

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.**



**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026.**

[33]\*

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# JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

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Wednesday, April 8, 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.

### *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 Hoosac Valley High School basketball team, who won the Division 5 championship. They were the guests of Mr. Barrett of North Adams.

Hoosac Valley  
High School  
basketball team.

At the beginning of the session, the Chair (Mr. Donato of Medford), declared a brief recess and introduced, seated in East Bridgewater High School cheerleaders, who were the 2026 MIAA Division 4 winter state champions. They were the guests of Representatives Sullivan-Almeida of Abington, Plouffe of Brockton and Senator Brady.

East Bridgewater  
High School  
cheerleaders.

At the beginning of the session, the Chair (Mr. Donato of Medford), declared a brief recess and introduced, seated in the Chamber, from Medway High School: Davis Campbell, winner of the Division 5 State Championship in the high jump, the varsity cheerleading team who the Division 3 State champions for the second year in a row, and the girls co-op ski team, who were winners of the 2026 Alpine Ski Championship, a first for the program. They were the guests of Representatives Roy of Franklin, Soter of Bellingham, Arena-DeRosa of Holliston, Howitt of Seekonk and Chaisson of Foxborough.

Medway  
High School  
teams.

### *Remote Participation.*

Notice had been received from House Counsel that, under the provisions of House Rule 49, Representatives Arriaga of Chicopee, Boldyga of Southwick, Ferguson of Holden, Galvin of Canton, Lombardo of Billerica and Sullivan-Almeida of Abington had been approved to participate remotely for today's formal sitting.

Remote  
participation.

### *Resolutions.*

Resolutions (filed with the Clerk by Representatives Ciccolo of Lexington and Gordon of Bedford) congratulating the William Diamond Junior Fife and Drum Corps upon the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary, were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules.

William Diamond  
Junior Fife and  
Drum Corps.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

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

*Communications.*

Communications

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, 2026;

Gaming revenue and sports wagering.

From the Office of the Comptroller (see Section 2TT of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting a report on the activities of the Liability Management and Reduction Fund for fiscal year 2025;

Liability Management Fund.

From the Executive Office for Administration and Finance and the Executive Office for Housing and Livable Communities (see Section 10 of Chapter 1 and Section 88 of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 2025 and Section 19 of Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024) submitting the February 19, 2026 biweekly report on the emergency housing assistance program; and

Emergency housing assistance.

From the Department of Public Health (see item 4590-0915 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting a report on the status of the Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children;

Pappas Hospital.

Severally were placed on file.

*Special and Monthly Reports.*

Special reports

Of the Office of the Comptroller (under Section 2EEEEEE of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) providing a report on an expenditure in funds from the Commonwealth Federal Matching and Debt Reduction Fund; and

Federal Matching and Debt Reduction.

Of the Special Commission on the Public Health and Safety Concerns Posed by the Proliferation of Xylazine as an Additive to Illicit Drugs, Including, but not limited to, Fentanyl (under Chapter 285 of the Acts of 2024, as amended by Section 95 of Chapter 14 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its final report on recommendations on ways to address the matter; and

Xylazine Commission.

A monthly report of the Department of Revenue (under Section 5(e) of Chapter 62F of the General Laws) on year-to-date net state tax revenue for January, 2026;

State tax revenue.

Severally were placed on file.

*Petitions.*

Representatives Lawn of Watertown and Schwartz of Newton presented a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5358) of John J. Lawn, Jr., and Greg Schwartz (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Newton be authorized to place municipal charges liens on certain properties for certain non-payments in said city; and the same was referred to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Newton,—nonpayment liens.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

By Representative Fiola of Fall River, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Carole A. Fiola relative to firefighter staffing.

Firefighters,—  
staffing.

By Representative Sousa of Framingham, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Priscila S. Sousa relative to fire safety in communities hosting residential state colleges and universities.

Fire safety,—  
universities  
and colleges.

Severally, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

*Paper from the Senate.*

The House Bill to build resilient infrastructure to generate higher-ed transformation (House, No. 4769), came from the Senate passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 2993.

Higher  
education,—  
bond bill.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Rogers of Cambridge, the amendment was considered forthwith. The House then non-concurred with the Senate in its amendment; and on further motion of the same member, asked for a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches. Representatives Rogers of Cambridge, Finn of West Springfield and Pease of Westfield were appointed the committee on the part of the House. Sent to the Senate to be joined.

