

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026.

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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.

Paper from the Senate.

A Bill fostering agricultural resilience in Massachusetts (Senate, No. 3040) (on Senate bill No. 3029), passed to be engrossed by the Senate, was read; and it was referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Farmers
fund.

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Donahue of Worcester, for the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches, with reference to the Senate amendment (striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 2749) of the House Bill modernizing the Commonwealth's cannabis laws (House, No. 4206), recommending passage of a bill with the same title (House, No. 5350). Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Cannabis
laws.

Mr. Honan of Boston, for said committee, then reported that the matter be scheduled for consideration by the House; and, under said rule, it was placed in the Orders of the Day for the next sitting, the question being on acceptance.

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 Mark J. Cusack relative to military creditable service for judges. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Garballey of Arlington, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Public Service. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Judges,—
military
service.

By Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, for the committee on Ways and Means, on House, No. 5050, reported, in part, a Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2026 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (House, No. 5348) [Total Appropriation: \$300,000,000.00]. Read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Supplemental
appropriations.

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

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Muradian of Grafton, the bill was read a second time forthwith; and it was ordered to a third reading.

Subsequently, under suspension of the rules, on further motion of Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, 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. 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:

Authorizing the town of Harwich affordable housing trust to provide for the creation of attainable housing (House, No. 4318) [Local Approval Received];

Authorizing the town of Charlemont to establish a tax on commercial recreation services (House, No. 4435) [Local Approval Received];

Authorizing the town of Millis to establish a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption for school building construction projects (House, No. 4605) [Local Approval Received]; and

Authorizing the town of Falmouth to expend funds to offset certain costs associated with the installation of low pressure pumps on private property in future sewer service areas (House, No. 5109) [Local Approval Received];

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

By Mr. Cusack of Braintree, for the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, on House, Nos. 2346, 3444, 3445, 3446, 3447, 3448, 3449, 3450, 3451, 3452, 3453, 3454, 3455, 3456, 3457, 3458, 3461, 3462, 3463, 3464, 3466, 3467, 3468, 3470, 3471, 3472, 3473, 3474, 3477, 3479, 3480, 3482, 3483, 3484, 3486, 3488, 3489, 3490, 3491, 3492, 3495, 3496, 3497, 3498, 3500, 3501, 3503, 3504, 3505, 3506, 3507, 3508, 3510, 3512, 3514, 3515, 3518, 3519, 3523, 3525, 3526, 3527, 3528, 3529, 3530, 3531, 3532, 3533, 3535, 3536, 3537, 3539, 3540, 3541, 3544, 3547, 3550, 3553, 3554, 3557, 3558, 3559, 3560, 3561, 3562, 3563, 3564, 3565, 3567, 3568, 3569, 3570, 3571, 3572, 3573, 3574, 3575, 3577, 3578, 3579, 3580, 3581, 3582, 3583, 3584, 3585, 3951, 3972, 3974, 4036, 4052, 4084, 4689 and 4690, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to utilities, electric vehicles, bottle bill expansion and other related issues (House, No. 5323).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 15, on a part of House, No. 11 and 4144, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to energy affordability, independence and innovation and retail electricity suppliers (House, No. 5324).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 3465, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy to make an investigation and study of a certain House document relative to renewable energy for heating, cooling and hot water under the zoning law (House, No. 5325).

By Mr. Arciero of Westford, for the committee on Transportation, on House, Nos. 3634 and 3661, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Transportation to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to AVs and online instruction (House, No. 5326).

Harwich,—
housing fund.

Charlemont,—
tax.

Millis,—
senior citizen
property tax.

Falmouth,—
funds.

Utilities, electric
vehicles, etc.,—
study.

Energy
affordability,
etc.,—
study.

Renewable
energy,
etc.,—
study.

Autonomous
vehicles and
online
instruction,—
study.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

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.

Emergency Measure.

The engrossed Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2026 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (see House, No. 5348), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was considered, the question being on adopting the emergency preamble.

Contraception coverage.

A separate vote was taken, as required by the provisions of Article XLVIII (as amended by Article LXVII) of the Amendments to the Constitution; and the preamble was adopted, by a vote of 3 to 0. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Subsequently, the Senate having concurred in adoption of the emergency preamble, the bill (which originated in the House) was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Bill enacted.

Orders of the Day.

House bills

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

Amending the charter for the town of Nantucket (House, No. 4441, changed);

Relative to a real property exemption for persons with disabilities in the town of Swampscott (House, No. 4444) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading);

Amending the town of Arlington's means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (House, No. 4575); and

Relative to the town of Reading Home Rule Charter (see House, No. 5102);

(Which severally originated in the House);

Severally having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, were passed to be enacted; and they were signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Third reading bills.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

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

Next sitting.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

At six minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mrs. Kane of Shrewsbury (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Wednesday at eleven o'clock A.M.