

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026.

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Wednesday, January 28, 2026.

Met according to adjournment at eleven o'clock A.M. 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 and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of
allegiance.

Guests of the House.

During the Session, the Chair (Ms. Hogan of Stow), declared a brief recess and introduced Lisette Arbelli and Tom Ricci, of Hudson. Lisette Arbelli is the vice president, market manager of Avidia Bank and has been part of the Downtown Hudson Community Bank for more than 40 years. Tom Ricci recently retired after 45 years of owning and operating Body & Paint Autobody in Hudson. Tom has served as president of Mass Autobody Association in recent years. They were the guests of the Chair.

Lisette Arbelli
and Tom Ricci.

During the Session, the Mr. Puppolo of Springfield having taken the Chair, declared a brief recess and introduced 7-year-old Mariane Cullen, who was joined by her mother Kat Demeterson and her godfather Juan Latorre III.

Mariane
Cullen.

Born prematurely at 34 weeks, Marianne spent the first 15 days of her life in the neonatal intensive care unit. From this experience, she wants to dedicate her life to caring for infants while advancing medical research.

Marianne's passion for science has already turned into action. She created a fundraiser and developed a presentation to raise \$1,408. She also raised another \$500 in bracelet sales to support further research.

Behind Marianne's achievements are her proud and supportive parents, Kat Demeterson and Robert Cullen. Their encouragement has helped Marianne turn her dreams into action.

But Marianne's story isn't just about science and academics. At just seven years old, Marianne excels in writing, math, and science at Frederick Harris elementary School, and she is a drama club member and also enjoys ballet, jazz, soccer, writing stories, and spending time with her family.

They were the guests of Representatives Puppolo and Ramos of Springfield.

Statement of Representative Plouffe of Brockton.

A statement of Ms. Plouffe of Brockton was spread upon the records of the House, as follows:

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to call to the attention of the House the fact that I was not present in the House Chamber for today's sitting due to my attendance at a memorial service. If I had been present, I would have voted in the affirmative on of

Statement of
Representative
Plouffe of
Brockton.

roll call numbers 117, 118, 119 and 121 and in the negative on roll call No. 120. My missing of said roll call was due entirely to the reason stated.

Remote Participation.

Notice had been received from House Counsel that, under the provisions of House Rule 49, Representatives Armini of Marblehead, Ferguson of Holden, Lombardo of Billerica, Luddy of Orleans and Whipps of Athol had been approved to participate remotely for today's formal sitting.

Remote participation.

Resolutions.

Resolutions (filed with the Clerk by Representatives Sullivan-Almeida of Abington and Plouffe of Brockton) congratulating Yolanda Kruger on her one hundredth birthday, were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules.

Yolanda Kruger.

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

Orders.

The following orders were referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules:

Order (filed by Representatives Decker of Cambridge and Kerans of Danvers) relative to extending until Monday, March 16, 2026 the time within which the committee on Public Health is authorized to report on a current House document (House, No. 4984).

Extensions of time for committees to make reports.

Order (filed by Representatives Decker of Cambridge and Kerans of Danvers) relative to extending until Monday, March 16, 2026 the time within which the committee on Public Health is authorized to report on a current House document (House, No. 4988).

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, reported that the orders ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, in each instance, on motion of Mr. Hamilton of Methuen, the orders were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Reports of Committees.

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 creating a commission to study unemployment insurance reform (House, No. 1209);

Unemployment insurance.

Of the Resolve creating a special commission on affordable housing insurance (House, No. 1279);

Housing,— insurance.

Of the Bill relative to a commission to study access to emotional support animals in residential housing (House, No. 1534); and

Housing,— support animals.

Of the Bill improving accessibility in the creative economy (House, No. 4912);

Creative economy.

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. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, that the Bill establishing a commission to study the financial abuse of elders (House, No. 4749) ought to pass. Referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Elders,—
financial
abuse.

By Mr. Murphy of Weymouth, for the committee on Financial Services, on House, No. 1240, a Bill relative to insulin access (House, No. 4950).

Insulin,—
access.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1245, a Bill to address barriers to HIV prevention medication (House, No. 4951).

HIV medication,—
barriers.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1254, a Bill relative to the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder (House, No. 4952).

Autism,—
treatment and
diagnosis.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1295, a Bill promoting consumer choice in health care (House, No. 4953).

Health care,—
consumer choice.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1298, a Bill to increase enrollment in affordable health plan networks (House, No. 4954).

Affordable plans,—
enrollment.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1299, a Bill to increase enrollment in affordable health plan networks (House, No. 4955).

