

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.**



**MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026.**

[35]

# JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

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Monday, April 13, 2026.

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.

## *Statement of Representative Gallagher of Bridgewater.*

A statement of Mr. Gallagher of Bridgewater 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 a portion of the sitting of Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> due to a previously commitment in my district. If I had been present, I would have voted yea on roll call numbers 155 and 156. My missing of roll calls was due entirely to the reason stated.

Statement of Representative Gallagher of Bridgewater.

## *Statement of Representative Lawn of Watertown.*

A statement of Mr. Lawn of Watertown 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, April 8<sup>th</sup>. If I had been present, I would have voted yea on roll call numbers 151, 153, 155 and 156; and nay on roll call number 152.

Statement of Representative Lawn of Watertown.

## *Appointments of the Speaker*

The Speaker announced that he had made the following appointments:

That (under the provisions of Section 66 of Chapter 23A of the General Laws) he had appointed Representative Sabadosa of Northampton to the Rural Policy Advisory Commission;

Rural Policy Advisory Commission.

That (under the provisions of Section 78 of Chapter 31 of the General Laws) he had appointed Representative Wells of Milton to the permanent commission on recruitment, hiring and retention of municipal police officers and firefighters in the Commonwealth; and

Civil Service Commission.

That (under the provisions of Section 14 of Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2016) he had re-appointed Pine duBois of Kingston to the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel.

Nuclear decommissioning.

## *Resolutions.*

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

The following resolutions (filed with the Clerk) were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules:

Resolutions (filed by Representatives Howitt of Seekonk and Chaisson of Foxborough) commending the Norton Public Library during the 2026 National Library Week; and

Norton  
Public  
Library.

Resolutions (filed by Representatives Kerans of Danvers and Jones of North Reading) commemorating the town of Middleton on the opening of the Middleton Municipal Complex;

Middleton  
Municipal  
Complex.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, reported, in each instance, that the resolutions ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, in each instance, 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.

*Order.*

The Order (filed by Representatives Gordon of Bedford and Ayers of Quincy) relative to extending until Friday, May 22, 2026 the time within which the committee on Education is authorized to report on current House documents, was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Education,—  
extension  
of time for  
reporting.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, reported that the order (House, No. 5367) ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted.

*Communications.*

Communications

From the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (see Section 16W of Chapter 6A of the General Laws) submitting the Special Commission on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth annual report for fiscal year 2024;

Unaccompanied  
homeless youth.

From the Department of Energy Resources (see Section 5 of Chapter 25A of the General Laws) submitting its calendar year 2025 annual report;

Energy  
resources.

From the Commissioner of Massachusetts Probation Service (see Section 5 of Chapter 211F of the General Laws) submitting the fiscal year 2025 annual report of the Office of Community Corrections, including a statistical report on the utilization of community corrections centers;

Community  
corrections  
centers.

From the Bristol County District Attorney's Office (see Section 99 of Chapter 272 of the General Laws) submitting a report relative to wiretaps for calendar year 2025;

Bristol  
County,—  
wiretaps.

From the Department of Revenue (see item 1232-0200 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting a status report of the Massachusetts Underground Storage Tank Protection Petroleum Product Cleanup Fund Administrative Review Board; and

Underground  
storage tank  
protection.

From the Massachusetts Probation Service Office of Community Corrections (see item 0339-1003 of Section 3 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its annual report for fiscal year 2026, including a statistical report on the utilization of community corrections centers;

Probation.

Severally were placed on file.

*Petitions.*

By Representative Luddy of Orleans and Senator Cyr, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5374) of Hadley Luddy (by vote of the town) relative to expanding the exemption for residential property in the town of Wellfleet; and the same was referred to the committee on Revenue. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Wellfleet,—  
residential  
property.

Representative Scarsdale of Pepperell presented a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Margaret R. Scarsdale for legislation to amend the sick leave bank for Matthew McRae, an employee of the Department of State Police; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Matthew  
McRae,—sick  
leave.

*Papers from the Senate.*

The House Bill to build resilient infrastructure to generate higher-ed transformation (House, No. 4769, amended), came from the Senate with the endorsement that said branch had insisted on its amendment (striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 2993) (in which the House had non-concurred).

Higher  
education,—  
infrastructure.

The bill bore the further endorsement that said branch had concurred with the House in the appointment of a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches; and that Senators Comerford, Rush and Dooner had been joined as the committee on the part of the Senate.

Committee of  
conference.

The House Bill designating the Weider park tennis courts as the Kim O'Connell tennis courts (House, No. 4259), came from the Senate passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with an amendment by inserting before the enacting clause the following emergency preamble:

Boston,—  
tennis  
courts.

*“Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to commemorate the life and work of Kim ‘Connell, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.”

The amendment was referred, under Rule 35, to the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

A Bill authorizing print-free digital legal notices in the city of Newton (Senate, No. 3004) (on a petition) [Local Approval Received], passed to be engrossed by the Senate, was read; and it was referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Newton,—  
print free  
legal notices.

