

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

---

**JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.**



**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026.**

[19]\*

---

# JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

---

Thursday, February 26, 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.

### *Silent Tributes.*

At the request of Representatives Fiola of Fall River and Ouellette of Westport, the members, guests and employees stood in a moment of silent tribute for former Freetown Police Chief Carlton Abbott, who passed away on January 19, 2026.

Carlton  
Abbott.

Chief Abbott's professional career in law enforcement spanned more than 40 years, including nearly 25 years as Chief of Police for the town of Freetown. His steady leadership and thoughtful decision-making earned him deep respect from colleagues and the community alike. Abbott served as President of the Southeastern Mass Police Training Association and on the Executive Board of the Mass Chiefs of Police Association.

Those who knew him will remember his dedication, wisdom, humor, and the unwavering love he had for his family and community.

He leaves his wife Arletta, daughters Rachel, Lindsey and Monique and their families and his beloved grandson.

At the request of Representative Sweezey of Duxbury, the members, guests, and employees stood in a moment of silent tribute in honor of United States Navy Petty Officer Third Class Jaden Booker of Hanson.

Jaden  
Booker.

Jaden was born December 9, 2003, passed away on November 27, 2025, while stationed in Georgia with the United States Navy. He was a loving husband to his wife Jo'Niyah, and a doting father to their infant daughter Lay'lani.

Jaden graduated from Whitman-Hanson Regional High School in 2022, where he played varsity baseball. He also loved bowling, ping pong, and other recreational sports that connected him with the people he loved. Jaden also played piano with uncanny musical fluency.

As a military police officer with the United States Navy, Jaden is remembered as a hard worker committed to fulfilling his responsibilities while also supporting the growth and advancement of his junior colleagues.

Jaden's memory is cherished by his loving wife, daughter, mother Alena and her partner Jeffrey, father Kristopher, sister Alexa, niece Violet, grandparents Richard and Mary, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

At the request of Representatives Fiola of Fall River, Silvia of Fall River and Ouellette of Westport, the members, guests and employees stood in a moment of silent tribute for Thomas "Skip" Karam, who passed away on January 18, 2026.

Thomas  
"Skip"  
Karam.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

Over his remarkable 36-year career as head coach of the B.M.C. Durfee High School boys basketball team, Skip amassed 659 wins and captured 5 state championship titles. He was the first coach in Massachusetts history to achieve 500 career wins.

He was inducted into the Massachusetts Basketball Hall of Fame, New England Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame, New England Basketball Legends Hall of Fame and the B.M.C Durfee Athletics Hall of Fame.

He leaves behind a lasting impact on Fall River, Durfee High School, and generations of students, athletes, and coaches who were fortunate enough to learn from him.

He leaves his wife Betty, daughters Jennifer and Liz and their spouses, 3 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. He was pre-deceased by his son Skip.

At the request of Representatives Sylvia of Fairhaven, Cabral of New Bedford, Hendricks of New Bedford, Ouellette of Westport and Honan of Boston, the members, guests and employees stood in a moment of silence in memory of former Representative and Senator William Q. “Biff” MacLean, Jr., who passed away on Friday, February 20th, surrounded by his family.

William  
“Biff”  
MacLean, Jr.

MacLean was raised in Fairhaven and was a standout athlete at Fairhaven High School, earning 14 varsity letters before he graduated in 1954. He worked as a salesman at his father’s seafood business, was a reserve police officer and worked in real estate and as an insurance broker. MacLean earned a degree in political science from the University of Massachusetts.

His political career included serving on the Fairhaven School Committee in 1960 and in the General Court as a State Representative from 1961 to 1981, including as Majority Whip and Majority Leader and as a State Senator from 1981 to 1993.

MacLean leaves his wife Mary Jane (Moran O’Donnell) MacLean, son Doug, daughter Kim and daughter Lauren and her husband Chuck Fontaine, four grandchildren, and countless loved ones and friends who miss him dearly.

*Remote Participation.*

Notice had been received from House Counsel that, under the provisions of House Rule 49, Representatives Biele of Boston, Boldyga of Southwick, Domb of Amherst, Ferguson of Holden, Kane of Shrewsbury, Lombardo of Billerica, Scarsdale of Pepperell and Ultrino of Malden had been approved to participate remotely for today’s formal sitting.

Remote  
participation.

*Resolutions.*

Resolutions (filed with the Clerk by Representatives Kushmerek of Fitchburg and other members of the House) recognizing the work of Ukraine Forward, were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules.

Ukraine  
Forward.

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

*Petitions.*

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

Representative Duffy of Holyoke presented a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5171) of Patricia A. Duffy (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to remove the treasurer as acting mayor in the city of Holyoke; and the same was referred to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Holyoke,—  
acting  
mayor.

Representative Kushmerek of Fitchburg presented a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Michael P. Kushmerek for legislation to further regulate social media accounts for persons under 16 years of age; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Social media,—  
minors.

*Papers from the Senate.*

Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair,—

Petitions severally were referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, as follows:

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2975) of Lydia Edwards, Patricia D. Jehlen, Joanne M. Comerford, Rebecca L. Rausch and other members of the General Court for legislation to protect access to justice; and

Judicial  
processes.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2976) of William N. Brownsberger, Cindy F. Friedman, Pavel M. Payano, Cynthia Stone Creem and other members of the Senate for legislation relative to violations of the United States Constitution under color of law.

Federal officers,—  
liability.

*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 Kate Lipper-Garabedian for legislation to establish a grant program to reduce poverty and create an ENOUGH fund advisory committee. To the committee on Community Development and Small Businesses.

