

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026.

[26]

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Thursday, March 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.

Statement of Representative Barrett of North Adams.

A statement of Mr. Barrett of North Adams was spread upon the records of the House, as follows:

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to call to the attention of the House the fact that I was unable to be present in the House Chamber during the sitting of March 18, 2026. If I had been present, I would have voted yea on roll call numbers 142, 144 and 145; and I would have voted nay on roll call number 143.

Mr. Barrett
of North
Adams.

Guests of the House.

During the session, the Chair (Mr. Garballey of Arlington), declared a brief recess and introduced, seated in the House Chamber, members of the Cape Cod Community Leadership Institute. They were the guests of Mr. Vieira of Falmouth, a graduate of the institute.

Cape Cod
Community
Leadership
Institute.

Resolutions.

Resolutions (filed with the Clerk by Representative Sabadosa of Northampton and other members of the House) commending the Endometriosis Alliance of Massachusetts for its recognition of March 2026 as Endometriosis Awareness Month, were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules.

Endometriosis
Awareness
Month.

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

Orders.

The following orders were referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules:
Order (filed by Representatives Livingstone of Boston and Garcia of Chelsea) relative to extending until Friday, July 31, 2026 the time within which the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities is authorized to report on a current House document (House, No. 5232).

Extensions
of time for
committees
to make
reports.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Order (filed by Representatives Arciero of Westford and Philips of Sharon) relative to extending until Friday, July 31, 2026 the time within which the committee on Transportation is authorized to report on current House documents (House, No. 5265).

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. Wong of Saugus, the orders were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

The following orders were referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules:

Order (filed by Representatives Chan of Quincy and Keefe of Worcester) relative to extending until Friday, May 15, 2026 the time within which the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure is authorized to report on a current House document (House, No. 5262).

Extensions of time for committees to make reports.

Order (filed by Representatives Madaro of Boston and Philips of Sharon) relative to extending until Friday, June 26, 2026 the time within which the committee on Revenue is authorized to report on current House documents (House, No. 5256).

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. Vieira of Falmouth, the orders were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

The Order (filed by Representatives Lawn of Watertown and Kilcoyne of Clinton) relative to extending until Monday, June 15, 2026 the time within which the committee on Health Care Financing is authorized to report on current House documents, was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Health Care Financing,— extension of time for reporting.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, reported that the order (House, No. 5270) ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Ms. Badger of Plymouth, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted.

Communication.

A communication from the Department of Unemployment Assistance (see Section 14F of Chapter 151A of the General Laws) submitting the January Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Annual Outlook Report containing updated projections for estimated contributions, benefit payments, and Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund balances for the five-year outlook period beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2030, was placed on file.

Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

Annual Reports.

Annual Reports

Of the Pension Reserves Investment Management Board (under Section 23 of Chapter 32 of the General Laws) relative to divestment from companies that derive certain revenues from the sale of tobacco products;

PRIM,— tobacco divestment.

Of the Pension Reserves Investment Management Board (under Section 64(f) of Chapter 42 of the Acts of 2022) relative to divestment from Russian restricted securities;

PRIM,— Russia divestment.

Of the Pension Reserves Investment Management Board (under Section 6 of Chapter 232 of the Acts of 2010) relative to the divestment from Iran restricted securities; and

PRIM,— Iran divestment.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Of the Pension Reserves Investment Management Board (under Section 4 of Chapter 151 of the Acts of 2007) relative to divestment from Sudan restricted securities;

PRIM,—
Sudan
divestment.

Severally were placed on file.

Petition.

Representative Day of Stoneham presented a petition (subject to Joint Rules 12 and 9) of Michael S. Day for legislation to establish quantum investment and tax incentive programs for certain quantum science research, development, manufacturing or commercialization; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Quantum
science.

Paper from the Senate.

A joint petition (accompanied by bill) of Joanne M. Comerford and Susannah M. Whipps for legislation to provide equal opportunity for residents to vote on establishment of the Great River Regional School District, came from the Senate referred, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Great River
Regional
School District.

The House then concurred with the Senate in the suspension of said rule; and the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3026) was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

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 Jack Patrick Lewis relative to retirement benefits for Suzanne Garcia a member of the state employees' retirement system and the Framingham retirement system. To the committee on Public Service.

Suzanne
Garcia,—
retirement.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Kristin E. Kassner and others relative to senior property tax credits. To the committee on Revenue.

Senior
property taxes.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Ms. Badger of Plymouth, 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 clarifying call firefighter rights (Senate, No. 2960); and
House bills

Call firefighters.

Temporarily protecting recently widowed spouses from foreclosure (House, No. 1329);

Widows,—
Foreclosures.

Protecting wages of employees who receive wages through an electronic wage card (House, No. 2074);

Electronic
wage cards.

To protect hospital workers from being deprived of their wages (House, No. 2124);

Hospitals,—
wages.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Establishing a minimum wage for employees of airline catering companies (House, No. 2145);

Airline catering employees.

To encourage donations to local nonprofits (House, No. 3169);

Donations.

Limiting the use of prison labor (House, No. 5125); and

Prison labor.

