

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026.

[11]

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Monday, February 2, 2026.

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 and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of
allegiance.

Message from the Governor.

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 responding to recent federal actions (House, No. 5050), was filed in the office of the Clerk on Thursday, January 29.

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.

Appointments of the Speaker.

The Speaker announced that (under the provisions of Section 68 of Chapter 3 of the General Laws) he had reappointed Amy Goh of Boston, Christopher Huang of Quincy and Jennifer Rubin of Newton to the permanent Commission on the status of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Asian Americans
and Pacific
Islanders.

Guests of the House.

During the session, the Chair (Mr. Donato of Medford) declared a brief recess and introduced the Westborough High School law club. They were visiting to learn more about the legislative process and how to be informed and engaged citizens. They were the guests of Representatives Kane of Shrewsbury, Donaghue of Westborough and Senator Moore.

Westborough
High School
law club.

Resolutions.

The following resolutions (filed with the Clerk) were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules:

Resolutions (filed by Representatives McGonagle of Everett, Garcia of Chelsea and Ryan of Boston) congratulating the Webster School on its recognition as a 2025 National Elementary and Secondary Education Act Distinguished School; and

Webster
School.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Sabadosa of Northampton) commending David Alvord for his fifty years of service to the Plainfield Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Association;

David
Alvord.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, reported, in each instance, that the resolutions ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, in each instance, on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus, 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 Order (filed by Representatives Livingstone of Boston and Garcia of Chelsea) relative to extending until Wednesday, March 18, 2026 the time within which the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities is authorized to report on current House documents, was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Children, Families
and Persons with
Disabilities,—
extension of time
for reporting.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, reported that the order (House, No. 4989) ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Garballey of Arlington, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted.

The Order (filed by Representatives Domb of Amherst and DuBois of Brockton) relative to extending until Wednesday, March 18, 2026 the time within which the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery is authorized to report on current House documents, was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Mental Health,
Substance Use
and Recovery,—
extension of time
for reporting.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, reported that the order (House, No. 4985) ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Ms. Donaghue of Westborough, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted.

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Rogers of Cambridge and Senator Brownsberger, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5051) of David M. Rogers and William N. Brownsberger (by vote of the town) relative to removing the seating capacity requirements for licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises in the town of Belmont. To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Belmont,—
seating
requirements.

By Representative Gordon of Bedford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5052) of Kenneth I. Gordon (by vote of the town) relative to town meeting form of government in the town of Burlington; and

Burlington,—
town
meeting.

By Representative Whipps of Athol and Senator Comerford, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5053) of Susannah M. Whipps and Joanne M. Comerford (by vote of the town) that the town of Orange be authorized to establish a town charter for said town.

Orange,—
town
charter.

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

By Representative Walsh of Peabody and Senator Lovely, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5054) of Thomas P. Walsh (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to the maintenance of pre-employment physical examination records for public safety personnel in the city of Peabody. To the committee on Public Service.

Peabody,—
personnel
records.

Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Papers from the Senate.

The House amendment of the Senate Bill amending the charter of the town of Rockland (Senate, No. 2716, amended), came from the Senate with the endorsement that the Senate had concurred with the House in its amendment with a further amendment striking out all after the enacting clause (inserted by amendment by the House) and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 2932. The further amendment was referred, under Rule 35, to the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

Rockland,—
charter.

Bills

Providing for tribal government representation on the Martha's Vineyard commission (Senate, No. 1431) (on a petition);

Martha's Vineyard
commission.

Regulating certain insurance benefits for certain officials in the town of Blackstone (Senate, No. 1445) (on a petition) [Local Approval Received]; and

Blackstone,—
insurance benefits.

Designating January 30 as Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution (Senate, No. 2132) (on a petition);

Fred Korematsu
day.

Severally passed to be engrossed by the Senate, were read; and they were referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

A petition (accompanied by bill) of John J. Cronin and Margaret R. Scarsdale for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Greg Pinkerton, an employee of the department of corrections, came from the Senate referred, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Service.

Greg
Pinkerton,—
sick leave.

The House then concurred with the Senate in the suspension of said rule; and the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2942) was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Public Service.

A petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2933) of Cindy F. Friedman and Marc T. Lombardo (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Billerica to ban second generation anticoagulant rodenticides within the town, was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Billerica,—
rodenticides.

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 Andres X. Vargas, Judith A. Garcia and others for legislation to further regulate state and local participation in federal civil immigration enforcement. To the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

Civil
immigration
enforcement.

Joint petition (accompanied by bill) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., Bruce E. Tarr and others relative to energy costs, transparency, and sustainability. To the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

Energy.

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

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:

Exempting Hancock schools (House, No. 515) [Local Approval Received];
Exempting Warwick Schools (House, No. 751) [Local Approval Received];
Relative to home owners insurance and funding repairs (House, No. 1271);
Requiring notice to landlords relating to gas or electric shutoffs (House, No. 1561);
Relative to locksmiths and notice to property owners (House, No. 1562);
Relative to retirement benefits (House, No. 2921);
Relative to regional transit authority advisory boards (House, No. 3724); and
Designating a certain overpass in the town of Sandwich as the U.S. Marine Staff Sergeant Raymond G. Tourville Veterans Memorial Overpass (House, No. 4374);

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

By Mr. Chan of Quincy, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on House, Nos. 345, 350, 381, 430, 439 and 467, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to consumer protection and professional licensure matters (House, No. 4969). Referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

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. Livingstone of Boston, for the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, on House, No. 197, a Resolve for a foster care and child care liability insurance special commission (House, No. 5024). Read; and referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

By Mr. Livingstone of Boston, for the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, on House, No. 4258, a Bill relative to allowing spouses to serve as paid caregivers (House, No. 5025). Referred, under Joint Rule 1E, to the committee on Health Care Financing.