Poverty,—  
reduction.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Hadley Luddy for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) to study access to unemployment insurance. To the committee on Labor and Workforce Development.

Unemployment  
insurance,—  
commission.

Joint petition (accompanied by bill) of Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr., that Bradford G. Merkel be authorized to take the state police examination notwithstanding the maximum age requirement. To the committee on Public Service.

Bradford  
Merkel,—  
civil service.

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:

Amending the unemployment insurance law for workers with fluctuating work schedules (House, No. 2111);

Unemployment  
insurance.

Updating the Medical Society mission statement (House, No. 2157);

Medical Society.  
Training wage.

Relative to a youth training wage (House, No. 2175);

Designating a certain bridge in the town of Hopkinton as the Major General Frank D. Merrill memorial bridge (House, No. 3608);

Hopkinton,—  
Merrill bridge.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

Relative to increasing the fine for handicap parking violations for city/town implementation and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (House, No. 3614);

To increase safety on public ways (House, No. 3650);

Designating historic routes (House, No. 3685);

Relative to excavation restoration on public ways (House, No. 3702);

Designating Marshfield the home of Senator Daniel Webster and Governor Edward Winslow (House, No. 3711);

Protecting motorists and emergency personnel (House, No. 3729);

Relative to the safe operation of motor vehicles (House, No. 3748);

Designating a certain intersection in the town of Pembroke as the Lavina A. Hatch corner (House, No. 3790); and

Relative to the maximum age requirement for police officers in the city of Newton (House, No. 4718) [Local Approval Received];

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

By Ms. Barber of Somerville, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on House, Nos. 888, 889, 891, 892, 894, 896, 905, 906, 907, 908, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 916, 917, 919, 921, 923, 925, 927, 928, 929, 930, 933, 934, 935, 936, 940, 941, 942, 947, 948, 949, 951, 955, 960, 963, 964, 969, 970, 973, 974, 978, 979, 980, 993, 994, 995, 998, 1001, 1010, 1011, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1019, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1032, 1034 and 1035, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Environment and Natural Resources to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to plastics, Boston Harbor islands and other related matters (House, No. 5149) [Representative Gaskey of Carver dissenting]. 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 Ms. Barber of Somerville, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on a petition, a Bill to establish a grant and loan program for low noise, low emissions landscape maintenance equipment (House, No. 909) [Representatives Swezey of Duxbury and Gaskey of Carver dissenting].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to protect water supplies and the environment (House, No. 976) [Representative Gaskey of Carver dissenting].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to data collection on below threshold wells (House, No. 977) [Representatives Swezey of Duxbury and Gaskey of Carver dissenting].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill ensuring safe drinking water in schools (House, No. 991) [Representative Gaskey of Carver dissenting].

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 4040, a Bill preventing the discharge of radioactive materials (House, No. 5148) [Representative Gaskey of Carver dissenting].

Handicap parking,— fines.

Public ways.

Historic routes.

Excavation.

Marshfield,— historical home.

Breakdown lanes.

Distracted driving.

Pembroke,— Hatch corner.

Newton,— police officers.

Plastics, Boston Harbor islands and other related matters,— study.

Landscape equipment,— grants.

Water supply protections.

Wells,— data collection.

Schools,— drinking water.

Radioactive materials.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

By Mr. Day of Stoneham, for the committee on the Judiciary, on House, No. 1927, a Bill exonerating certain individuals accused of witchcraft in colonial Massachusetts (House, No. 5154).

Witchcraft,—  
exoneration.

By Mr. Madaro of Boston, for the committee on Revenue, on a petition, a Bill providing for a donation check-off box on state tax returns for the Massachusetts Youth & Government program (House, No. 3015).

Y.M.C.A.  
fund,—  
donation.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relating to guardians of surviving children of emergency first responders (House, No. 3027).

Survivors,—  
property taxes.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to contractor rental equipment (House, No. 3065).

Contractor  
equipment.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to DOR interest rate parity (House, No. 3144).

Interest  
rate parity.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to fossil fuel free 529s (House, No. 3206).

Fossil fuel free  
investments.

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

*Engrossed Bills.*

Engrossed bills

Authorizing the appointment of retired police officers as special police officers in the town of Plainville (see Senate, No. 1898) (which originated in the Senate); and

Bills  
enacted.

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

*Recess.*

At sixteen minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Berthiaume of Spencer (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House recessed until one o'clock P.M.; and at half past two o'clock the House was called to order with Ms. Hogan of Stow in the Chair.

*Reports of Committees.*

Prior to the noon recess (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair)—, By Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Bill relative to energy affordability, clean power and economic competitiveness (House, No. 4744), ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor a bill with the same title (House, No. 5151). Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Energy  
affordability.

Mr. Honan of Boston, for said committee, then reported that the matter be scheduled for consideration by the House.

Under suspension of Rule 7A, on motion of Mr. Sylvia of Fairhaven, the bill was read a second time forthwith. The amendment recommended by the committee on Ways and Means then 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, Representative Marsi and other members of the House moved to amend it by adding the following section:

“SECTION 86. Section 94 of Chapter 93, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following:- Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, if a propane vendor who is a party to a signed fuel supply agreement with a residential or commercial customer fails to perform timely delivery of propane as required under such agreement, and such failure results in the customer’s propane supply being depleted or critically low, the customer shall have the right to contract with any licensed propane vendor for the purpose of obtaining an emergency or replacement delivery of propane into any tank or equipment on the customer’s premises, regardless of whether such tank or equipment is owned or leased by the original vendor.

