

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.**



**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026.**

[28]\*

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# JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

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Wednesday, March 25, 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.

### *Appointment of the Minority Leader.*

The Minority Leader announced that (under the provisions of Section 221 of Chapter 6 of the General Laws) Representative Howitt of Seekonk had been relieved of duty (at his own request) from the Hate Crimes Task Force, and that Representative Xiarhos of Barnstable had been appointed to fill the vacancy.

Hate Crimes Task Force.

### *Statement of Representative Ashe of Longmeadow.*

A statement of Mr. Ashe of Longmeadow 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 am unable to be present in the House Chamber for today's sitting due to a positive COVID test. If I had been present, I would have voted yea on roll call numbers 146 to 150, inclusive. My missing of roll calls today is due entirely to the reason stated.

Statement of Representative Ashe of Longmeadow.

### *Statement of Representative Schwartz of Newton.*

A statement of Mr. Schwartz of Newton 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 for the sitting of Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. 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.

Statement of Representative Schwartz of Newton.

### *Remote Participation.*

Notice had been received from House Counsel that, under the provisions of House Rule 49, Representatives Arriaga of Chicopee, Ferguson of Holden and Vaughn of Wrentham had been approved to participate remotely for today's formal sitting.

Remote participation.

### *Resolutions.*

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

Resolutions (filed with the Clerk by Representatives Moakley of Falmouth, Chan of Quincy, Diggs of Barnstable, McGonagle of Everett and Wells of Milton) celebrating Carolyn Sammartino Moran on the occasion of her eightieth birthday, were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules.

Carolyn  
Sammartino  
Moran.

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

*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 petition of Thomas M. Stanley that the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance be authorized to provide the city of Waltham with a right of first refusal over the lease of the Veterans Memorial rink in said city. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Ouellette of Westport, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Waltham,—  
Veterans  
Memorial  
rink.

By Mr. Chan of Quincy, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on House, No. 380, a Bill to effectuate Massachusetts' participation in the social work licensure compact (House, No. 5272).

Social workers,—  
licensure  
compact.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 4907, a Bill to relative to the sale of nitrous oxide (House, No. 5273).

Nitrous oxide,—  
sale.

By Ms. Domb of Amherst, for the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, on House, No. 2196, a Bill relative to establishing protections for and ensuring access to harm reduction programming and services in the commonwealth (House, No. 5274) [Representatives Markey of Dartmouth, Xiarhos of Barnstable, Muradian of Grafton and Howitt of Seekonk dissenting].

Harm reduction  
programming.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 2198, a Bill reducing emergency department boarding (House, No. 5275) [Representatives Xiarhos of Barnstable, Muradian of Grafton and Howitt of Seekonk dissenting].

Hospitals,—  
emergency  
boarding.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 2199, a Bill ending unnecessary hospitalizations (House, No. 5276) [Representatives Xiarhos of Barnstable, Muradian of Grafton and Howitt of Seekonk dissenting].

Hospitalizations.

By Mr. Ryan of Boston, for the committee on Public Service, on a petition, a Bill relative to the town of Plymouth Harbormaster employees (House, No. 2749) [Local Approval Received].

Plymouth,—  
harbormaster.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to ensure fairness in retirement benefits for institutional teachers (House, No. 2757).

Institutional  
teachers.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to attorneys at the Department of Children and Families (House, No. 2771).

Attorneys,—  
retirement.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the Department of Youth Services (House, No. 2781).

Youth services,—  
retirement.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to public safety personnel (House, No. 2796).

Post-retirement  
earnings.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the retirement benefits of certain employees of the department of mental health (House, No. 2802).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 2807 and 2905, a Bill to protect the retirement classification of Barnstable county dispatchers and dispatch retirees (House, No. 2807).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to special investigators of the alcohol beverage control commission (House, No. 2814).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill regulating education administrator retirement (House, No. 2816).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to retirement for nuclear reactor operators (House, No. 2817).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to Massachusetts certified emergency telecommunicators (House, No. 2818).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill directing the State Board of Retirement to grant certain retirement benefits (House, No. 2833).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to teacher's retirement buyback for former parochial school teachers (House, No. 2865).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill amending retirement benefits for certain employees of the parole board (House, No. 2878).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill designating Aerial Foresters of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to be in Group 2 of the contributory retirement system (House, No. 2881).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to public safety dispatchers (House, No. 2885).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to ensure fairness in retirement benefits for certain employees of the Department of Correction (House, No. 2929).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to victim witness advocate retirement classification (House, No. 2935).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to Brockton school police (House, No. 2937).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to Massachusetts certified emergency telecommunicators (House, No. 2968).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to provide public safety telecommunicators with the same internal benefits as first responders (House, No. 2971).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to employees of the Commonwealth that are required to respond to crime scenes (House, No. 2979).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to retirement benefits for county correctional nurses (House, No. 2980).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to Mass Port police officers (House, No. 2997).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 2808 and 3002, a Bill relative to the retirement of University of Massachusetts police (House, No. 3002).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the city of Salem harbormaster and assistant harbormasters (House, No. 4583) [Local Approval Received].