By Mr. Murphy of Weymouth, for the committee on Financial Services, on a petition, a Bill relative to insurance point surcharges (House, No. 1197).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill reducing the costs for small business (House, No. 1256).

By the same member, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing the fair calculation of labor rates paid by insurance companies to auto repairers in the Commonwealth (House, No. 1260).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the calculation of labor rates paid by insurance companies to auto repairers in the Commonwealth (House, No. 1285).

Hancock.
Warwick.
Home insurance.
Utilities,—
shutoffs.
Locksmiths.
Mary McCabe.
Regional transit.
Sandwich,—
overpass.

Consumer
Protection and
Professional
Licensure,—
study.

Child care,—
insurance.

Paid caregivers,—
spouses.

Insurance
surcharges.

Small business,—
costs.

Auto repairers,—
labor rates.

Id.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill establishing protections and accountability for DNC workers, consumers, and communities (House, No. 1339).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1088, a Bill relative to personal injury protection, benefits due and payable (House, No. 5029).

By Mr. Rogers of Cambridge, for the committee on Higher Education, on House, No. 1449, a Bill ensuring students' access to academic transcripts (House, No. 5026).

By Mr. Haggerty of Woburn, for the committee on Housing, on House, No. 1568, a Bill relative to Cimex Lectularius (House, No. 5027) [Representative Markey of Dartmouth dissenting].

By Mr. Day of Stoneham, for the committee on the Judiciary, on House, Nos. 1898 and 1939, a Bill to further clear titles to real property affected by technical irregularities in recorded instruments (House, No. 5030).

By Mr. Ryan of Boston, for the committee on Public Service, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Nantucket to issue pension obligation bonds or notes (House, No. 4509) [Local Approval Received].

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

By Mr. Day of Stoneham, for the committee on the Judiciary, on House, No. 1941, a Bill relative to housing court jurisdiction (House, No. 5031).

By Mr. Ryan of Boston, for the committee on Public Service, on a petition, a Bill authorizing Kenneth Navarro to take the civil service examination for the position of fire fighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4476) [Local Approval Received].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing William (Rob) Cargill to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4477) [Local Approval Received].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Conway to continue the employment of fire department member Howard Boyden (House, No. 4506) [Local Approval Received].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing William Pilleri to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the town of Arlington notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4507) [Local Approval Received].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Conway to continue the employment of police department member Michael Habel (House, No. 4525) [Local Approval Received].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Doumy Pamera (House, No. 4572) [Local Approval Received].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing Sean Duffy to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4573) [Local Approval Received].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill directing the City of Boston Fire Department to waive the maximum age requirement for firefighters for Stylianos Katikakis (House, No. 4582) [Local Approval Received].

Transportation and delivery networks.

Personal injuries.

Academic transcripts.

Tenants and owners,—responsibilities.

Real property,—irregularities.

Nantucket,—bonds.

Housing courts,—jurisdiction.

Haverhill,—Kenneth Navarro.

Haverhill,—William Cargill.

Conway,—Howard Boyden.

Arlington,—William Pilleri.

Conway,—Michael Habel.

Boston,—Doumy Pamera.

Haverhill,—Sean Duffy.

Boston,—Stylianos Katikakis.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill regarding the appointment of Special Police Officers in the City of Malden (House, No. 4584) [Local Approval Received].

Malden,—
special
police.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill directing the city of Boston police department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Luisa Fernandes (House, No. 4604) [Local Approval Received].

Boston,—
Luisa
Fernandes.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the maximum age requirement for police officers in the city of Newton (House, No. 4718) [Local Approval Received].

Newton,—
police officers.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Sonia Felix, an employee of the Department of Transitional Assistance of the Commonwealth (House, No. 5014).

Sonia Felix,—
sick leave.

By Mr. Cabral of New Bedford, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on House, No. 4688, a Bill making August 10th Agent Orange Awareness Day in Massachusetts (House, No. 5028).

Agent Orange
day.

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

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

Further regulating the Great Barrington fire district (see House, No. 924); and Authorizing the town of Ludlow to pay a certain unpaid bill (see House, No. 4589);

Bills
enacted.

(Which severally originated in the House);

Severally having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, were passed to be enacted; and they were signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Orders of the Day.

House bills

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

Third
reading
bills.

Directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Luis Cabral (House, No. 4349);

Authorizing the town of Orange to increase the membership of the Board of Selectmen (House, No. 4701); and

Establishing a sick leave bank for William Blalock, an employee of the Suffolk county sheriff's office (House, No. 4908);

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.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

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

Next
sitting.

At thirteen minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mrs. Kane of Shrewsbury (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Thursday at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.