A propane vendor whose tank, equipment, or proprietary fittings are located on a customer’s premises may not commence or pursue legal action, impose any penalty, or otherwise obstruct or interfere with a customer's right to obtain propane from an alternate supplier under this section where the customer has been compelled to do so as a result of the vendor’s breach of a signed fuel supply agreement.

A vendor who violates this section shall be liable to the customer for any costs incurred in obtaining the alternate delivery. Nothing in this section shall relieve any party of liability for damage to a vendor-owned tank or equipment caused by negligent handling during an alternate delivery.”

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. Marsi of Charlton; and on the roll call 26 members voted in the affirmative and 128 in the negative.

**[See [Yea and Nay No. 126](#) in Supplement.]**

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Representative Sullivan-Almeida of Abington and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill by adding the following four sections:

“SECTION 86. Chapter 25 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after Section 23 the following new section:

Section 24 (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any public benefit energy charge assessed on a ratepayer’s energy or gas consumption and authorized by statute or Department of Public Utilities order shall be applied only to energy or gas usage occurring during non-peak hours, as defined in subsection (c). Nothing in this section shall be construed to eliminate or invalidate any public benefit program authorized by law, but shall govern the temporal application of the charges used to fund such programs.

(b) This section shall apply to public benefit energy charges assessed on:

- (1) electric energy consumption measured in kilowatt-hours;
- (2) natural gas consumption measured in therms or equivalent units; and
- (3) any other energy consumption unit used for the recovery of public benefit program costs, including but not limited to delivered fuels where such charges are authorized by law or regulation.

(c) For the purposes of this section, ‘non-peak hours’ shall mean the period from 9:00 P.M. to 9:00 A.M., Monday through Sunday.

Amendment  
rejected,—  
yea and nay  
No. 126.

(d) For the purposes of this section, ‘public benefit energy charge’ shall mean any charge listed on utility bills as ‘Public Benefits’ to fund programs, including but not limited to: Energy Efficiency Charge, Residential Assistance Charge, Renewable or Clean Energy Programs, Distributed Solar Charge, and Electric Vehicle Charge.

(e) The Department of Public Utilities shall: (1) Within 180 days of the effective date of this act, initiate proceedings to revise utility tariffs and billing practices to ensure compliance with section 24 of chapter 25; (2) Establish methods for allocating energy and gas usage between peak and non-peak hours, including the use of advanced metering data, load profiles, or reasonable proxies where hourly metering is not available

SECTION 87. Section 19 of Chapter 25 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence at the end thereof:

Any charge assessed pursuant to this section shall be subject to section 24 of this chapter.

SECTION 88. Section 20 of Chapter 25 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence at the end thereof:

Any charge assessed pursuant to this section shall be subject to section 24 of this chapter.

SECTION 89. Chapter 164 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after Section 1K the following section:

Any public benefit charge assessed by a gas distribution company on a per-therm or equivalent basis, including but not limited to charges for energy efficiency, residential assistance, renewable or clean energy programs, or other system benefit purposes, shall be subject to section 24 of chapter 25.”.

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 the same member; and on the roll call 26 members voted in the affirmative and 128 in the negative.

**[See [Yea and Nay No. 127](#) in Supplement.]**

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Representative Swezey of Duxbury and other members of the House moved to amend the bill by adding the following section:

“SECTION 86. (a) For the purposes of this section, ‘public benefit energy charge’ shall mean any charge listed on utility bills as ‘Public Benefits’ to fund programs, including but not limited to: Energy Efficiency Charge, Residential Assistance Charge, Renewable or Clean Energy Programs, Distributed Solar Charge, and Electric Vehicle Charge.

(b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, for a period of twelve consecutive billing months, beginning on the first full billing cycle following the effective date of this act, no electric distribution company shall assess, collect, or recover any public benefit energy charge from retail electric customers.

(c) The DPU shall not defer, track or otherwise record forgone public benefit charge revenue resulting from this suspension for future recovery. The DPU shall not authorize or permit the recovery of any forgone revenues resulting from the suspension established in section 2 through any means, including but not limited to: subsequent rate increases, reconciliation mechanisms, surcharges, interest charges and adjustment factors.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to require modification of any program funded by public benefit charge during this suspended period. Program administrators shall adjust expenditures as necessary to comply with the suspended collection under this section.”.

Amendment  
rejected,—  
yea and nay  
No. 127.

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 the same member; and on the roll call 25 members voted in the affirmative and 130 in the negative.

Amendment  
rejected,—  
yea and nay  
No. 128.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 128](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Recess.

At twenty-five minutes before four o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Jones of North Reading (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House recessed subject to the call of the Chair; and at twenty minutes after five o'clock the House was called to order with Ms. Hogan of Stow in the Chair.

On the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. McKenna of Sutton then moved to amend the bill in section 13, in line 436, by inserting after the word "priorities" the following: ", including an incentive-subtractor to be applied per acre of previously undisturbed forest that is cleared for such installation;".

After remarks the amendment was rejected.

Representative Uyterhoeven of Somerville and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill by adding the following section:

"SECTION 86. Section 94 of Chapter 164 of the General Laws, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:

Any electric or gas distribution company filing for a general increase in base distribution rates shall include in its initial filing:

(a) operating expenses itemized by FERC Uniform System of Accounts sub-account and allocated by customer class;

(b) a breakdown of costs classified as customer-related, demand-related, and energy-related, with supporting documentation for each classification;

(c) the load research, engineering study, or other empirical basis for each demand allocator used in the allocated cost-of-service study;

(d) a comparison of the foregoing items to the corresponding items in the company's most recent prior base rate case filing;

(e) a detailed statement of the company's authorized and requested return on equity, overall rate of return, and total shareholder profits derived from distribution operations for the test year and the three most recent fiscal years, including any parent-company dividend distributions attributable to the distribution utility; and

(f) a detailed accounting of executive compensation for the test year and the three most recent fiscal years, including base salary, bonuses, incentive compensation, stock-based compensation, retirement contributions, and any other material form of remuneration for officers whose compensation is recovered, directly or indirectly, from ratepayers.

