

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026.

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Thursday, January 29, 2026.

Met at twenty-eight minutes after 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 and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of
allegiance.

Messages from the Governor.

A message from Her Excellency the Governor submitting the annual budget of the Commonwealth for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 (House, No. 2), was filed in the office of the Clerk on Wednesday, January 28.

General
Appropriations
Bill.

The message was read; and it was referred, under Rule 30, with the accompanying schedules, to the committee on Ways and Means.

A message from Her Excellency the Governor submitting requests for making appropriations for the fiscal year 2026 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (House, No. 5033), was filed in the office of the Clerk on Wednesday, January 28.

Supplemental
appropriations.

The message was read; and it was referred, under Rule 30, with the accompanying draft of a bill, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Guests of the House.

At the beginning of the session, the Chair (Mr. Donato of Medford), declared a brief recess and introduced, seated in the Chamber, members of the Franklin High School girls' varsity volleyball team and their coaches. The team won the MIAA Division 1 State Championship; and they were the guests of Representative Roy of Franklin.

Franklin
High School
girls volleyball
team.

At the beginning of the session, the Chair (Mr. Donato of Medford), declared a brief recess and introduced, seated in the Chamber, members of the 2025 Masconomet cheerleading squad, captains Ava Whitman, Anna Gustavson, Olivia Borghesi, Caroline Clemens and their coaches. The team won the Fall 2025 Massachusetts School Administrators' Association (MSAA) Small Co-ed Division Championship and were named the MSAA Grand Champions. They were the guests of Representatives Kerans of Danvers, Kassner of Hamilton, Jones of North Reading, Nguyen of Andover, Shand of Newburyport and Ramos of North Andover.

Masconomet
High School
cheerleading
squad.

Resolutions.

Resolutions (filed with the Clerk by Representative LaNatra of Kingston) congratulating the town of Kingston on the three hundredth anniversary of its incorporation, were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules.

Kingston.

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

Communications.

Communications

From the Office of the Child Advocate (see Section 14 of Chapter 18C of the General Laws) submitting its annual report from the Childhood Trauma Taskforce for calendar year 2025 entitled: Building a Trauma-Informed and Responsive Workforce;

Childhood
Trauma
Taskforce.

From the Division of Banks (see Section 14C of Chapter 167 of the General Laws) submitting the annual report of the Small Business Loan Review Boards for fiscal year 2025;

Small Business
Loan Review
Boards.

From the Executive Office for Administration and Finance and the Executive Office for Housing and Livable Communities (see Section 10 of Chapter 1 and Section 88 of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 2025 and Section 19 of Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024) submitting the December 23, 2025 biweekly report on the emergency housing assistance program; and

Emergency
housing
assistance.

From the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (see Section 31 of Chapter 197 of the Acts of 2024) submitting an update on the Long-Term Care Workforce and Capital Fund;

Long-term
care.

Severally were placed on file.

Annual Reports.

Annual Reports

Of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (under Section 35QQ of Chapter 10 of the General Laws) for the Economic Empowerment Trust Fund for fiscal year 2025; and

Economic
Empowerment
Trust Fund.

Of the Executive Office of Economic Development (under Section 17 of Chapter 23D of the General Laws) submitting the Center for Employee Ownership report for calendar year 2025;

Center for
Employee
Ownership.

Severally were placed on file.

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Hunt of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5034) of Daniel J. Hunt (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the appointment of Matthew Cummings as a police officer in the city of Boston, notwithstanding the maximum age requirement. To the committee on Public Service.

Boston,—
Matthew
Cummings.

By Representative Muradian of Grafton and Senator Moore, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5035) of David K. Muradian, Jr., (by vote of the town) relative to the senior property tax exemption in the town of Grafton. To the committee on Revenue.

Grafton,—
senior tax
exemption.

Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Madaro of Boston, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Adrian C. Madaro relative to access to the court system and judicial proceedings and processes.

Courts,—
access.

By Representatives Vargas of Haverhill and Garcia of Chelsea, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Andres X. Vargas, Judith A. Garcia and others for legislation to further regulate state and local participation in federal civil immigration enforcement.

Civil
immigration
enforcement.

By Representative Zlotnik of Gardner, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Jonathan D. Zlotnik relative to chemical recycling.

Chemical
recycling.

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

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 joint petition of John H. Rogers and others that the commissioner of the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance be authorized to take by eminent domain a certain parcel of land in the town of Norwood. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Roy of Franklin, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Norwood,—
land.

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

The Senate Bill authorizing the appointment of retired police officers as special police officers in the town of Plainville (Senate, No. 1898) [Local Approval Received]; and

Plainville,—
police
officers.

