapter 1 of the Acts of 2025 and Section 19 of Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024) submitting the December 11, 2025 biweekly report on the emergency housing assistance program;

Emergency
housing
assistance.

From the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (see item 8910-7110 contained in Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Inventory of Programs, Services, Interventions and Reinvestments (PSI) Comprehensive Matrix for calendar year 2025;

Sheriffs',—
PSI matrix.

From the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (see Section 80(e) of Chapter 343 of the Acts of 2024) submitting a Massachusetts Health Policy Commission Primary Care Task Force report; and

Primary care
task force.

From the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (see item 8900-0001 of Section 2 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting the Department of Correction per capita cost report for fiscal year 2024;

Department of
Correction,—
per capita cost.

Severally were placed on file.

Annual Report.

An annual report of the Capital Debt Affordability Committee of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (under Section 60B(f) of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting the committee's annual report estimate of the total amount of new Commonwealth debt that may be prudently authorized for the next fiscal year, was placed on file.

Debt
estimate.

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Gordon of Bedford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4916) of Kenneth I. Gordon (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize ranked choice voting in the town of Bedford. To the committee on Election Laws.

Bedford,—
ranked choice
voting.

By the same member, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4917) of Kenneth I. Gordon (by vote of the town) relative to banning the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides in the town of Bedford. To the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Bedford,—
rodenticide
ban.

Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

By Representatives Badger of Plymouth and LaNatra of Kingston, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Michelle L. Badger relative to early intervention services for children with prenatal exposure to opioids; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Opioids,—
prenatal
exposure.

Paper from the Senate.

A petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2897) of Kelly A. Dooner and Norman J. Orrall (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Berkley to increase the membership of the board of selectmen [Local Approval Received], was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Berkley,—
selectmen.

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 petition of James J. O'Day relative to access to applied behavior analysis services in schools. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Gallagher of Bridgewater, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Education. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Applied
behavioral
analysis.

By Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, asking to be discharged from further consideration:

Of the Bill establishing a special legislative commission to study load growth due to AI and data centers (House, No. 83);

Artificial
intelligence.

Of the Bill creating a commission establishing a Massachusetts Caribbean American Cultural Center (House, No. 3602); and

Caribbean
Americans.

Of the Bill to study the development of an underground railroad, civil rights and black heritage museum and cultural center in Springfield (House, No. 4840);

Springfield,—
museum and
cultural center.

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the House committee on Rules.

Under Rule 42, the reports severally were considered forthwith; and they were accepted.

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

Relative to professional employer organizations (House, No. 2113);

Organizations.

Directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for Pierre Charles Darius of Mattapan (House, No. 3925) [Local Approval Received];

Boston,—
Pierre Charles
Darius.

Directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Keny Gateau (House, No. 3926) [Local Approval Received];

Boston,—
Keny
Gateau.

Directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Jean E. Roseney (House, No. 3927) [Local Approval Received];

Boston,—
Jean
Roseney.

Directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Adam Watt (House, No. 3928) [Local Approval Received]; and

Boston,—
Adam Watt.

Authorizing the town of Rochester to continue the employment of fire chief Scott Weigel (House, No. 4235) [Local Approval Received];

Rochester,—
Scott Weigel.

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

By Mr. Murphy of Weymouth, for the committee on Financial Services, on House, No. 1128, a Bill preserving access to treatment for patients with serious mental illnesses (House, No. 4892).

Mental illness,—
treatment.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1228, a Bill to support behavioral health prevention for children (House, No. 4893).

Children,—
behavioral health.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1229, a Bill to further define medical necessity determinations (House, No. 4894).

Medical necessity
determinations.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1131, a Bill expanding access to mental health services (House, No. 4895).

Mental health,—
access.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1135, a Bill for supportive care for serious mental illness (House, No. 4896).

Mental illness,—
care.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1276, a Bill improving access to community behavioral health centers (House, No. 4897).

Community
behavioral health.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1277, a Bill relative to dual diagnosis treatment coverage (House, No. 4898).

Dual diagnosis,—
coverage.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1314, a Bill enhancing post-pregnancy mental health care (House, No. 4899).

Post-pregnancy
mental health.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1319, a Bill related to comprehensive clinical and extended support services (House, No. 4900).

Clinical support
services.

Severally referred, under Joint Rule 1E, to the committee on Health Care Financing.

By Mr. Ultrino of Malden, for the committee on Emergency Preparedness and Management, on a petition, a Bill relative to an emergency preparedness instructional awareness program (House, No. 883).

Emergencies,—
awareness.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to strengthen the Commonwealth's strategic preparedness stockpiles (House, No. 884).

Emergencies,—
stockpiles.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Resolve providing for a special commission on the field of emergency management (House, No. 885, changed in section 2, in line 26, by striking out the following: "Covid 19 and").

Commission,—
emergency
management.

By Mr. Ryan of Boston, for the committee on Public Service, on a petition, a Bill authorizing the State Board of Retirement to grant creditable service to Paul Lemelin (House, No. 2759).

Paul Lemelin,—
retirement.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System to grant credible service to Kellie Martin (House, No. 2762).

Kellie Martin,—
retirement.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill clarifying call firefighter rights (House, No. 2883).

Firefighters,—
retirement.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to veteran inclusion (House, No. 2884).

Veteran
inclusion.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to credible service for school nurses (House, No. 2887).

School
nurses.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to credible service for VISTA volunteers (House, No. 2923).

VISTA
volunteers.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to [sic] JBCC FD retirement buy-back (House, No. 4317).

National Guard, —
creditable service.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 2946, a Bill enabling employees on unpaid leave to purchase creditable service (House, No. 4901).

Unpaid
leave.

Severally read; and referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. Ryan of Boston, for the committee on Public Service, on a petition, a Bill relative to retirement benefits (House, No. 2921).

Mary McCabe,—
retirement.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 4215, a Bill regarding the disability pension of Christopher Taylor (House, No. 4902) [Local Approval Received].

Christopher
Taylor,—
pension.

Severally read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Emergency Measure.

The engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Jeffrey Yacinte, an employee of the department of elementary and secondary education (see Senate, No. 2799), 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.

Jeffrey
Yacinte,—
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 5 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.

Engrossed Bill.

The engrossed Bill amending the charter of the city of Malden (see House, No. 4233, amended) (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.

Orders of the Day.

The Senate amendment of the House Bill increasing the age limit for retired police officers serving as special police officers in the town of Weston (House, No. 4031), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was adopted, in concurrence.

Weston,—
police
officers.

The Senate amendment of the House Bill dissolving a certain special fund in the town of Athol (House, No. 4401), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was adopted, in concurrence.

Athol,—
fund.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

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

Next
sitting.

At twenty-four minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus (Mr. Garballey of Arlington being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Monday at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.