

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2025.

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Met according to adjournment at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Mr. Donato of Medford in the Chair (having been appointed by the Speaker, under authority conferred by Rule 5, to perform the duties of the Chair).

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Donato), the members, guests and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of
allegiance.

Appointments of the Speaker.

The Speaker announced that (under the provisions of Section 36 of Chapter 285 of the Acts of 2024) he had appointed Representative Donaghue of Westborough to the Public Health Effects of Xylazine special commission.

Xylazine.

A communication was received from the Speaker announcing that he had appointed Representative Domb of Amherst as his designee to serve on the Poet Laureate of Massachusetts nominating committee established (Under Executive Order 640) to review, submit, and make recommendations on applications for the position of Poet Laureate to the Governor.

Poet
Laureate.

Appointments of the Minority Leader.

The Minority Leader announced that he had made the following appointments:

That (under the provisions of Section 74 of Chapter 3 of the General Laws) he had appointed Representative Marsi of Dudley to the Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities, replacing former Representative Mathew Muratore of Plymouth;

Status of
persons with
disabilities.

That (under the provisions of Section 68 of Chapter 23K of the General Laws) he had re-appointed Representative Vaughn of Wrentham to the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee; and

Gaming
policy.

That (under the provisions of Section 4 of Chapter 239 of the Acts of 2024) he had appointed John Tzimorangas, President and CEO of Energy New England to serve as his designee to the Embodied Carbon Intergovernmental Coordinating Council.

Embodied
carbon.

Appointment of the House Chair of the Massachusetts Asian-American Caucus.

Representative Chan of Quincy, the Chair of the Massachusetts Asian-American Caucus, announced that (under the provisions of Section 149 of Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2024) he had appointed Nicholas You of Boston to the Special Commission on Violence Prevention Services Funding.

Violence
prevention
funding.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Guests of the House.

At the beginning of the session, the Chair (Mr. Donato of Medford), declared a brief recess and introduced, seated in the Chamber, the Pembroke High School boys indoor track and field team, who recently won the MIAA Division 4 State Championship, held at the Reggie Lewis Center. Amassing an impressive 74 points, the team was able to outpace their rivals and secure a victory for the town of Pembroke. They were the guests of Representatives LaNatra of Kingston and Swezey of Pembroke.

Pembroke High School boys track team.

During the session, the Chair (Mr. Donato of Medford), declared a brief recess and introduced, seated in the Chamber, the Somerset Berkley Regional High School girls 2024 field hockey and the 2025 boys basketball state championship teams. They were the guests of Representative Thurber of Somerset.

Somerset Berkley teams.

Communications.

Communications

From the Massachusetts Food Policy Council (see Section 6C(e) of Chapter 20 of the General Laws) submitting its 2024 annual report related to the Massachusetts Local Food Action Plan;

Local food action plan.

From the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (see Section 69 of Chapter 23K of the General Laws) submitting its gaming revenue reports and associated sports wagering revenue report through December, 2024;

Gaming and sports wagering revenue.

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

Id.

From the Department of Public Utilities (see Section 1G of Chapter 164 of the General Laws) submitting its self-generation report for calendar year 2023; and

Public utilities self-generation.

From the Office of the Comptroller (see Section 2 of Chapter 214 of the Acts of 2024) submitting a report on the balance of and the interest earned by the Commonwealth Stabilization Fund as of June 30 of the preceding fiscal year;

Stabilization fund.

Severally were placed on file.

Petitions.

The following additional petitions (having been deposited in the office of the Clerk of the House, previously to five o'clock in the afternoon on Friday, January 17, 2025) were referred, under Rule 24 and Joint Rule 13, as follows:

By Representative Donaghue of Westborough, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3939) of Kate Donaghue for legislation to establish a board of registration for music therapists; and

Music therapists.

By Representative McMurtry of Dedham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3940) of Paul McMurtry relative to unsolicited telephonic sales call to consumers using local phone numbers.

Unsolicited telephonic sales.