House bills

Relative to the nomination process for candidates for town meeting in Milford (House, No. 4185) [Local Approval Received];

Milford,—
town meeting.

Relative to the charter of the town of Westborough (House, No. 4751) [Local Approval Received];

Westborough,—
charter.

Permitting the city of Revere to establish penalties and liens for rooming house & certificates of fitness ordinance violations (House, No. 4752) [Local Approval Received]; and

Revere,—
penalties.

Providing for a town administrator in the town of Hopedale (House, No. 4784) [Local Approval Received];

Hopedale,—
administrator.

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

By Mr. Lewis of Framingham, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on House, Nos. 2254, 2261, 2272, 2274, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2286, 2301, 2309, 2312, 2317, 2326, 2329, 2353, 2354 and 4047, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to municipal powers, permitting and zoning (House, No. 4970). Referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Municipalities
and Regional
Government,—
study.

Subsequently, Mr. Galvin of Canton, for said committees, reported asking to be discharged from further consideration of the order; and recommending that the same be referred to the House committee on Rules.

Under Rule 42, the report was considered forthwith; and it was accepted.

By Mr. McMurtry of Dedham, for the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, on a petition, a Bill to prohibit mandatory overtime (House, No. 2073).

Healthcare,—
overtime.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill clarifying mandatory overtime protections (House, No. 2092).

Id.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to meeting human service demand by modernizing incentives for the direct care workforce (House, No. 2104).

Human services
providers,—
wages.

By Ms. Domb of Amherst, for the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, on a petition, a Bill to ensure efficient and effective implementation of the Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform (House, No. 2193).

Behavioral
health.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to supporting parents in recovery from substance use disorder and enhancing child welfare (House, No. 3950).

Parents in
recovery.

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

By Ms. Barber of Somerville, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on a petition, a Bill preserving public trust rights in land affected by ocean erosion (House, No. 946).

Ocean erosion,—
public trust.

By Mr. Day of Stoneham, for the committee on the Judiciary, on House, No. 1638, a Bill relative to retirement reporting (House, No. 4995).

Retirement
reporting.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1644, a Bill relative to the punishment of organized retail crimes (House, No. 4996).

Organized
retail crimes.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 1760 and 1928, a Bill relative to accomplice and joint venture criminal liability (House, No. 4997).

Joint venture
criminal liability.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1936, a Bill relative to offenses while driving on a non-administrative license suspension (House, No. 4998).

Driving,—
offenses.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 2041, a Bill to protect victims of stalking in violation of harassment prevention orders (House, No. 4999).

Harassment
prevention.

By Mr. McMurtry of Dedham, for the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, on a petition, a Bill establishing fairness for agricultural laborers in Massachusetts (House, No. 2108).

Agricultural
laborers.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the notification of large job layoffs (House, No. 2127).

Layoffs.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to ensure adequate coverage of funeral expenses in cases of work-related death (House, No. 2138).

Funeral
expenses.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to non-fault unemployment insurance overpayments (House, No. 2149).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to updating overtime salary thresholds and codify definitions to protect the middle class (House, No. 2166).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to provide economic security for fishing industry participants (House, No. 2177).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill requiring an annual report on the labor market needs of the Commonwealth (House, No. 2184).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to promoting fair hiring practices by limiting the use of credit reports in employment decisions (House, No. 3993).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to expanding and modernizing apprenticeships (House, No. 4067).

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

By Mr. McMurtry of Dedham, for the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, on a petition, a Bill amending the unemployment insurance law for workers with fluctuating work schedules (House, No. 2111).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill updating the Medical Society mission statement (House, No. 2157).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to a youth training wage (House, No. 2175).

By Mr. Ryan of Boston, for the committee on Public Service, on a joint petition, a Bill exempting the positions of police lieutenant and police sergeant in the city of Leominster from the civil service law (House, No. 4702) [Local Approval Received].

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

Unemployment insurance.

Overtime salary thresholds.

Fishing,—
economic security.

Report,—
labor market needs.

Hiring practices.

Apprenticeships.

Unemployment insurance.

Medical Society.

Training wage.

Leominster,—
civil service exemption.

Orders of the Day.

The Senate amendment of the House Bill further regulating vacancies among town meeting members in the town of Milford (House, No. 4171), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was adopted, in concurrence.

Milford,—
town meeting.

Engrossed Bill.

The engrossed Bill further regulating vacancies among town meeting members in the town of Milford (see House, No. 4171, 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.

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 eight minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Muradian of Grafton (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.