Establishing a sick leave bank for Courtney Cochran, an employee of the Department of Children & Families (DCF) (House, No. 5245);

Courtney Cochran.

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. Saunders of Belchertown, for the committee on Agriculture and Fisheries, on House, Nos. 136 and 141, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Agriculture and Fisheries to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to toxic sludge and foreign-owned land (House, No. 5249).

Toxic sludge and foreign-owned land,— study

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 3981, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Agriculture and Fisheries to make an investigation and study of a certain House document relative to high impact fisheries (House, No. 5250).

High impact fisheries,— study

By Ms. Fiola of Fall River, for the committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies, on House, Nos. 485, 489, 490, 492, 497, 498 and 499, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to state grants, job creation and other related matters (House, No. 5252).

State grants, job creation and other related matters,— study

By Mr. Hunt of Boston, for the committee on Election Laws, on House, No. 808, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Election Laws to make an investigation and study of a certain House document relative to residency affidavits for candidates (House, No. 5251).

Candidate residency,— study.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 803, 809, 810, 813, 814, 823, 828, 829, 830, 831, 835, 841, 847, 852, 854, 855, 861, 866, 869, 870, 872, 879, 881, 3908, 3919, 3943, 4034, 4055, 4098, 4108, 4189, 4377 and 4499, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Election Laws to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to voting rights, ranked choice voting and other related matters (House, No. 5253).

Voting rights, ranked choice voting and other related matters,— study.

By Mr. Cahill of Lynn, for the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, on House, Nos. 2566, 2567, 2575, 2577, 2586, 2593, 2599, 2601, 2605, 2612, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2628, 2630, 2634, 2635, 2638, 2641, 2649, 2654, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2670, 2674, 2678, 2679, 2680, 2685, 2688, 2694, 2697, 2702, 2706, 2707, 2717, 2718, 2721, 2737, 2739, 3962, 4049, 4124 and 4125, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to passenger safety, correctional facilities and other related matters (House, No. 5254).

Passenger safety, correctional facilities and other related matters,— 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.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

By Ms. Barber of Somerville, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on a petition, a Bill to create a commission to determine the feasibility of voluntary acquisition of flood risk properties and structures (House, No. 1051) [Representative Sweezey of Duxbury dissenting]. Read; and referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Flood risk properties and structure.

By Ms. Barber of Somerville, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on a petition, a Bill protecting drinking water quality in private wells (House, No. 900) [Representative Sweezey of Duxbury dissenting].

Wells.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill establishing sustainable and equitable funding for climate change adaptation and mitigation (House, No. 938) [Representative Sweezey of Duxbury dissenting].

Climate change,—funding.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill prohibiting the sale of newly farmed fur products (House, No. 990).

Fur products.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill investing in natural and working lands (House, No. 1005).

Land protection.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to further testing after a CSO event (House, No. 1012).

Sewage.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to improve the review and regulation of emerging contaminants on public water systems (House, No. 1020).

Public water systems.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to local protection of water resources from nutrient pollution (House, No. 1021).

Water protections.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House Nos. 1031 and 1046, a Bill relative to combined sewer overflows (House, No. 1031).

Sewage overflows.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill establishing a Massachusetts flood risk protection program (House, No. 1050) [Representative Sweezey of Duxbury dissenting].

Flood risks.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill accelerating wetlands restoration (House, No. 1052).

Wetlands restoration.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to establish a free snowmobile weekend (House, No. 1070).

Snowmobiles.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill pertaining to regional resilience and flood protection entities (House, No. 3938).

Flood protection.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to promoting the beneficial use of dredged materials for coastal resilience, nourishment and restoration (House, No. 3984).

Coastal protection.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill establishing a review process of guidelines for managing recreational use of beaches to protect piping plovers, terns, and their habitats in Massachusetts (House, No. 5139).

Shore birds.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 898, a Bill to end the taking of horseshoe crabs for bait (House, No. 5266).

Horseshoe crabs.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House No. 918, a Bill protecting drinking water and public health from sand mining pollution (House, No. 5267).

Sand mining pollution.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 3945, a Bill to promote urban agriculture in environmental justice communities (House, No. 5268) [Representative Sweezey of Duxbury dissenting].

Urban agriculture.

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

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

By Ms. Barber of Somerville, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on a petition, a Bill creating parity among Massachusetts beaches (House, No. 5140). Read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Massachusetts
Habitat
Conservation
Plan.

Engrossed Bill.

The engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Sally Desrosiers, an employee of the Department of Correction (see House, No. 4962, amended) (which originated in the House), in respect to which the Senate had concurred in adoption of the emergency preamble, was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Bill
enacted.

Orders of the Day.

The Senate amendment of the House Bill authorizing the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to convey certain parcels of land in the city of Brockton (House, No. 4768), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was adopted, in concurrence.

Brockton,—
land.

House bills

Authorizing the town of Conway to continue the employment of fire department member Howard Boyden (House, No. 4506); and

Authorizing William Pilleri to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the town of Arlington notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4507); and

Authorizing the town of Conway to continue the employment of police department member Michael Habel (House, No. 4525);

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.

Third
reading
bills.

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. Wong of Saugus (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.