The department shall not docket a petition as complete absent compliance with this section."

After remarks the amendment was rejected.

Mr. Michlewitz of Boston and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill in section 6, in lines 72 to 80, inclusive, by striking out the paragraph contained in those lines;

Consolidated  
amendments.

In section 14, in lines 461 and 462, by striking out the words "This section shall not apply to, or otherwise affect, any government body that aggregates the load of" and inserting in place thereof the words "Such prohibition shall not apply to suppliers serving"; and

In section 41, in lines 1425 to 1428, inclusive, by striking out subsection (b) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:

"(b)(1) Each gas company shall implement default budget billing for residential customers and residential customers shall be automatically enrolled in default budget

billing. Any residential customer with less than 12 months of historical usage at their current service address or who has a past due balance shall not be eligible for default budget billing.

(2) Each gas company shall notify budget billing customers whenever their gas consumption for a billing month is substantially greater, as determined by the department, than the billing month immediately prior. The notification shall include the customer's gas consumption in each of the prior 2 billing months, appropriate recommendations for gas conservation and any additional information as determined by the department.”.

After remarks on the question on adoption of the consolidated amendments, the sense of the House was taken by the yeas and nays, as required under the provisions of House Rule 33F; and on the roll call 128 members voted in the affirmative and 27 in the negative.

Consolidated amendments adopted,— yea and nay No. 129.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 129](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the consolidated amendments were adopted.

Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair,—

Representative Lombardo of Billerica and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill by adding the following section:

“SECTION 86. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, in consultation with the Department of Public Utilities and the Energy Facilities Siting Board, shall conduct a competitive solicitation for proposals to increase firm interstate natural gas transmission capacity into the commonwealth for the purpose of enhancing winter energy reliability and mitigating price volatility affecting ratepayers.

(a) The solicitation shall:

1. Be open to any qualified interstate pipeline developer;
2. Evaluate proposals based on demonstrated reliability benefits, long-term price stabilization impacts, consistency with state and federal law, and total lifecycle cost to ratepayers;
3. Consider expansions of existing infrastructure or development of new transmission capacity;
4. Include consideration of previously proposed but unconstructed interstate transmission projects.

(b) The secretary shall assess:

1. The projected impact of additional firm capacity on wholesale electricity and natural gas prices;
2. Legal requirements under the federal Natural Gas Act and applicable federal certification processes;
3. Financing structures, including public-private partnerships or voluntary capacity subscription mechanisms;

(c) If the solicitation demonstrates that additional interstate natural gas transmission capacity would materially reduce winter reliability risks or price volatility affecting ratepayers, the secretary shall recommend specific legislative and regulatory actions necessary to facilitate the timely development of such capacity.

(d) The secretary shall file a report with the clerks of the House of Representatives and Senate not later than 6 months after the effective date of this act detailing findings and any recommended legislative actions.”.

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 the same member; and on the roll call (Ms. Hogan of Stow having taken the Chair) 25 members voted in the affirmative and 130 in the negative.

Amendment rejected,— yea and nay No. 130.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 130](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Representative Pease of Westfield and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill by adding the following section:—

SECTION 86. Chapter 40A of the General Laws, as appearing in the most recent edition, is hereby amended by adding the following new section:

Local Approval Requirement for Battery Storage Facilities.

(a) Definitions- As used in this section, the following words shall have the following meanings:

“Battery storage facility”- a facility that uses batteries to store and distribute electrical energy.

“Municipal governing body”- the elected city council, selectboard, or other legislative authority of a municipality.

“State permitting authority”- any state agency responsible for granting permits related to energy infrastructure, including but not limited to the Department of Public Utilities and the Energy Facilities Siting Board.

(b) Local Approval Requirement- (1) No state permitting authority shall approve a battery storage facility unless the municipal governing body of the municipality in which the facility is proposed has voted to approve the project. (2) Municipalities shall have the authority to establish additional siting, safety, and environmental requirements for battery energy storage facilities, provided such requirements do not conflict with state law.

(c) Public Hearing Requirement- (1) Prior to any municipal vote on a proposed battery storage facility, the municipality shall hold at least one public hearing to solicit input from residents and stakeholders. (2) The project applicant shall be required to present detailed plans, including risk assessments, emergency response protocols, and environmental impact analyses, at the public hearing. (3) The municipal governing body shall consider public input in making its determination on the project.

(d) Coordination with State Agencies- (1) The state permitting authority shall provide technical assistance to municipalities in evaluating proposed projects but shall not override a municipality’s decision to deny a project. (2) Municipalities and state agencies shall coordinate to ensure compliance with all applicable safety, environmental, and zoning regulations.

(e) Enforcement and Penalties- (1) Any battery storage facility constructed or operated without municipal approval in violation of this section shall be subject to fines of up to \$100,000 per violation and shall be required to cease operations until compliance is achieved. (2) The Attorney General shall have the authority to enforce this section and seek injunctive relief where necessary.