Mental health,—  
retirement.

Barnstable county,—  
retirement.

Investigators,—  
retirement.

Administrators,—  
retirement.

Nuclear reactor operators.

Dispatchers,—  
retirement.

Virginia Wise,—  
retirement.

Parochial school teachers.

Parole board,—  
retirement.

Aerial foresters,—  
retirement.

Dispatchers,—  
retirement.

Correction,—  
retirement.

Victim witness advocates.

Brockton,—  
school police.

Dispatchers,—  
retirement.

Public safety communicators,—  
benefits.

Forensic scientists,—  
retirement.

Correctional nurses.

Mass Port,—  
police retirement.

UMass,—  
police retirement.

Salem,—  
harbormaster.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

By Mr. Cusack of Braintree, for the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, on a petition, a Bill relative to healthy and sustainable schools (House, No. 3476).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill limiting the eligibility of woody biomass as an alternative energy supply (House, No. 3548).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 3478 and 3546, a Bill to streamline broadband permitting and ensure equitable access to infrastructure (House, No. 5290).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 3499, a Bill to promote low-income access to solar (House, No. 5291).

By Mr. Arciero of Westford, for the committee on Transportation, on House, No. 3654, a Bill relative to restoring commuter rail to Cape Cod (House, No. 5277).

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

By Mr. Chan of Quincy, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on House, No. 330, a Bill to clarify the minimum age for the sale of adult-use products or services (House, No. 5271).

By Mr. Ryan of Boston, for the committee on Public Service, on a joint petition, a Bill relative to the maximum age requirement for original appointment as a police officer for the city of Worcester (House, No. 3929) [Local Approval Received].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to raising the age requirement for entrance to the Boston Police Academy (House, No. 4093) [Local Approval Received].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the maintenance of pre-employment physical examination records for public safety personnel in the city of Quincy (House, No. 4890) [Local Approval Received].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to waiving the maximum age requirement for police officers for Matthew Cummings (House, No. 5034) [Local Approval Received].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill relative to the maintenance of pre-employment physical examination records for public safety personnel in the city of Peabody (House, No. 5054) [Local Approval Received].

By Mr. Cusack of Braintree, for the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, on House, No. 3551, a Bill relative to smart meters (House, No. 5292).

By Mr. Arciero of Westford, for the committee on Transportation, on House, No. 3713, a Bill relative to noise report data and good neighbor policy at Beverly Regional Airport (House, No. 5278).

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

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

The House Bill establishing memorial markers in the towns of Milton and Canton in memory of certain law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty (House, No. 1069), 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 read a third time forthwith, under suspension of Rule 47, on motion of Mr. Hong of Lowell; and it was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Schools,—  
energy  
efficiency.

Woody  
biomass.

Broadband,—  
permitting.

Solar,—  
access.

Cape Cod,—  
commuter rail.

Adult-use  
products,—  
sales.

Worcester,—  
police  
officers.

Boston,—  
police  
officers.

Quincy,—  
physical  
examinations.

Boston,—  
Matthew  
Cummings.

Peabody,—  
physical  
examinations.

Smart  
meters.

Beverly  
Regional  
Airport.

Milton  
and Canton.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

The House Bill relative to the town administrator of the town of Carlisle (House, No. 4414, changed), 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 read a third time forthwith, under suspension of Rule 47, on motion of Mr. Hong of Lowell.

Carlisle,—  
town  
administrator.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Walsh of Peabody moved to amend it by substitutions of a bill with the same title (House, No. 5308), which was read.

The amendment was adopted; and the substituted bill was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

*Recess.*

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

Recess.

*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 authorizing the division of capital asset management and maintenance to release a certain sewer line easement in the West Roxbury section of the city of Boston (House, No. 4368), ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor a bill with the same title (House, No. 5304). Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Boston,—  
easement.

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. Michlewitz of Boston, 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 (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), under suspension of the rules, on further motion of the same member, the bill (having been reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) was read a third time; and it was passed to be engrossed. The bill (House, No. 5304) then was sent to the Senate for concurrence.

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 promoting rule of law, oversight, trust, and equal constitutional treatment (“The PROTECT Act”) (House, No. 5293), ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor a Bill promoting rule of law, oversight, trust and equal constitutional treatment (House, No. 5305). Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Civil immigration  
enforcement,—  
participation.

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. Michlewitz of Boston, 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, Mr. Vieira of Falmouth moved to amend it by striking out section 4; and the amendment was rejected.

After remarks on the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Gaskey of Carver moved to amend it in section 1, in line 9, by inserting after the word “government” the words “including an immigration judge of the Executive Office for Immigration Review”.

After remarks the amendment was rejected.