Id.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1313, a Bill relating to patient choice in dispensing of clinician-administered drugs (House, No. 4956).

Drug dispensing,—
patient choice.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1315, a Bill relative to IUD pain management coverage (House, No. 4957).

IUD pain
management.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1337, a Bill relative to opioid use disorder treatment and rehabilitation coverage (House, No. 4958).

Opioid use
disorder.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 3946, a Bill relative to health insurance coverage for hearing aids (House, No. 4959).

Hearing aids,—
coverage.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 4012, a Bill relative to ensuring access to neurological disorder screenings for firefighters (House, No. 4960).

Firefighters,—
neurological
screenings.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 4162, a Bill to increase access to healthcare for ostomy patients (House, No. 4961).

Ostomy
patients.

By Ms. Decker of Cambridge, for the committee on Public Health, on a petition, a Bill relative to nursing career pathways in long term care (House, No. 2544).

Nursing.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 2506 and 2532, a Bill relative to therapeutic psilocybin treatment centers (House, No. 4986).

Psilocybin
treatment.

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

By Mr. Chan of Quincy, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on House, No. 323, a Bill to promote domestic violence and sexual assault awareness education and training in the field of cosmetology and barbering (House, No. 4978).

Cosmetology,—
training.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 379, a Bill modernizing protections for consumers in automobile transactions (House, No. 4979).

Automobiles,—
transactions.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 342, 365, 406 and 424, a Bill modernizing the business practices between motor vehicle dealers, manufacturers, and distributors to increase consumer protections (House, No. 4980).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 354 and 441, a Bill relative to notifying automobile lien holders of certain towing and storage costs (House, No. 4981).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 433, a Bill relative to portable wireless device repair (House, No. 4982).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 4452, a Bill providing for earlier alcohol sales to be drunk on premises on Sundays (House, No. 4983).

By Ms. Decker of Cambridge, for the committee on Public Health, on a petition, a Bill relative to burial assistance (House, No. 2374).

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

Id.

Towing costs,—
notifications.

Wireless devices,—
repair.

Alcohol sales,—
Sundays.

Burial assistance.

Orders of the Day.

Bills

Authorizing the town of Hudson to grant 1 additional license for the sale of wine and malt beverages not to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 4272);

Amending the town charter of the town of Plymouth (House, No. 4501); and

Authorizing the town of Cohasset to grant five additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 4561);

Severally having been 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.

Third reading bills.

At seventeen minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House recessed subject to the call of the Chair; and at twenty-two minutes before two o'clock P.M., the House was called to order with Mr. Donato in the Chair.

Recess.

Ms. Hogan of Stow being in the Chair,—

The House Bill designating Domestic Workers' Rights Day (House, No. 3417), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

After remarks on the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, the sense of the House was taken by the yeas and nays, at the request of Ms. Sousa of Framingham; and on the roll call 156 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 117](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the bill was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Domestic workers' rights day.

Bill passed to be engrossed,—
yea and nay
No. 117.

Prior to the noon recess (Mr. Donato being in the Chair),—

The House Bill Preparing Apprentices through Training, Hiring, and Skills in Massachusetts (House, No. 4974), was read a second time.

Apprentices,—
preparation.

The amendment previously recommended by the committee on Ways and Means,— that the bill be amended by substitution of a Bill relative to preparing apprentices in the Commonwealth (House, No. 4994),— was adopted; and the substituted bill was ordered to a third reading.

Subsequently, the noon recess having terminated (Ms. Hogan of Stow being in the Chair), under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Jones of North Reading, the bill (having been reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) was read a third time.

After debate on the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Moran of Lawrence moved to amend it in section 1, in line 3, and in section 10, in line 87, by striking out the following: “the third paragraph of section 26” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following: “paragraph (H) of subdivision (2) of section 44A”;

By striking out sections 4, 5 and 6;

By inserting after section 9 the following 3 sections:

“SECTION 9A. Subdivision (2) of section 44A of said chapter 149, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by adding the following paragraph:

(H) For any public works project with an estimated construction cost in excess of \$10,000,000, not less than 5 per cent of the total hours worked for each trade by employees receiving an hourly wage who are directly employed at the project site by the awarding authority, contractor or subcontractor and who are subject to the prevailing wage law, shall be performed by apprentices. Such apprentices shall be: (i) registered in apprentice programs approved by the division of apprentice standards within the executive office of labor and workforce development pursuant to sections 11H and 11I of chapter 23; and (ii) employed in compliance with applicable apprentice-to-journeyperson ratios established by a trades licensing board or by the division of apprentice standards.