Severally to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

By Representative Sullivan-Almeida of Abington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3941) of Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida relative to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education visiting school districts; and

School visits.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

By Representative Tarsky of Needham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3942) of Joshua Tarsky relative to safety and security in schools. Severally to the committee on Education.	Schools,— security.
By Representative Arena-DeRosa of Holliston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3943) of James C. Arena-DeRosa relative to voter registration and early voting. To the committee on Election Laws.	Early voting.
By Representative Flanagan of Dennis, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3944) of Christopher Richard Flanagan relative to a three-year coastal resiliency emergency management plan. To the committee on Emergency Preparedness and Management.	Coastal resiliency.
By Representative Garcia of Chelsea, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3945) of Judith A. Garcia relative to urban agriculture in environmental justice communities. To the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.	Urban agriculture.
By Representatives Garballey of Arlington and Giannino of Revere, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3946) of Sean Garballey, Jessica Ann Giannino and others relative to health insurance coverage for hearing aids; and	Hearing aids,— insurance.
By Representative Lawn of Watertown, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3947) of John J. Lawn, Jr., relative to the examination of insurance company mergers. Severally to the committee on Financial Services.	Insurance company mergers.
By Representative Sabadosa of Northampton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3948) of Lindsay N. Sabadosa for legislation to establish rights and career advancement for contingent faculty in public higher education. To the committee on Higher Education.	Faculty,— career advancement.
By Representative Peisch of Wellesley, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3949) of Alice Hanlon Peisch and Mark D. Sylvia relative to teacher strikes. To the committee on Labor and Workforce Development.	Teacher Strikes.
By Representative LeBoeuf of Worcester, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3950) of David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf relative to parents in recovery from substance use disorder and child welfare. To the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.	Parents,— recovery.
By Representative Connolly of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3951) of Mike Connolly relative to municipal fossil fuel free building construction and renovation demonstration projects;	Fossil fuel free building.
By Representative Markey of Dartmouth, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3952) of Christopher M. Markey that Dartmouth Fire District No. 1 be authorized to appoint the position of treasurer; and	Dartmouth,— treasurer.
By Representative Sweezey of Duxbury, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3953) of Kenneth P. Sweezey (by vote of the town) for legislation to enhance enforcement in building and permitting compliance in the town Hanson. Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.	Hanson,— permitting.
By Representative Arciero of Westford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3954) of James Arciero relative to xylitol labeling;	Xylitol.
By Representative Cruz of Salem, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3955) of Manny Cruz relative to birth certificates;	Birth certificates.
By Representative Davis of Great Barrington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3956) of Leigh Davis for legislation to exempt Fairview Hospital from determination of need requirements;	Fairview Hospital.
By Representative Finn of West Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3957) of Michael J. Finn for legislation to establish a fund for the Western Massachusetts Hospital;	Western Massachusetts Hospital fund.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

By Representative Flanagan of Dennis, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3958) of Christopher Richard Flanagan relative to expanding pathogen testing capabilities for aquaculture;

Aquaculture,—
pathogen
testing.

By Representative Garballey of Arlington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3959) of Sean Garballey relative to additives in food products;

Food
additives.

By Representative Lipper-Garabedian of Melrose, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3960) of Kate Lipper-Garabedian relative to physicians providing testimony in an administrative or judicial hearing; and

Physicians,—
testimony.

By Representative Meschino of Hull, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3961) of Joan Meschino relative to education and prevention of sudden unexpected death in epilepsy and other related epilepsy mortalities.

Epilepsy,—
education.

Severally to the committee on Public Health.

By Representative Luddy of Orleans and Senator Cyr, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3962) of Hadley Luddy and Julian Cyr relative to inspections of buildings or structures occupied in whole or in part as a short-term rental. To the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

Short-term
rentals,—
inspections.

By Representative Pease of Westfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3963) of Kelly W. Pease (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to the retirement of Greg Heath, a former firefighter of the city of Westfield; and

Westfield,—
Greg Heath.

By Representative Puppolo of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3964) of Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., and Jacob R. Oliveira that Edward E. Kivari Jr., be authorized to purchase creditable service from the Hampden county retirement board.

Edward Kivari,—
creditable
service.

Severally to the committee on Public Service.

By Representative Arena-DeRosa of Holliston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3965) of James C. Arena-DeRosa relative to tax abatements;

Tax
abatements.

By Representative Armini of Marblehead (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3966) of Jay Catelli for legislation to further regulate the property tax assessments and abatement processes;

Property tax
assessments
and abatements.

By Representative Flanagan of Dennis, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3967) of Christopher Richard Flanagan for legislation to further regulate surcharges on real property;

Property
surcharges.

By Representative MacGregor of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3968) of William F. MacGregor relative to property tax exemptions for seniors and persons with disabilities;

Property tax
exemptions.

By Representatives Ramos of Springfield and Puppolo of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3969) of Orlando Ramos relative to urban farmland taxation; and

Urban
farmland.

By Representative Rogers of Cambridge and Senator Brownsberger, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3970) of David M. Rogers and William N. Brownsberger (by vote of the town) that the town of Belmont be authorized to update the tax treatment of recreational lands in said town.

Belmont,—
recreational
lands.