A petition (accompanied by bill) of Joanne M. Comerford, Susannah M. Whipps and Paul W. Mark for legislation to clarify the operation of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, came from the Senate referred, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Franklin  
Regional Council  
of Governments.

The House then concurred with the Senate in suspension of said rule; and the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3055) 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 petition of Thomas M. Stanley, Carole A. Fiola and Patricia D. Jehlen relative to assisted living residences. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Aging and Independence. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Assisted living residences.

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 amending the charter of the town of Tewksbury to modify the residency requirement for the town manager (Senate, No. 1446) [Local Approval Received]; and

House bills

Reducing tax liability for grandparents raising grandchildren (House, No. 3204);

Relative to fraternal organizations conducting bazaars (House, No. 4238);

Authorizing the grant of easements in or takings of certain parcels of land to the city of Boston (House, No. 5317) [Local Approval Received]; and

Authorizing the town of Bourne to grant an additional license for the sale of alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 5347) [Local Approval Received];

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.

Grandparents.  
Bazaars.  
Boston, —  
land.  
Bourne,—  
liquor  
license.

The following reports were received, the time within which the said committees were required to report having expired:

By Mr. Haggerty of Woburn, for the committee on Housing, on House, Nos. 1470, 1474, 1475, 1479, 1480, 1483, 1489, 1490, 1491, 1492, 1494, 1497, 1498, 1499, 1501, 1503, 1504, 1505, 1506, 1507, 1508, 1509, 1516, 1521, 1522, 1527, 1528, 1529, 1532, 1533, 1536, 1537, 1539, 1540, 1545, 1546, 1548, 1549, 1554, 1555, 1556, 1557, 1558, 1563, 1567, 1569, 1573, 1575, 1576, 1578, 1579, 2255, 2347, 3934, 3988, 3990, 3996, 4063, 4145 and 4228, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Housing to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to affordable housing, public housing, rental issues, condominiums and other housing related issues (House, No. 5352).

Affordable housing, public housing, rental issues, condominiums and other housing related issues,—  
study.

By Mr. Lewis of Framingham, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on House, No. 4685, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government to make an investigation and study of a certain House document relative to battery storage facility permitting and penalties for noncompliance (House, No. 5353).

Battery storage facility permitting and penalties for noncompliance,—  
study.

By Ms. Decker of Cambridge, for the committee on Public Health, on House, No. 4226, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Public Health to make an investigation and study of a certain House document relative to access and continuity of care to specialist and hospital services for dually eligible individuals (House, No. 5354).

Access to health care,—  
study.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

By Mr. Cahill of Lynn, for the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, on House, Nos. 2580 and 2738, 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 federal immigration enforcement and police dogs (House, No. 5355).

Federal immigration enforcement and police dogs,— study.

By Mr. Ryan of Boston, for the committee on Public Service, on House, Nos. 2743, 2747, 2767, 2768, 2774, 2776, 2777, 2783, 2784, 2788, 2805, 2815, 2819, 2820, 2829, 2832, 2838, 2839, 2869, 2870, 2882, 2894, 2898, 2899, 2902, 2908, 2920, 2928, 2943, 2947, 2948, 2949, 2951, 2959, 2972, 2975, 2981, 2982, 3000, 3902, 4177, 4268 and 4474, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Public Service to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to civil service law, retirement benefits and other public service related issues (House, No. 5356).

Civil service law, retirement benefits and other public service related issues,— study.

By Mr. McGonagle of Everett, for the committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, on House, No. 3829, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs to make an investigation and study of a certain House document relative to prohibiting the Massachusetts National Guard from being deployed into active combat without a formal declaration of war by congress (House, No. 5357).

National Guard,— 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.

By Mr. Cabral of New Bedford, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on House, No. 3599, a Bill relative to certain easements (House, No. 5373). Read; and referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Easements.

By Mr. Arciero of Westford, for the committee on Transportation, on a petition, a Bill designating a segment of Route 20 as the Brodeur Curve (House, No. 5162). Read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

State Route 20,— Brodeur Curve.

A report of the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, under the last sentence of Rule 7A, that the House Bill banning the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in new pet shops (House, No. 967), be scheduled for consideration by the House. Placed in the Orders of the Day for the next sitting for a second reading.

Pets,— retail sales.

*Engrossed Bill.*

The engrossed Bill changing the name of the board of selectmen in the town of Boylston to select board (see House, No. 4621) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, 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

Exempting the positions of police lieutenant and police sergeant in the city of Leominster from the civil service law (House, No. 4702);

Establishing a charter for the town of Orange (House, No. 5053); and

Authorizing the city of Salem to convert seasonal licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises to annual licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 5097);

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.

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The House Bill relative to changing the two-year elected term for the Mayor of Chicopee to a four-year elected term (House, No. 4201), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Chicopee,—  
mayoral  
term.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Walsh of Peabody moved to amend the bill in line 1 (as printed) by inserting after the word “Chicopee” the following: “to be held in 2027”.

The amendment was adopted; and the bill (House, No. 4201, amended) was passed to be engrossed. 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 Wednesday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Next  
sitting.

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At nine minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Howitt of Seekonk (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Wednesday at eleven o'clock A.M.