SECTION 9B. Said subdivision (2) of section 44A of said chapter 149, as amended by section 9A, is hereby further amended by striking out the words ‘5 per cent’ and inserting in place thereof the following words: 10 per cent.

SECTION 9C. Said subdivision (2) of said section 44A of said chapter 149, as amended by section 9B, is hereby further amended by striking out the words ‘10 per cent’ and inserting in place thereof the following words: 15 per cent.”;

In section 12, in line 155, by striking out the following: “section 26” and inserting in place thereof the following: “paragraph (H) of subdivision (2) of section 44A”;

In section 13, in line 162, by striking out the figure: “4” and inserting in place thereof the following: “9A”;

In section 14, in line 163, by striking out the figure: “5” and inserting in place thereof the following: “9B”; and

In section 15, in line 164, by striking out the figure: “6” and inserting in place thereof the following: “9C”.

The amendments were adopted.

On the question on passing the bill, as amended, to be engrossed, the sense of the House was taken by the yeas and nays, at the request of Mr. McMurtry of Dedham; and on the roll call 154 members voted in the affirmative and 1 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 118](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the bill (House, No. 5032, published as amended) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Bill passed to
be engrossed,—
yea and nay
No. 118.

Engrossed Bill – Land Taking.

The engrossed Bill allowing the town of Hingham to use municipal property as the location for a center for active living (see House, No. 4314) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was put upon its final passage.

Hingham,—
land.

On the question on passing the bill to be enacted, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays (this being a bill providing for the taking of land or other easements used for conservation purposes, etc., as defined by Article XCVII of the Amendments to the Constitution); and on the roll call 154 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

Bill enacted
(land taking),—
yea and nay
No. 119.

[See Yea and Nay No. 119 in Supplement.]

Therefore the bill was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Orders of the Day.

Prior to the noon recess (Mr. Donato being in the Chair),—

The House Bill requiring automated external defibrillators at sporting events (House, No. 2391), was read a second time.

Sports,—
defibrillators.

The amendment previously recommended by the committee on Ways and Means,— that the bill be amended by substitution of a bill with the same title (House, No. 4993),— was adopted; and the substituted bill was ordered to a third reading.

Subsequently, the noon recess having terminated (Ms. Hogan of Stow being in the Chair), under suspension of the rules, on motion of Ms. Decker of Cambridge, the bill (having been reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) was read a third time.

After remarks on passing the bill to be engrossed, Representatives Frost of Auburn and Thurber of Somerset moved to amend it by adding the following section:

“SECTION 2. Subject to appropriation, a Massachusetts AED Communities Fund shall be established to help cities and towns pay for automated external defibrillator devices, as well as any necessary equipment and infrastructure to properly hold and charge such devices, pursuant to the requirements of this act and the regulations promulgated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The fund shall be overseen and operated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and may receive funds from appropriations of the state legislature, public, private and non-profit grants, internal transfers from within the Department of Public Health’s budget, federal funds, grants and appropriations, and private donations from individuals and businesses. The AED Communities Fund shall award funding to communities in the Commonwealth to help them meet the requirements to place such devices at all required facilities and fields.”.

After debate on the question on adoption of the amendment, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays at the request of Mr. Frost of Auburn; and on the roll call 26 members voted in the affirmative and 130 in the negative.

Amendment
rejected,—
yea and nay
No. 120.

[See Yea and Nay No. 120 in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Representatives Frost of Auburn and Thurber of Somerset then moved to amend the bill by adding the following section:

“SECTION 2. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health shall provide exemptions for communities and sports activities in which fields and facilities are remote and do not have access to permanent power supply, or if the AED is broken or uncharged at the time of the event. A facility must post a sign and make a public announcement informing participants, coaches, officials and spectators that an AED device is not available for use.”.

The amendment was rejected.

On the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, the sense of the House was taken by the yeas and nays, at the request of Ms. Decker of Cambridge; and on the roll call 154 members voted in the affirmative and 1 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 121](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the bill was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Bill passed to
be engrossed,—
yea and nay
No. 121.

Prior to the noon recess (Mr. Donato being in the Chair),—

The House Bill authorizing the Barnstable County and the town of Bourne to convey land and certain interests in land in the town of Bourne (House, No. 2351), was read a second time.

The amendment previously recommended by the committee on Ways and Means,— that the bill be amended by substitution of a bill with the same title (House, No. 4992),— was adopted; and the substituted bill was ordered to a third reading.

Subsequently, the noon recess having terminated, under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Diggs of Barnstable, 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. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Apprentices,—
preparation.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

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

Next
sitting.

At four o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Jones of North Reading (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following day at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.