

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.**



**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026.**

## JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

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Monday, February 9, 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.

### *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, students from Oliver Ames High School in Easton. They were celebrating their state championship wins; the volleyball team who won the MIAA Division 2 state volleyball championship and the boys' cross country team who won the MIAA Division 1C state cross country championship. They were the guests of Representatives Field of Taunton and Plouffe of Brockton.

Oliver Ames  
High School.

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 student council from the Knox Trail Middle School in Spencer. The students were accompanied by their teacher Melissa Porter. They were the guests of Representative Berthiaume of Spencer.

Knox Trail  
Middle  
School.

### *Orders.*

The Order (filed by Representatives Madaro of Boston and Philips of Sharon) relative to extending until Friday, March 13, 2026 the time within which the committee on Revenue is authorized to report on current House documents, was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Revenue,—  
extension  
of time for  
reporting.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, reported that the order (House, No. 5078) ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Ms. Field of Taunton, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted.

The following orders were referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules:  
Order (filed by Representatives Gordon of Bedford and Ayers of Quincy) relative to extending until Wednesday, March 18, 2026 the time within which the committee on Education is authorized to report on current House documents (House, No. 5082).

Extensions  
of time for  
committees  
to make  
reports.

Order (filed by Representatives Domb of Amherst and DuBois of Brockton) relative to extending until Friday, February 27, 2026 the time within which the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery is authorized to report on a current House document (House, No. 5074).

Order (filed by Representatives Domb of Amherst and DeBois 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 (House, No. 5077).

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. Berthiaume of Spencer, the orders were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

*Communications.*

Communications

From MassDevelopment (see Section 34 of Chapter 23G of the General Laws) submitting its fiscal year 2025 annual report;

MassDevelopment.

From the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (see Section 5 of Chapter 23J of the General Laws) submitting the Massachusetts Clean Energy Climatech Industry Report for calendar year 2025;

Climatech industry.

From the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (see Section 69 of Chapter 23K of the General Laws) submitting its gaming revenue reports and associated sports wagering revenue report through November, 2025;

Gaming revenue and sports wagering.

From the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (see Section 111 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting the Personal Care Attendant (PCA) Working Group implementation plan; and

Personal care attendants.

From Massachusetts Development Finance Agency (MassDevelopment) (see Section 27 of Chapter 498 of the Acts of 1993) submitting the Devens annual report for fiscal year 2025;

Devens.

Severally were placed on file.

*Annual Reports.*

Annual reports

Of the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (under Section 17 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws) for fiscal year 2025 [copies of the report forwarded to the Speaker, the Senate President, the Senate committee on Ways and Means and the House committee on Ways and Means, as required by said law]; and

Clean Water Trust.

Of the Department of Agricultural Resources (under Section 5A of Chapter 132B of the General Laws) submitting its report on pesticide use for federal fiscal years 2024 and 2025;

Pesticide use.

Severally were placed on file.

*Petitions.*

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Pease of Westfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5083) of Kelly W. Pease (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Westfield be authorized to convert one seasonal off-premises all alcoholic beverages license to an annual license in said city; and

Westfield,—  
liquor  
license.

By Representative Vieira of Falmouth, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5084) of David T. Vieira, Steven George Xiarhos and Dylan A. Fernandes (by vote of the town) that the town of Bourne be authorized to grant a non-transferable license for the sale of alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premise in said town.

Bourne,—  
liquor  
license.

Severally to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.  
Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Representative Howard of Lowell presented a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Vanna Howard for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Adrian Mitchell, an employee of the Department of Correction; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Adrian  
Mitchell,—  
sick leave.

*Papers from the Senate.*

The Senate Bill relative to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (Senate, No. 2563, amended), came from the Senate with the endorsement that said branch had concurred with the House in its amendment (striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 4704) with further amendments striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 2954; and by inserting before the enacting clause the following emergency preamble:

Individuals with  
disabilities.

“Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to make corrective changes in certain general laws relative to persons with disabilities, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.”.

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

The House Bill amending the charter of the town of Natick (House, No. 3898) (its title having been changed by the Senate committee on Bills in the Third Reading), came from the Senate 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 Senate document numbered 2953. The amendment was referred, under Rule 35, to the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

Natick,—  
charter.

A report of the committee on Financial Services, that the communication from the Division of Banks (pursuant to Section 6A of Chapter 171 of the General Laws) submitting the final amended regulation 209 CMR 50.00 et seq.: Parity with Federal Credit Unions (printed in Senate, No. 2871) and that the regulations and conditions are consistent with the statutory provisions under which they were promulgated, recommending that the same be placed on file was accepted, in concurrence.