Severally to the committee on Revenue.

By Representative Gallagher of Bridgewater, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3971) of Dennis C. Gallagher for an investigation by a special legislative commission (including members of the General Court) to study the feasibility and efficacy of placing the registries of deeds for county governments under the oversight of the State Secretary. To the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Registries
of deeds,—
study.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

By Representative Domb of Amherst, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3972) of Mindy Domb, Joanne M. Comerford and Natalie M. Blais relative to utility shutoff protections during periods of extreme heat;

Utility shutoffs.

By Representative Kushmerek of Fitchburg and Senator Cronin, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3973) of Michael P. Kushmerek and John J. Cronin relative to collective procurement of energy supply;

Energy supply.

By Representative Luddy of Orleans, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3974) of Hadley Luddy relative to cellular coverage; and

Cellular coverage.

By Representative McMurtry of Dedham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3975) of Paul McMurtry for legislation to establish a special commission to investigate double utility poles.

Double utility poles.

Severally to the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

By Representative Kushmerek of Fitchburg, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3976) of Michael P. Kushmerek relative to competitive bidding for school transportation. To the committee on Transportation.

School transportation,— bidding.

Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Davis of Great Barrington and Senator Mark, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3977) of Leigh Davis (by vote of the town) that the town of Becket be authorized to provide for alternate members of the conservation commission of said town. To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Becket,— conservation commission.

By Representative Sullivan-Almeida of Abington and Senator Brady, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3978) of Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the Boston Retirement Board be authorized to retire Brian C. McPherson, an employee of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. To the committee on Public Service.

Brian McPherson,— retirement.

By Representative Lipper-Garabedian of Melrose, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3979) of Kate Lipper-Garabedian (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Melrose be authorized to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption in said city. To the committee on Revenue.

Melrose,— senior property tax exemption.

Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

By Representative Philips of Sharon, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Edward R. Philips and Michael F. Rush for legislation to authorize the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to provide sewer services to a certain parcel of land in the town of Sharon; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Sharon,— sewer services.

Papers from the Senate.

A report of the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate No. 197) of Cynthia Stone Creem, Rebecca L. Rausch, Michael O. Moore, Joanne M. Comerford and other members of the General Court for legislation to protect reproductive health access, LGBTQ lives, religious liberty, and freedom of movement by banning the sale of cell phone location information,— and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity,— accepted by the Senate, was considered forthwith, under Rule 42; and it was accepted, in concurrence.

Cell phones,— location data.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

A petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2507) of Bruce E. Tarr and Ann-Margaret Ferrante (with approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to establish the Gloucester Fisheries Commission, was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Gloucester,—
fisheries
commission.

Reports of Committees.

By Representative Stanley of Waltham, for the committee on Elder Affairs, asking to be discharged from further consideration:

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 774) of Michael P. Kushmerek relative to prescriptions; and

Prescriptions.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 785) of Brian W. Murray relative to 340B contract pharmacies;

Contract
pharmacies.

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the committee on Financial Services.

By Representative Lawn of Watertown, for the committee on Health Care Financing, asking to be discharged from further consideration:

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1352) of Nicholas A. Boldyga relative to establishing a prescription drug rebate program for seniors; and

Seniors,—
drug rebates.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1369) of Danielle W. Gregoire relative to supportive housing and healthcare costs for low-income seniors;

Low-income
seniors.

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the committee on Elder Affairs.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1359) of Marjorie C. Decker relative to the price of epinephrine;

Epinephrine.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1364) of Carole A. Fiola relative to healthcare access and affordability for patients; and

Healthcare.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1375) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and others for legislation to establish a special commission (including members of the General Court) to consider and evaluate the efficacy of policies that require hospitals and other health care providers to sell bundled packages of services that include fees for all relevant physicians;

Physician
fees.

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the committee on Financial Services.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1367) of Sean Garballey relative to Title XIX federal financial participation for certain MassHealth covered services for individuals attending programs at Massachusetts state colleges and universities,— and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Higher Education.

Students,—
MassHealth
coverage.

Of the petition (accompanied by proposal for constitutional amendment, House, No. 64) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to establish a right to health care,— and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

Right to
health care.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1395) of James J. O'Day, Paul McMurtry and Michael D. Brady relative to authorizing the Executive Office of Health and Human Services and the Department of Early Education and Care to establish an individual retirement account program for personal care attendants,— and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Public Service.

Personal
care attendant
retirement
accounts.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Under Rule 42, the reports severally were considered forthwith; and they were accepted. Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

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

Next
sitting.

At four minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Muradian of Grafton (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Thursday at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.