

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026.

[17]

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Thursday, February 19, 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.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Representative Sabadosa of Northampton) congratulating All Out Adventures on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary;

All Out
Adventures.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Sabadosa of Northampton) recognizing Alex Ghiselin for his many years of service to the city of Northampton;

Alex
Ghiselin.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Sabadosa of Northampton) recognizing Marianne Labarge for her many years of dedicated service to the city of Northampton;

Marianne
Labarge.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Stanley and other members of the House) commending the New England Chapter of the National Kidney Foundation, Inc. for its recognition of March 2026 as National Kidney Month and March 12, 2026, as World Kidney Day; and

National Kidney
Month and World
Kidney Day.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Sullivan-Almeida of Abington) congratulating Sergeant Christopher McDermott on the occasion of his retirement from the Brockton Police Department;

Christopher
McDermott.

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.

Communications.

Communications

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

Unemployment
Insurance
Trust Fund.

From the Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office (see Section 6 of Chapter 258B of the General Laws) submitting a report on the Victim Witness Assistance program; and

Cape and Islands,—
victim witness
assistance.

From the Norfolk District Attorney's Office (see Section 6 of Chapter 258B of the General Laws) submitting a report on the Victim Witness Assistance program; Severally were placed on file.

Norfolk,—
victim
assistance.

Annual Reports.

Annual Reports

Of the Executive Office for Housing and Livable Communities (under Section 27 1/2 of Chapter 23B of the General Laws) submitting its HousingWorks Infrastructure annual report for the fiscal years 2024 and 2025; and

Of the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association (under item 0340-2100 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its data from the District Attorneys relative to their criminal prosecutions and workloads for calendar year 2025;

Severally were placed on file.

HousingWorks
infrastructure.

District
attorneys,—
workloads.

Petitions.

Representative Schwartz of Newton and Senator Creem presented a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5136) of Greg Schwartz and Cynthia Stone Creem (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to increasing the maximum amount of penalties for violations of ordinances in the city of Newton; and the same was referred to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Newton,—
ordinance
violations.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Frost of Auburn (by request), a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Aspen Boss relative to penalties for non-consensual image sharing and providing supportive victim services.

By Representative Meschino of Hull and Senator O'Connor, a joint petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Joan Meschino and Patrick M. O'Connor for legislation to designate the American lobster as the official crustacean of the Commonwealth.

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

Images,—
non-consensual
sharing.

State
crustacean.

Papers from the Senate.

The House Bill relative to teacher preparation and student literacy (House, No. 4683), came from the Senate with the endorsement that said branch had insisted on its amendment (striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 2940) (in which the House had non-concurred).

Students,—
literacy.

The bill bore the further endorsement that said branch had concurred with the House in the appointment of a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches; and that Senators DiDomenico, Lewis and O'Connor had been joined as the committee on the part of the Senate.

Committee of
conference.

A Bill authorizing the commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance to convey certain land in the town of Brookfield (Senate, No. 2958) (on Senate bill No. 2128), passed to be engrossed by the Senate, was read and it was referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Brookfield,—
land.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

A Bill clarifying call firefighter rights (Senate, No. 2960) (on Senate bill No. 1915), passed to be engrossed by the Senate, was read; and it was referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Call
firefighters.

A joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2961) of Kelly A. Dooner and Justin Thurber (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Dighton to use a portion of conservation land for public way purposes, was referred, in concurrence, to the committee Environment and Natural Resources.

Dighton,—
land.

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 Brian M. Ashe for legislation to authorize the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System to grant credible service to Sara Scibelli. To the committee on Public Service.

Sara Scibelli,—
retirement.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Paul K. Frost, John J. Marsi and others that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation designate a segment of State Route 20 in the town of Oxford as the Brodeur curve in honor of Michael and Kyle Brodeur of Charlton. To the committee on Transportation.

Oxford,—
Brodeur
curve.

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 bills be scheduled for consideration by the House:

The Senate Bill regulating certain insurance benefits for elected officials in the town of Blackstone (Senate, No. 1445) [Local Approval Received]; and

Blackstone,—
insurance.

House bills

Designating a portion of state highway Route 7A in the town of Lenox as the Ross B. Dindio memorial highway (House, No. 3645);

Lenox,—
highway.

Relative to container safety on roadways (House, No. 3684);

Container safety.

Naming "The Bill Russell and Bob Cousy Highway" (House, No. 3727);

Turnpike.

Prohibiting the practice of coal rolling (House, No. 3746);

Coal rolling.

Regarding right of way violations (CeCelia's Law) (House, No. 3817);

Red lights.

Relative to recognition of the "Honor and Remember" flag in the Commonwealth (House, No. 3839);

Honor and
Remember flag.

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];

Boston,—
Papadopoulos.

Amending the charter of the city of Pittsfield (House, No. 4716) [Local Approval Received];

Pittsfield,—
charter.

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];

Boston,—
Ryan Cazeau.