Committee of  
conference.

*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 Leigh Davis for legislation to authorize the Department of Conservation and Recreation to extend the lease authorization for East Mountain State Forest. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Muradian of Grafton, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Environment and Natural Resources. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

East Mountain  
State Forest,—  
lease.

By Mr. Arciero of Westford, for the committee on Transportation, on House, Nos. 3705 and 3707, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Transportation to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (House, No. 5329) [Representative DeCoste of Norwell dissenting]. Referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Massachusetts Bay  
Transportation  
Authority,—  
study.

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.

The following report was received, the time within which the said committee was required to report having expired:

By Ms. Decker of Cambridge, for the committee on Public Health, on House, Nos. 2378 and 2462, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Public Health to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to patient access to health care services and unclaimed cremated remains (House, No. 5330). Referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Health care  
and cremated  
remains,—  
study.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

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 Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Bill relative to the long-term fiscal health and sustainability of special education in the Commonwealth (House, No. 691) ought to pass. Referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Special education,—  
funding.

By Mr. Finn of West Springfield, for the committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets, that the Bill financing long-term improvements to municipal roads and bridges (House, No. 5279) ought to pass [Bond Issue: General Obligation Bonds: \$4,577,000,000.00]. Read; and referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Municipal roads  
and bridges,—  
bonds.

By Mr. Hunt of Boston, for the committee on Election Laws, on a message from Her Excellency the Governor, a Bill validating certain proceedings of the town of Stow (printed in House, No. 5129).

Stow,—  
town  
meeting.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill further regulating the filling of vacancies on the city council relative to the office of ward councilor in the city of Marlborough (House, No. 5227) [Local Approval Received].

Marlborough,—  
city council  
vacancies.

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

*Engrossed Bills.*

Engrossed bills

Amending the charter of the town of Sandwich (see Senate, No. 2859, amended) (which originated in the Senate); and

Bills  
enacted.

Authorizing the city of Springfield to appropriate funds to help certain residents meet their local tax obligations (see House, No. 3213) (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.

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

The House Bill directing the city of Boston police department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Jose Reyes (House, No. 4799), 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. Roy of Franklin; and it was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Boston,—  
Jose  
Reyes.

The House Bill authorizing charity alcohol auctions (House, No. 442), 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. Roy of Franklin.

Alcohol,—  
charity  
auctions.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Walsh of Peabody moved to amend it by substitution of a bill with the same title (House, No. 5351), which was read.

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

*Recess.*

At twelve minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mrs. Kane of Shrewsbury (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House recessed until five minutes before twelve o'clock noon; and at two minutes before twelve o'clock noon the House was called to order with Mr. Donato of Medford in the Chair.

Recess.

*Joint Session of the Two Houses to Consider Specific  
Amendments to the Constitution.*

At twelve o'clock noon, the two branches met in

Joint session of  
the two branches.

JOINT SESSION

and were called to order by the Honorable William N. Brownsberger, having been appointed by the president, to perform the duties of the Chair.

The Chair (Mr. Brownsberger), members, guests and staff then recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of  
allegiance.

Without further action on the matters duly and constitutionally assigned for consideration, at one minute after twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Eldridge of Middlesex and Worcester, the Joint Session was recessed until Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at twelve o'clock noon; and the Senate withdrew from the House Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

*Recess.*

At one minute after twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mrs. Kane of Shrewsbury (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House recessed until one o'clock P.M.; and at twenty-seven minutes after one o'clock the House was called to order with Mr. Donato of Medford in the Chair.

Recess.

*Motion to Discharge a Certain Matter in the Orders of the Day.*

Ms. Hogan of Stow being in the Chair,—

The report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches, with reference to the Senate amendment (see Senate document numbered 2749) of the House Bill modernizing the commonwealth's cannabis laws (House, No. 4206), recommending, a bill with the same title (House, No. 5350), was considered.

Cannabis  
laws.

After debate on the question on acceptance of the report, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of Mr. Donahue of Worcester; and on the roll call 155 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

Conference  
committee  
report  
accepted,—

[See [Yea and Nay No. 151](#) in Supplement.]

yea and nay  
No. 151.