Federal credit  
unions,—  
regulations.

A communication from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (pursuant to Section 9B of Chapter 128A of the General Laws and Section 222 of Chapter 6 of the General Laws) proposed amendments to regulations for 205 CMR 149.00: Race Horse Development Fund (Senate, No. 2951), was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Race Horse  
Development  
Fund,—  
regulations.

*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:

Joint petition (accompanied by bill) of David M. Rogers, William N. Brownsberger and others relative to consumer connected devices. To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Consumer connected devices.

Joint petition (accompanied by bill) of Margaret R. Scarsdale that the Department of Conservation and Recreation be authorized to designate a certain trail in the J. Harry Rich State Forest in the town of Groton as the Marion Stoddart riverwalk;

Groton,—  
Stoddart riverwalk.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Kenneth P. Sweezey for legislation to establish a review process of guidelines for managing recreational use of beaches to protect piping plovers, terns and their habitats;

Beaches,—  
use.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Kenneth P. Sweezey relative to the Massachusetts Habitat Conservation Plan; and

Habitat conservation.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Kenneth P. Sweezey relative to over-sand vehicle access and other recreational activities on beaches;

Beaches,—  
access.

Severally to the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of David M. Rogers relative to prohibiting genetic discrimination in insurance. To the committee on Financial Services.

Insurance,—  
discrimination.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of David M. Rogers and Andrea Campbell (Attorney General) relative to prohibiting anticompetitive conduct and agreements and strengthening the Massachusetts Antitrust Act. To the committee on the Judiciary.

Massachusetts Antitrust Act.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Ms. Plouffe of Brockton, 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 bills be scheduled for consideration by the House:

The Senate Bill authorizing the city of Taunton to establish a separate billing rate for water supplied to manufactured housing communities (Senate, No. 2652) [Local Approval Received]; and

Taunton,—  
water billing rate.

House bills

Regarding public insurance adjusters (House, No. 1113);

Insurance adjusters.

Relative to the electronic filing of certain forms used in property valuation (House, No. 3093);

Property valuation.

Regarding late payments and interest rates for real estate bills and personal property taxes (House, No. 3238);

Real estate,—  
payments.

Relative to the establishment of a Milton means-tested property tax exemption (House, No. 4094) [Local Approval Received];

Milton,—  
property taxes.

Authorizing the town of Marblehead to establish a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption (House, No. 4225) [Local Approval Received];

Marblehead,—  
property taxes.

Authorizing the town of Wrentham to exempt from taxation certain real estate owned and occupied by the surviving spouse of Wrentham Deputy Chief George C. Labonte (House, No. 4269) [Local Approval Received]; and

Wrentham,—  
George Labonte.

Relative to affordable housing trust fund of the town of West Tisbury (House, No. 4378) [Local Approval Received];

West Tisbury,—  
housing.

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

By Mr. Honan of Boston, for the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, that the House Bill making firearm owners civilly liable for damage caused by lost or

Lost or stolen firearms,—

stolen firearms (House, No. 2590), be scheduled for consideration by the House. Placed in the Orders of the Day for the next sitting for a second reading.

By Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Bill relative to preventing fraud and establishing regulations on certain virtual currencies (House, No. 1247) ought to pass. Referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. Vargas of Haverhill, for the committee on Community Development and Small Businesses, on House, Nos. 302, 303, 308, 314 and 316, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Community Development and Small Businesses to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to housing, development and business competitiveness (House, No. 4790).

By Mr. Murphy of Weymouth, for the committee on Financial Services, on House, Nos. 1155, 1325 and 4043, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Financial Services to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to pharmacy matters (House, No. 4789).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 1118, 1120, 1156, 1196, 1210, 1255, 1320 and 1375, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Financial Services to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to health insurance contracting matters (House, No. 5066).

By Mr. Arciero of Westford, for the committee on Transportation, on House, No. 3783, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Transportation to make an investigation and study of a certain House document relative to motorcycle driver education (House, No. 4786).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 3803 and 3807, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Transportation to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to civil fines and license application (House, No. 4787).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 3809, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Transportation to make an investigation and study of a certain House document relative to driver education on Halloween (House, No. 4788).