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. Sweezey of Duxbury; and on the roll call 26 members voted in the affirmative and 128 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 131](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Representative Pease of Westfield and other members of the House moved to amend the bill by adding in the following 2 sections:—

SECTION 86. Chapter 21A of the General Laws, as appearing in the most recent edition, is hereby amended by adding the following new section:

Battery Storage Facility Buffer Zones.

(a) Definitions. As used in this section, the following words shall have the following meanings:

Amendment  
rejected,—  
yea and nay  
No. 131.

“Battery storage facility”-a facility that uses batteries to store and distribute electrical energy.

“Buffer zone”- a designated distance from certain areas within which battery energy storage facilities shall not be constructed or operated.

“Ecologically protected area”- any land designated under state or federal law as a protected environmental zone, including wetlands, wildlife reserves, and conservation areas.

“Populated area”- any residentially zoned area, school, hospital, or other location with high human occupancy.

(b) Buffer Zone Requirements- (1) No battery storage facility shall be constructed or operated within 2000 feet of a populated area. (2) No battery storage facility shall be constructed or operated within 3,000 feet of an ecologically protected area. (3) The Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Department of Fire Services, may adjust buffer distances based on facility size, battery chemistry, and risk assessment.

(c) Fire Mitigation and Emergency Preparedness- (1) All potential battery storage facilities shall submit a fire mitigation and emergency response plan to the Department of Fire Services and the local fire department before starting building. (2) Facilities utilizing lithium-ion or similarly volatile battery chemistries shall install fire suppression systems in accordance with regulations set forth by the Department of Fire Services.

(d) Environmental Protection Measures- (1) Facilities shall implement groundwater and soil contamination prevention measures, including secondary containment and spill response plans. (2) The Department of Environmental Protection shall establish guidelines for monitoring and mitigating environmental risks posed by battery storage facilities.

(e) Enforcement and Penalties- (1) The Department of Environmental Protection shall have the authority to enforce this section and may impose fines of up to \$50,000 per violation for noncompliance. (2) Any facility found to be in violation of this section shall be subject to suspension of operating permits until compliance is achieved.

SECTION 87. Chapter 148 of the General Laws, as appearing in the most recent edition, is hereby amended by adding the following new section:

Battery Storage Facility Fire Safety Standards.

The State Fire Marshal, in coordination with the Department of Environmental Protection, shall establish safety and fire prevention standards specific to battery energy storage facilities, including but not limited to: fire suppression and containment requirements, emergency response protocols, and mandatory inspections and risk assessments at regular intervals.

After remarks the amendment was rejected.

Representative McKenna of Sutton and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill in section 13, in lines 193 to 198, inclusive, by striking out the following: “; provided, however, that the resource solicitation plan shall include procurements for offshore wind energy generation that in total shall equal not less than 10 gigawatts of aggregate nameplate capacity not later than December 31, 2040; provided further, that the resource solicitation plan shall include procurements for solar energy generation that in total shall equal to approximately 10 gigawatts of aggregate nameplate capacity not later than December 31, 2040”.

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 the same member; and on the roll call 25 members voted in the affirmative and 130 in the negative.

Amendment  
rejected,—  
yea and nay

[See [Yea and Nay No. 132](#) in Supplement.]

No. 132.

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Mr. Michlewitz of Boston and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill by inserting after section 10 the following 3 sections:

Consolidated amendments.

“SECTION 10A. Section 14 of said chapter 25A, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word ‘subcontractors’, in lines 4 and 5, the following: , contractors certified by the division of capital asset management and maintenance.

SECTION 10B. Said section 14 of said chapter 25A, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word ‘project’, in line 21, the following: , applicable to a discrete building or property.

SECTION 10C. Said section 14 of said chapter 25A, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word ‘subcontractors’, in line 37, the following: , contractors certified by the division of capital asset management and maintenance.”;

By inserting after section 13 the following 2 sections:

“SECTION 13A. Section 4A of chapter 40 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 8 and 9, the words ‘and in a district by the prudential committee’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:- , in a district by the prudential committee and in a municipal light plant by the board or commission.

SECTION 13B. Said section 4A of said chapter 40, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word ‘county’, in line 28, the following words: , a municipal light plant established under chapter 164 or by special law.”;

In section 14, in line 455, by striking out the following: “Chapter 40 of the General Laws is hereby” and inserting in place thereof the following: “Said chapter 40 is hereby further”;

In section 16, in line 516, by inserting after the following: “27D” the words “; provided, however, that ‘construction’ shall include the excavation, construction, reconstruction, installation, demolition, maintenance, alteration or repair of a thermal energy network and any construction required to satisfy a thermal network operator’s or owner’s obligations to the owner of property under which the thermal network is built.”;

By inserting after section 28 the following section:

“SECTION 28A. Section 47B of said chapter 164, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following 2 paragraphs:

Any municipality acting by and through its municipal light board may provide services and assistance to any municipal or state utility, tribal utility as defined in 25 CFR § 169.2, or any other publicly-owned or operated utility, whether located inside or outside of the commonwealth, and governmental units as defined in section 4A of chapter 40, to construct, install, alter, operate, maintain or repair utility poles and conduit, wires, cables, equipment, streetlights and traffic signals to the same extent such municipality acting by and through its municipal light board may provide such services within its service territory. Any such municipality acting by and through its municipal light board may sell, rent or lease merchandise, equipment, fixtures, utensils and chattels of any description related to the provision of such services. Any employee providing such services entered into between the municipality acting by and through its municipal light board and such other public entity shall be subject to sections 1 to 28, inclusive, of chapter 32, and shall have the same rights and privileges thereunder, as if performing the same duties within the scope of his employment including voluntary assignments.”;

By inserting after section 41 the following 2 sections:

“SECTION 41A. Section 133 of said chapter 164, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended in the definition of ‘Emergency mutual aid’ by inserting after the first sentence the following 2 sentences:- Any municipal lighting plant providing emergency mutual aid may sell, rent or lease equipment, fixtures and goods of any description related to the provision of emergency mutual aid. Any employee of a municipal lighting plant providing emergency mutual aid shall be covered by sections 1 to 28, inclusive, of chapter 32 and shall have the same rights and privileges thereunder, as if performing such duties within the scope of their employment, including voluntary assignments authorized by the employer.