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]; and

Boston,—
Edny Joseph.

Relative to littering (House, No. 4976);

Littering.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

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

By Mr. Gordon of Bedford, for the committee on Education, on House, No. 4720, a Bill authorizing the committee on Education to make an investigation and study of a certain House document relative to the Athol-Royalston Regional School District Financial Stability Fund (House, No. 5117).

Athol-Royalston,—
study.

By Mr. Lewis of Framingham, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on House, Nos. 2248, 2276 and 2330, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Education to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to certain municipal administrative matters (House, No. 5118).

Municipal matters,—
study.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 2279, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government to make an investigation and study of a certain House document relative to travel mileage rate fees for sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and constables (House, No. 5119).

Travel mileage rates,—
study.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 3923, 4152 and 4581, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to institutional master plans (House, No. 5120).

Master plans,—
study.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 4739, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government to make an investigation and study of a certain House document relative to the operation of the municipal light plant in the town of Hull (House, No. 5121).

Hull,—
study.

Severally 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, 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 Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the Resolve for a foster care and child care liability insurance special commission (House, No. 5024) and recommending that the same be referred to the House committee on Rules.

Foster care liability insurance.

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

By Mr. Murphy of Weymouth, for the committee on Financial Services, on a petition, a Bill creating a climate bank in Massachusetts (House, No. 3937).

Climate bank.

By Mr. Day of Stoneham, for the committee on the Judiciary, on House, No. 1913, a Bill relative to treatment, not incarceration (House, No. 5126).

Courts,—
addiction.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 2454 and 4261, a Bill relative to kratom (House, No. 5127).

Kratom.

By Mr. McMurtry of Dedham, for the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, on a petition, a Bill relative to minimum wage for municipal employees (House, No. 2072).

Municipal employees,—
minimum wage.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to increase unemployment insurance benefits for low wage workers (House, No. 2150).

Workers,—
Benefits.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to unemployment compensation and labor disputes (House, No. 2168).

Unemployment,—
labor disputes.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to establishing a prevailing wage for security officers (House, No. 2178).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to establish an enhanced care worker minimum wage (House, No. 2191).

By Mr. Lewis of Framingham, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on a part of House, No. 56 (as relates to sections 1 to 17, inclusive, 20 to 44, inclusive, 73 to 82, inclusive, and 87), a Bill empowering municipalities and local governments (House, No. 5131).

By Mr. Madaro of Boston, for the committee on Revenue, on a petition, a Bill excluding the Segal Americorps Educational Award from taxable income (House, No. 3010).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill providing for settlements of tax liability (House, No. 3062).

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

By Mr. Murphy of Weymouth, for the committee on Financial Services, on a petition, a Bill temporarily protecting recently widowed spouses from foreclosure (House, No. 1329).

By Mr. Day of Stoneham, for the committee on the Judiciary, on House, No. 1597, a Bill limiting the use of prison labor (House, No. 5125).

By Mr. McMurtry of Dedham, for the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, on a petition, a Bill protecting wages of employees who receive wages through an electronic wage card (House, No. 2074).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to noncompetition agreements in the Commonwealth (House, No. 2118).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to protect hospital workers from being deprived of their wages (House, No. 2124).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill establishing a minimum wage for employees of airline catering companies (House, No. 2145).

By Mr. Madaro of Boston, for the committee on Revenue, on a petition, a Bill to encourage donations to local nonprofits (House, No. 3169).

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

By Mr. McGonagle of Everett, for the committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, on a petition, Resolutions urging the Congress of the United States to update the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 and remove excessive training requirements mandated for obtaining a waiver to prescribe buprenorphine (House, No. 3827) [Representative Gaskey of Carver dissenting].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, Resolutions condemning political oppression and encouraging free and fair elections in Cambodia (House, No. 3851) [Representative Gaskey of Carver dissenting].

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

Security officers,—
prevailing wage.

Care workers,—
minimum wage.

Local
governments.

Taxable income—
exemption.

Tax liability,—
settlements.

Foreclosures,—
widows.

Prison labor.

Electronic
wage cards.

Noncompetition
agreements.

Hospitals,—
wages.

Airlines,—
minimum wage.

Nonprofit
donations.

Buprenorphine.

Cambodia,—
elections.

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Authorizing alternate members for the conservation commission of the town of Becket (see House, No. 3977); and

Bills
enacted.

Authorizing the town of Swampscott to establish a fall annual town meeting (see House, No. 4438);

(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

Directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Angela C. Depina (House, No. 4388);

Third
reading
bills.

Authorizing Anthony Morales to take the civil service examination for the position of police officer in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4442);

Relative to the charter of the town of Westborough (House, No. 4751); and

Permitting the city of Revere to establish penalties and liens for rooming house & certificates of fitness ordinance violations (House, No. 4752) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading);

Severally reported by said committee 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 Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Next
sitting.

At thirteen minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Soter of Bellingham (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.