Severally referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for said committees, reported, in each instance, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the orders; 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 Ms. Domb of Amherst, for the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, on a petition, a Bill creating parity for mental and behavioral health services (House, No. 2202).

By Ms. Decker of Cambridge, for the committee on Public Health, on a petition, a Bill relative to office-based surgical centers (House, No. 2382).

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

By Mr. Gordon of Bedford, for the committee on Education, on a petition, a Bill relative to school transportation personnel (House, No. 592).

liability.

Virtual currencies.

Housing, development and business competitiveness,— study.

Pharmacy matters,— study.

Health insurance contracting,— study.

Motorcycle driver education,— study.

Civil fines and license application,— study.

Driver education,— study.

Mental and behavioral health.

Surgical centers.

School transportation.

By Mr. Day of Stoneham, for the committee on the Judiciary, on House, No. 1603, a Bill providing for equity within the Judicial Branch (House, No. 5055).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 1646, 1765 and 1857, a Bill to modify the rules for taking depositions outside the Commonwealth and to adopt the uniform interstate depositions and discovery act (House, No. 5056).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1651, a Bill requiring the relocation of the Cambridge District Court (House, No. 5057).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1761, a Bill designating the Charlestown division of Boston Municipal Court as the George Lewis Ruffin Courthouse (House, No. 5058).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1766, a Bill relative to judicial security (House, No. 5059).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1890, a Bill relative to equitable court staffing (House, No. 5060).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1966, a Bill concerning equitable allocation of recovery proceeds for subrogation claims (House, No. 5062).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 2016, a Bill to designate the courthouse in the Roxbury section of the city of Boston as the Edward O. Gourdin Courthouse (House, No. 5063).

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

By Mr. Gordon of Bedford, for the committee on Education, on a petition, a Bill relative to recess for elementary and middle school students (House, No. 543).

By Mr. Hunt of Boston, for the committee on Election Laws, on a message from Her Excellency the Governor, a Bill validating the results of the annual election held in the town of Bourne on May 20, 2025 (printed in House, No. 4763).

By Mr. Day of Stoneham, for the committee on the Judiciary, on a petition, a Bill requiring the reporting of satisfaction of judgments awarding money damages (House, No. 1767).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1958, a Bill relative to advertising for justices of the peace (House, No. 5061).

By Mr. Ryan of Boston, for the committee on Public Service, on a petition, a Bill directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Constantinos Papadopoulos (House, No. 4267) [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 Ryan Cazeau (House, No. 4740) [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 Edny Joseph (House, No. 4741) [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 Jose Reyes (House, No. 4799) [Local Approval Received].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing Jonathan Gagne to take the civil service examination for the position of police officer in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4879) [Local Approval Received].

Judiciary,—  
salaries.

Uniform  
interstate  
depositions.

Cambridge  
District Court.

Boston,—  
Ruffin  
courthouse.

Judicial  
security.

Edgartown  
and Nantucket.

Equitable  
allocation.

Boston,—  
Gourdin  
courthouse.

Schools,—  
recess.

Bourne,—  
election  
results.

Money  
damages.

Justices of  
the peace.

Boston,—  
Constantinos  
Papadopoulos.

Boston,—  
Ryan Cazeau.

Boston,—  
Edny Joseph.

Boston,—  
Jose Reyes.

Haverhill,—  
Jonathan Gagne.



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

*Engrossed Bills.*

Engrossed bills

Directing the city of Boston police department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Antonio Pires (see Senate, No. 27); and

Bills  
enacted.

Directing the city of Boston police department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Cherell Mellace (see Senate, No. 1907);

(Which severally originated in the Senate);

Establishing an annual stipend for the town council of the city known as the town of Bridgewater (see House, No. 2268, amended);

Providing for the filling of any temporary absence of the town manager in the city known as the town of Bridgewater (see House, No. 4569);

Further regulating the town manager's powers of appointment in the city known as the town of Bridgewater (see House, No. 4579); and

Establishing the city of Cambridge Employment and Job Training Trust (see House, No. 4774);

(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.*

The Senate further amendment to the House amendment of the Senate Bill amending the charter of the town of Rockland (Senate, No. 2716, amended), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was adopted, in concurrence.

Rockland,—  
charter.

House bills

Relative to real property tax deferrals in the town of Wellesley (House, No. 4143); and

Third  
reading  
bills.

Authorizing Nick Santos to take the civil service examination for the position of police officer in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4390);

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 Wednesday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Next  
sitting.



**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

At fourteen minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Wednesday at eleven o'clock A.M..