SECTION 41B. Said section 133 of said chapter 164, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word ‘utility’, in line 27, the following words:- or its employees.”;

In section 54 by striking out lines 1942, 1943 and 1944 and inserting in place thereof the following: “(iv) not require an interconnection application or interconnection agreement for bidirectional electric vehicles and associated electric vehicle supply equipment that are not configured to operate in parallel with the grid; and”; and

By inserting after section 68 the following 4 sections:

“SECTION 68A. (a) Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, any bid submitted under section 83C of chapter 169 of the acts of 2008 in connection with the August 30, 2023 request for proposals may be adjusted to account for changes in law occurring after the bid submission, or changes in costs for the project that are beyond the reasonable control of the bid awardee and occurring after the bid submission. The 83C bid evaluation team shall require the developer to provide documentation supporting any proposed price adjustments, including, but not limited to, documentation identifying how the assumptions pertaining to capital costs, financing costs, inflation rates, tax benefits, energy production profiles and similar information changed since the submission of the bid. The price adjustments shall be reviewed by the department of public utilities as part of the overall review pursuant to subsection (k) of said section 83C of said chapter 169.

(b)(1) Contracts entered into as a result of a bid submitted under section 83C of chapter 169 of the acts of 2008 in connection with the August 30, 2023 request for proposals shall include a mechanism to allow for the upward or downward adjustment to the contract price to account for changes in law occurring after the contract signing, or changes in costs for the project that are the beyond the control of the bid awardee occurring after the contract signing, and in each case occurring prior to the time the project achieves its commercial operation date. Any adjustment in price under this section that occurs after the department of public utilities’ initial approval of the contract shall be filed and approved for recovery in rates by the electric distribution companies.

(2) The contract shall also allow for the project developer to request a delay of milestones, such as the commercial operation date, or terminate the contract without penalty if there are interconnection, transmission, or permitting delays, or if changes in law or changes in costs, beyond the control of the project developer, cause the project not to be financeable or otherwise viable.

(c) The department of public utilities shall require the developer or the electric distribution companies to provide documentation supporting any proposed price adjustments, including, but not limited to, documentation identifying how the assumptions pertaining to capital costs, financing costs, inflation rates, tax benefits, energy production profiles and similar information have changed since the contract award. Upon receipt of a filing for an adjustment from the developer or the electric

distribution companies under this subsection, the department of public utilities shall allow for a notice and comment period of not more than 30 days from the date of the filing and shall issue a decision not later than 60 days from the filing.

SECTION 68B. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department of public utilities shall conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing a municipal light plant in the city of Fitchburg and the town of Lunenburg. The study shall include, but shall not be limited to: (i) anticipated costs, benefits and operational effectiveness associated with the acquisition of electric distribution assets; (ii) projected financial performance and feasibility over a period of not less than 30 years; and (iii) examining the feasibility, costs and benefits of implementing municipal lighting plants in Fitchburg and Lunenburg and the possible benefits of doing so in concert with an existing or newly created municipal light plant or independent municipal light plant entities. Not later than January 1, 2027, the secretary of the department of public utilities shall report the findings of the study and any actions taken pursuant to this section to the joint committee on telecommunications, utilities and energy and the house and senate committees on ways and means.

SECTION 68C. (a) There shall be established a commission on solar rooftop energy on new buildings. The commission shall review policies and procedures related to solar energy systems, battery storage systems and building construction pursuant to the base energy code, stretch energy code and specialized stretch energy code established under section 6 of chapter 25A of the General Laws and sections 93 to 100, inclusive, of chapter 143 of the General Laws.

(b) The commission shall consist of the following 11 members: the commissioner of energy resources, or a designee, and the following members to be appointed by the secretary of energy and environmental affairs: a representative of the commercial real estate sector; a representative of the residential real estate sector; a representative of the organized labor industry; a representative of the solar energy industry; a representative of an environmental group concerned with energy; a representative of the construction industry; a representative of an electric utility or organization representing electric utilities; a representative of local government; a person with expertise in energy siting; and a person with expertise in solar energy and energy efficiency.

(c) The commission shall submit a report on the requirement of solar energy system installations systems on new buildings. The report shall include, but shall not be limited to: (i) the feasibility of allowing the installation of a rooftop solar energy system in new buildings; (ii) the feasibility of an energy storage system in conjunction with solar energy systems; (iii) how the department of public utilities may provide services to advance the commonwealth's goals under chapter 298 of the acts of 2008 and the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits under chapter 21N of the General Laws; and (iv) recommendations, including, but not limited to, policy or legislative changes, related to solar energy system installations and battery storage systems on new buildings.

(d) Not later than January 1, 2028, the commission shall submit its report and recommendations, together with drafts of any legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into effect, by filing the report with the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate and the chairs of the joint committee on telecommunications, utilities and energy.