Mr. Markey of Dartmouth then moved to amend the bill in section 5, in lines 266 to 275, inclusive, by striking out the two paragraphs contained in these lines and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:

“No law enforcement officer or other employee or representative of a law enforcement agency shall make a civil arrest based upon a civil warrant of an individual present at a courthouse unless a judge sitting in that court, has reviewed such civil warrant and has determined by a preponderance of the evidence the following: (1) the identity of the individual is present in court; and (2) the removal of the individual from the court house would not substantially impair the administration of justice. In determining if there is a substantial impairment the court shall consider the nature of the charges which brings the individual to court, the purpose of the individuals presence in court, the stage of the proceedings the individual is present in court for, and should also consider the convenience and commitment of jurors, victims, witnesses and other court personnel involved in the proceedings before allowing the warrant to be executed within the courthouse.”.

The amendment was rejected.

After remarks on the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Ms. Ramos of North Andover moved to amend it in section 6, in line 363, by inserting after the word “days” the following: “or has a derivative beneficiary as described in 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(T)(ii)(III) who will age out within 45 days”.

After remarks 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 (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair) 151 members voted in the affirmative and 3 in the negative.

Amendment  
adopted,—  
yea and nay  
No. 146.

**[See [Yea and Nay No. 146](#) in Supplement.]**

[Mr. Soter of Bellingham answered “Present” in response to his name.]

Therefore the amendment was adopted.

Ms. Barber of Somerville then moved to amend the bill in section 3 by striking out lines 155 and 156 and inserting in place thereof the following two paragraphs:—

“Law enforcement agency”, (i) a state, county, municipal or district law enforcement agency, including, but not limited to, a city, town or district police department, the office of environmental law enforcement, the University of Massachusetts police department, the department of the state police, the Massachusetts Port Authority police department, also known as the Port of Boston Authority police department, and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority police department; (ii) a sheriff’s department; (iii) a public or private college,

university or other educational institution or hospital police department; or (iv) a humane society police department in section 57 of chapter 22C.

“Law enforcement officer” or “officer”, any officer or employee of an agency, including the head of the agency; a special state police officer appointed pursuant to section 57, section 58 or section 63 of chapter 22C; a special sheriff appointed pursuant to section 4 of chapter 37; a deputy sheriff appointed pursuant to section 3 of said chapter 37; a constable executing an arrest for any reason; or any other special, reserve or intermittent police officer.

After remarks 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 130 members voted in the affirmative and 25 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 147](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Jones of North Reading and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill in section 3, in lines 176 and 177, by striking out the words “a person’s release date” and inserting in place thereof the following: “the release date of a person, including, but not limited to, a person convicted pursuant to chapter 265, except for sections 9, 10, 11, 12, 30, 32, 34, 35, 36, 40, and 42 of chapter 265”; and in line 177, inserting after the word “sentence” the following: “, including, but not limited to, a sentence for a conviction pursuant to chapter 265, except for sections 9, 10, 11, 12, 30, 32, 34, 35, 36, 40, and 42 of chapter 265,”.

On the question on adoption of the amendments, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of the same member; and on the roll call 155 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 148](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendments were adopted.

The Speaker being in the Chair,—

Mr. Reid of Lynn then moved to amend the bill in section 1, in lines 70 and 71, by striking out the text contained in those lines and inserting in place thereof the following:

“(d) The governor, in consultation with the attorney general, shall publish multilingual guidelines for all school districts, as defined in section 2 of chapter 70, on how to handle interactions with law enforcement officers regarding civil immigration enforcement. The multilingual guidelines shall include, but shall not be limited to, guidance on:

(i) designating a contact person or persons to be notified of the presence of, or information requests from, law enforcement agents engaged in civil immigration enforcement;

(ii) verifying the identity and authority of any law enforcement officer engaged in civil immigration enforcement;

(iii) verifying the validity of any judicial warrant or judicial order provided;

(iv) documenting and maintaining records of all interactions with law enforcement agents engaged in civil immigration enforcement;

(v) informing all persons how to respond to requests relating to civil immigration enforcement; and

(vi) any other information the governor and the attorney general deems relevant for school districts.

(e) The governor shall post the published guidelines pursuant to this section prominently on the commonwealth’s website.”.

Amendment  
adopted,—  
yea and nay  
No. 147.

Amendments  
adopted,—  
yea and nay  
No. 148.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

After remarks 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 136 members voted in the affirmative and 18 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 149](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendment was adopted.

After remarks on the question on passing the bill, as amended, to be engrossed, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of Mr. Cahill of Lynn; and on the roll call 134 members voted in the affirmative and 21 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 150](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the bill (House, No. 5316, published as amended) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Amendment adopted,—  
yea and nay  
No. 149.

Bill passed to be engrossed,—  
yea and nay  
No. 150.

*Order.*

Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair,—

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

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

Next sitting.

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Accordingly, without consideration of the matters in the Orders of the Day, at twelve minutes after six o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Jones of North Reading (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following day at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.