Therefore the report of the committee of conference was accepted. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

*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 Senate Bill to promote student learning and mental health (Senate, No. 2581), ought to pass with amendments by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 5349; by inserting the following emergency preamble:

Safe  
technology  
use.

“Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to make certain changes in law to protect the health and wellness of minors, promote safe technology use and provide distraction-free education for youth, which is immediately necessary to accomplish important public purpose, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.”; and by striking out the title and inserting in place thereof the following title: “An Act promoting safe technology use and distraction-free education for youth.”. Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

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 bill (Senate, No. 2581, amended) 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. Gordon of Bedford, 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, as amended, to be engrossed, in concurrence, at six minutes after three o’clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Jones of North Reading, the House recessed subject to the call of the Chair; and at seven minutes after four o’clock P.M. the House was called to order with Ms. Hogan of Stow in the Chair.

Recess.

Mr. Hawkins of Attleboro then moved to amend the bill in section 1, in lines 14 and 15, by striking out the following: “include: (i) any time between classes, during lunch, during other non-instructional times” and inserting in place thereof the word: “exclude (i) any time between classes, during lunch, during non-instructional times”.

After debate the amendment was rejected.

Mr. Swezey of Duxbury then moved to amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following:

“SECTION 2A. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, nothing in section 40 of chapter 69 or section 102 of chapter 71, nor any guidance, model policy or regulation issued pursuant thereto, shall be construed to require a school district to incur new or additional costs to comply with the provisions of said sections; provided, however, that a school district may, at its discretion, adopt policies or measures that result in additional costs.”.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

After debate on the question on adoption of the amendment, the sense of the House was taken by the yeas and nays, at the request of Mr. Jones of North Reading; and on the roll call 27 members voted in the affirmative and 128 in the negative.

**[See Yea and Nay No. 152 in Supplement.]**

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Mr. Michlewitz of Boston and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill in section 2, in line 99, by inserting after the word “treat” the following: “or monitor”; and

In lines 101 to 104, inclusive, by striking out the following: “or (iv) the district determines that there is an emergency and the use of a personal electronic device is necessary; provided, however, that a district shall authorize a student to use a personal electronic device only to the extent necessary during the emergency” and inserting in place thereof the following:

“(iv) the district determines that there is an emergency and the use of a personal electronic device is necessary; provided, however, that a district shall authorize a student to use a personal electronic device only to the extent necessary during the emergency; or

(v) the superintendent of a district, or a designee, provides in writing that the use of a personal electronic device is necessary for language access for a student, including, but not limited to, translation, interpretation or transliteration purposes; provided, however, that a district shall authorize a student to use a personal electronic device only to the extent necessary to provide language access for a student to adequately understand educational materials and participate in activities during the school day.”.

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 155 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

**[See Yea and Nay No. 153 in Supplement.]**

Therefore the consolidated amendments were adopted.

Mr. Michlewitz of Boston and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill in section 3, in line 142, by inserting after the word “platform.” the following:

“ ‘Addictive social media feed’, the presentation of content to users where the social media platform employs algorithms that analyze user data or information on users to select content for users and includes any of the following addictive features:

(i) infinite scrolling, which shall include: (A) continuously loading content, or content that loads as the user scrolls down the page without the need to open a separate page; and (B) seamless content, or the use of pages with no visible or apparent end or page breaks;

(ii) push notifications or alerts sent by the social media platform to inform a user about specific activities or events related to the user’s account;

(iii) displays of personal interactive metrics that indicate the number of times other users have clicked a button to indicate their reaction to a user’s content or have shared or reposted the user’s content;

(iv) content generated by an algorithm based on a user’s activity on the social media platform; or

(v) auto-play video or video that begins to play without the user first clicking on the video or on a play button for that video.

‘Connected account’, an account on a social media platform that is directly connected to the user’s account, including, but not limited to, a friend, follower or similar connection with access to view the user’s content.”;

Amendment rejected,—  
yea and nay  
No. 152.

Consolidated amendments.

Consolidated amendments adopted,—  
yea and nay  
No. 153.

Consolidated amendments.