SECTION 68D. The department of energy resources, in consultation with the department of environmental protection, shall conduct a review and analysis of the renewable energy portfolio standard program in the commonwealth. The review shall consider the effectiveness of the program to date and identify ways to make

improvements to further facilitate the development of affordable renewable energy in the commonwealth. Not later than 12 months after the effective date of this act, the department of energy resources, in consultation with the department of environmental protection, shall submit a report summarizing these findings and recommendations to the joint committee on telecommunications, utilities and energy and the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate.”.

On the question on adoption of the consolidated amendments, the sense of the House was taken by the yeas and nays, as required under the provisions of House Rule 33F; and on the roll call 139 members voted in the affirmative and 16 in the negative.

Consolidated amendments adopted,— yea and nay No. 133.

**[See [Yea and Nay No. 133](#) in Supplement.]**

Therefore the consolidated amendments were adopted.

After debate on the question on passing the bill, as amended, to be engrossed, (the Speaker being in the Chair) Representative Uyterhoeven of Somerville and other members of the House moved to amend it by striking out section 69.

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 the same member; and on the roll call 17 members voted in the affirmative and 138 in the negative.

Amendment rejected,— yea and nay No. 134.

**[See [Yea and Nay No. 134](#) in Supplement.]**

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Representative Lombardo of Billerica and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill by adding the following section:

“SECTION 86. Chapter 21N of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 3B and inserting in place thereof the following section:

Section 3B. Not later than February 15 of every third year of each plan approved under section 21 of chapter 25, the secretary shall set a goal, expressed in tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, for the succeeding plan’s necessary contribution to meeting each statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit and sublimit adopted pursuant to this chapter; provided, however, that for the 2025 to 2027 plans and the 2028 to 2030 plans approved under section 21 of chapter 25, this goal shall be advisory, non-binding, and non-enforceable and shall not adversely impact (i) the affordability of energy, utility, or related costs for residential ratepayers, including low-income and fixed-income households, and (ii) the operating costs or economic competitiveness of Massachusetts businesses, including commercial, industrial, and small business customers.”.

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 the same member; and on the roll call 25 members voted in the affirmative and 130 in the negative.

Amendment rejected,— yea and nay No. 135.

**[See [Yea and Nay No. 135](#) in Supplement.]**

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Representative Jones of North Reading and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill by adding the following section:

“SECTION 86. Notwithstanding section 142K of chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, the department of environmental protection shall not adopt or enforce regulations pertaining to motor-vehicle emissions standards based on California’s duly promulgated motor-vehicle emissions standards for a period of five years from the effective date of this act.”.

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. Muradian of Grafton; and on the roll call 26 members voted in the affirmative and 129 in the negative.

Amendment rejected,— yea and nay No. 136.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 136](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

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

“SECTION 86. Section 11F of said chapter 25A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 18, the words ‘(5) an additional 3 per cent of sales each year thereafter until December 31, 2029; and (6)’.”

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. McKenna of Sutton; and on the roll call 25 members voted in the affirmative and 130 in the negative.

Amendment  
rejected,—  
yea and nay  
No. 137.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 137](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Representative Swezey of Duxbury and other members of the House moved to amend the bill by adding the following section:

“SECTION 1A. Chapter 21N of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:

Section 13. (a) All state agencies, departments, and authorities with jurisdiction over energy, climate, emissions, utilities, or building standards shall be subject to this section.

(b) No regulation, administrative action, program implementation, or policy issued to comply with statewide greenhouse gas emission limits or to advance clean energy goals shall take effect unless the entity has determined that such action will not impose unreasonable adverse impacts on:

(i) the affordability of energy or related costs for residential ratepayers, including low-income and fixed-income households; or

(ii) the operating costs or economic competitiveness of Massachusetts businesses, including commercial and small business customers.

(c) Prior to any such action taking effect, the agency or department shall prepare an affordability and competitiveness assessment that, at a minimum:

(i) identifies expected cost impacts on all ratepayer classes;

(ii) evaluates whether impacts are reasonable in light of projected benefits and funding;

(iii) considers cumulative impacts with existing requirements; and

(iv) consults with ratepayer advocates and business organizations.

(d) If the assessment identifies potential unreasonable adverse impacts, the agency shall either modify the proposed action to mitigate those impacts or adopt alternative compliance timelines or cost-containment measures.

(e) The assessment shall be made publicly available at least 30 days before final adoption or implementation.

(f) Failure to comply with these requirements shall constitute grounds for judicial review under chapter 30A.”

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 the same member; and on the roll call 25 members voted in the affirmative and 130 in the negative.

Amendment  
rejected,—  
yea and nay  
No. 138.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 138](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Mr. Frost of Auburn then moved to amend the bill by adding the following section:

“SECTION 86. Subsection (d) of section 11F of chapter 25A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the following:

Every retail electric supplier providing service under contracts executed or extended on or after January 1, 2009, shall provide a minimum percentage of kilowatt-hour sales to end-use customers in the commonwealth from Class II renewable energy generating sources, provided however, that such requirement shall not apply if compliance would not be cost effective or would result in additional costs to end-use consumers or otherwise increase consumer rates.”.

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 the same member; and on the roll call 25 members voted in the affirmative and 130 in the negative.

**[See Yea and Nay No. 139 in Supplement.]**

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Mr. Michlewitz of Boston and other members of the House moved to amend the bill in section 54 by adding the following:

“Section 163. (a) As used in this section, ‘data center’ shall mean a facility that is designed to have a load of not less than 20 megawatts and whose primary purpose is the storage, management and processing of digital data via the interconnection and operation of information technology and network telecommunications equipment, including all related facilities and infrastructure for backup electricity generation, power distribution, environmental control, cooling and security.

(b) Any new or expanded data center seeking any permit from the department or the energy facilities siting board shall procure sufficient electricity supply to meet their operational needs using not less than 80 per cent renewable energy resources.

(c) Any new or expanded data center seeking any permit from the department of environmental protection for operation of fossil-fuel generation equipment as backup source of power shall first demonstrate infeasibility of battery energy storage facilities on their site.

(d) Each electric company shall file an application with the department to establish a tariff for the provision of electricity to data centers. The tariff shall be designed to: (i) ensure that non-data center ratepayers are protected from any increased costs that result from increased electricity demand caused by data centers; and (ii) incentivize data centers to develop and utilize methods to increase energy efficiency, including through the use of technologies that capture and utilize the heat produced by the data centers.

(e) The department shall review each application submitted pursuant to this section and shall approve the application if it determines that it complies with the requirements of this section and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

In section 66, in line 2090, by inserting after the word “rates” the following: “; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of the house who has a background in and understanding of electric rates; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of the senate who has a background in and understanding of electric rates”;

In section 66, in line 2102, by striking out word “and” and in line 2104 by inserting after the word “years” the following: “(iv) include the annual rate increase for each cost component for the previous 10 years and the projected annual rate increases or range of rate increases expected over the next 5 years; (v) include recommendations that provide both short-term and long-term rate relief for residential and commercial ratepayers; and (vi) include a comparison of ratepayer affordability in the commonwealth with neighboring and similarly situated states, including, but not limited to, policy, infrastructure and market cost drivers”;

Amendment rejected,—  
yea and nay  
No. 139.

Consolidated amendments.

In section 67, in lines 2148 to 2153, inclusive, by striking out the paragraph contained in those lines and inserting in place thereof the following 2 paragraphs:

“(c) The inspector general shall hold not fewer than 4 public hearings in diverse geographic locations throughout the commonwealth to identify ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Mass Save program.

(d) Not later than July 1, 2027, the inspector general shall file a report of its findings and recommendations with the secretary of energy and environmental affairs, the commissioner of energy resources, the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means and the chairs of the joint committee on telecommunications, utilities and energy. Recommendations shall include any remodeling of the program to reorganize, as necessary.”; and

By inserting after section 68D (inserted by amendment) the following section:

“SECTION 68E. (a) Not later than 1 year after the effective date of this act, all electric companies, as defined in section 1 of chapter 164 of the General Laws, shall apply the tariff developed pursuant to section 163 of said chapter 164 to each data center within the electric company’s service area.

(b) Not later than 180 days after the effective date of this act, each electric company shall file an application with the department of public utilities to establish a tariff for the provision of electricity to data centers pursuant to said section 163 of said chapter 164.”.

On the question on adoption of the consolidated amendments, the sense of the House was taken by the yeas and nays, as required under the provisions of House Rule 33F; and on the roll call 129 members voted in the affirmative and 26 in the negative.

Consolidated amendments adopted,—  
yea and nay  
No. 140.

**[See [Yea and Nay No. 140](#) in Supplement.]**

Therefore the consolidated 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. Cusack of Braintree; and on the roll call (Mr. Garballey of Arlington having taken the Chair) 128 members voted in the affirmative and 27 in the negative.

Bill passed to be engrossed,—  
yea and nay  
No. 141.

**[See [Yea and Nay No. 141](#) in Supplement.]**

Therefore the bill (House, No. 5175, published as amended) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

*Motion to Discharge Certain Matters in the Orders of the Day.*

The Senate amendment of the House Bill amending the charter of the town of Natick (House, No. 3898, amended), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was discharged from its position in the Orders of the Day and considered forthwith, under suspension of Rule 47, on motion of Mr. Linsky of Natick.

Natick,—  
charter.

Pending the question on adoption of the amendment, in concurrence, Mr. Walsh of Peabody moved that the House concur with the Senate in its amendment with a further amendment in section 26 (as changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading), in line 464, by striking out the words “or state election” and inserting in place thereof the following: “election after March 31, 2026”.

The Speaker having taken the Chair, the further amendment was adopted. The House then concurred with the Senate in its amendment, as amended. Sent to the Senate for concurrence in the further amendment.

Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair,—

The Senate Bill further regulating the amendment of a conservation restriction in the town of Hanson (Senate, No. 2895), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was discharged from its position in the Orders of the Day and considered forthwith, under suspension of Rule 47, on motion of Mr. Ouellette of Westport.

Hanson,—  
land.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, in concurrence, Mr. Walsh of Peabody moved to amend it by striking out section 1 and inserting in place thereof the following section:

“SECTION 1. Section 3 of chapter 133 of the acts of 2022 is hereby amended by striking out the figure ‘21,780’ and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 3,922.”.

The amendment was adopted; and the bill (Senate, No. 2895, amended) was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence. Sent to the Senate for concurrence in the amendment.

*Order.*

The Speaker being in the Chair,—

On motion of Ms. Hogan of Stow,—

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

Next  
sitting.

---

Representative Sylvia of Fairhaven moved that when the House adjourns today, it do so in respect to the memory of William Q. “Biff” MacLean, Jr., a member of the House from Fairhaven from 1961 to 1980, inclusive, and a member of the Senate from 1981 to 1993, inclusive; and the motion prevailed.

Accordingly, without proceeding to consideration of the matters in the Orders of the Day, at seventeen minutes after ten o’clock P.M., on motion of Ms. Hogan of Stow (The Speaker being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Monday at eleven o’clock A.M., in an Informal Session.