In line 143, by inserting after the word “minor.” the following:

“ ‘Push notification’, an automatic electronic message displayed on a user’s personal electronic device, as defined in section 40 of chapter 69, when the social media platform is not actively open or visible on the personal electronic device that prompts the user to check and engage with the social media platform.”;

In line 160, by inserting after the word “the”, the second time it appears, the words “age assurance or verification system”;

In line 162, by inserting after the word “the”, the first time it appears, the words “age assurance or verification system”, and by inserting after the word “user.” the following sentence: “No social media platform shall provide data other than what was submitted for the purposes of verifying the age of the user to any parent.”;

In lines 174 and 176, by inserting after the word “the”, in each instance, the words “age assurance or verification system”;

In line 177 by inserting after the word “user.” the following:

“No social media platform shall provide data other than what was submitted for the purposes of verifying the age of the user.

(4) A social media company shall, for users who are 14 or 15 years of age, set default safety settings to prioritize the health and wellness of users 14 and 15 years of age to ensure an age appropriate experience on the social media platform, including, but not limited to, safety settings that shall:

(i) restrict the visibility of the account of a user 14 or 15 years of age to connected accounts;

(ii) require age verification to change user settings;

(iii) require age verification to access sensitive content, including age-restricted content on a social media feed and messages;

(iv) only allow a user who is 14 or 15 years of age to share content to connected accounts; and

(v) restrict direct messaging capabilities for a user who is 14 or 15 years of age to only allow direct messaging to connected accounts.

(5) To protect the health and wellness of a minor who is 14 or 15 years of age, including, but not limited to, mental and behavioral health, a social media platform shall prohibit a minor who is 14 or 15 years of age from being a user of an addictive social media feed.

(6) To protect the health and wellness of a minor who is 14 or 15 years of age, including, but not limited to, mental and behavioral health, no social media platform shall send notifications to a minor who is 14 or 15 years of age between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. eastern standard time.

(7) No social media platform shall withhold, degrade, lower the quality or increase the price of any product, service or feature to a user who is 14 or 15 years of age due to the social media platform not being permitted to provide an addictive social media feed to the user.”;

In line 194, by inserting after the word “platform.” the following:

“(d) No social media platform shall share any data related to a minor user and their LGBTQ+ protected status or any other protected status pursuant to chapter 151B.”; and

In line 212, by inserting after the word “chapter” the following: “, including, but not limited to, the definition of “social media platform” as defined in section 1. The attorney general shall annually review the definition of “social media platform” to ensure that the definition includes public websites, online services, online applications or mobile applications with features that are harmful to the health and wellness of minors age 15 and under.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

Section 7. The office of the attorney general shall maintain on its website an online submission platform to receive complaints, information or referrals from members of the public concerning a social media platform’s alleged compliance or non-compliance with this chapter.”

After remarks on the question on adoption of the amendment, Mr. Jones of North Reading asked for a count of the House to ascertain if a quorum was present. The Chair (Ms. Hogan of Stow), having determined that a quorum was not in attendance, then directed the Sergeant-at-Arms to secure the presence of a quorum.

Subsequently a roll call was taken for the purpose of ascertaining the presence of a quorum; and on the roll call (the Speaker being in the Chair) 154 members were recorded as being in attendance.

**[See Yea and Nay No. 154 in Supplement.]**

Therefore a quorum was present.

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 144 members voted in the affirmative and 10 in the negative.

**[See Yea and Nay No. 155 in Supplement.]**

Therefore the consolidated amendments were adopted.

After remarks on the question on passing the bill, as amended, to be engrossed, in concurrence, the sense of the House was taken by the yeas and nays, at the request of Mr. Gordon of Bedford; and on the roll call (Ms. Hogan of Stow being in the Chair) 129 members voted in the affirmative and 25 in the negative.

**[See Yea and Nay No. 156 in Supplement.]**

Therefore the bill (Senate, No. 2581, amended) was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence. Sent to the Senate for concurrence in the amendment adopted by the House (by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document 5366, published as amended).

*Order.*

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.

Quorum.

Quorum,—  
yea and nay  
No. 154.

Consolidated  
amendments  
adopted,—  
yea and nay  
No. 155.

Bill passed  
to be engrossed,—  
yea and nay  
No. 156.

Next  
sitting.

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Accordingly, without consideration of the matters in the Orders of the Day, at eighteen minutes after seven o’clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Jones of North Reading (Ms. Hogan of Stow being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following day at eleven o’clock A.M., in an Informal Session.