

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026.

[36]*

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Wednesday, April 15, 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.

Message from the Governor.

A message from Her Excellency the Governor submitting requests for making appropriations for the fiscal year 2026 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (House, No. 5377), was filed in the office of the Clerk on Tuesday, April 14.

Supplemental appropriations.

The message was read; and it was referred, under Rule 30, with the accompanying draft of a bill, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Statement of Representative Sullivan-Almeida of Abington.

A statement of Mrs. Sullivan-Almeida of Abington 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 during today's sitting due to a previously scheduled family commitment. If I had been present, I would have voted yea on roll call number 157. My missing of said roll call is due entirely to the reason stated.

Mrs. Sullivan-Almeida of Abington.

Khmer New Year.

During the session, Mr. Hong of Lowell took the Chair and, at the request of Representatives Chan of Quincy, Wong of Saugus, Nguyen of Andover, Uytterhoeven of Somerville, Sangiolo of Newton and Hong of Lowell, the members, guests and employees made special recognition recognizing the vibrant and resilient Cambodian American community and its meaningful cultural traditions, honoring the celebration of Khmer New Year—marking the Year of the Horse—from April 14 to April 16, 2026. This important holiday is a time for families and communities to come together in reflection, renewal, and joy, while celebrating Cambodian heritage, history, and contributions across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Happy Cambodian New Year to all, សួស្តីឆ្នាំខ្មែរ, សូមអរគុណ.

Khmer New Year.

Guests of the House.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

During the session Mr. Chan of Quincy took the Chair, declared a brief recess and introduced Charles C.H. Liao, Director-General, and Chin Tsorng Hsu, Deputy Director, of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston. Representative Chan then read resolutions previously adopted by the House reaffirming the friendship between Massachusetts and Taiwan as 2026 marks the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the United States and the thirtieth anniversary of the first direct Presidential election in Taiwan. They were the guests of Representatives Chan of Quincy, Sangiolo of Newton, Nguyen of Andover, Wong of Saugus, Uyterhoeven of Somerville and Hong of Lowell.

Taipei
Economic and
Cultural Office.

Remote Participation.

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

Remote
participation.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Representative Peisch of Wellesley) honoring Abbie Goodman upon her retirement after thirty years of dedication and commitment to the Massachusetts engineering community;

Abbie
Goodman.

Resolutions (filed by Representatives Chan of Quincy, Sangiolo of Newton, Nguyen of Andover, Wong of Saugus, Uyterhoeven of Somerville and Hong of Lowell) reaffirming the friendship between Massachusetts and Taiwan as 2026 marks the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the United States and the thirtieth anniversary of the first direct Presidential election in Taiwan;

Taiwan.

Resolutions (filed by Representatives Hong of Lowell, Chan of Quincy, Wong of Saugus, Nguyen of Andover, Uyterhoeven of Somerville and Sangiolo of Newton) recognizing the Cambodian American community's celebration of the Khmer New Year, the Year of the Horse, from April 14 to April 16, 2026; and

Khmer
New Year.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Lombardo of Billerica and other members of the House) recognizing Elks National Youth Week celebrated May 1-7, 2026;

Elks National
Youth Week.

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.

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Sylvia of Fairhaven and Senator Dooner, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5378) of Mark D. Sylvia and Kelly A. Dooner (by vote of the town) that the town of Marion be authorized to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises in said town. To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Marion,—
liquor
license.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

By Representative Berthiaume of Spencer and Senator Durant, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5379) of Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr., (by vote of the town) relative to the transfer of interest in land in the town of West Brookfield. To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

West
Brookfield,—
land.

By Representative Donato of Medford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5380) of Paul J. Donato (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Medford be authorized to exempt the positions of police chief and deputy police chief from the civil service law. To the committee on Public Service.

Medford,—
civil service.

Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Papers from the Senate.

The House Bill amending the charter of the town of Middleton (House, No. 4399) (its title having been changed by the Senate committee on Bills in the Third Reading), 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 3053. The amendment was referred, under Rule 35, to the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

Middleton,—
charter.

Petitions were referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, as follows:

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3057) of Patricia D. Jehlen for legislation relative to assisted living residencies in the Commonwealth; and

Assisted living
residences.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3056) of Michael O. Moore, Patricia D. Jehlen, Robyn K. Kennedy, John J. Marsi and others for legislation relative to medication administration in rest homes;

Rest homes,—
medication.

Severally to the committee on Aging and Independence.

Reports of Committees.

Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, for the committee on Ways and Means, on House, No. 2, reported, in part, a Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2027 for the maintenance of the departments, boards, commissions, institutions, and certain activities of the commonwealth, for interest, sinking fund, and serial bond requirements, and for certain permanent improvements (House, No. 5500) [Total Appropriation: \$63,332,679,497.00]. Read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

General
Appropriation
Bill.

By Mr. McMurtry of Dedham, for the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, on House, Nos. 2067, 2128, 2131, 2133 and 2182, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Labor and Workforce Development to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to worker compensation and work hours (House, No. 5361).

Worker
compensation
and work hours,—
study.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 2071, 2081, 2107, 2134, 2148, 2159, 2161 and 2174, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Labor and Workforce Development to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to wages, compensation and municipal unemployment insurance (House, No. 5362).

Wages,
compensation,
etc.,—
study.

By Mr. Arciero of Westford, for the committee on Transportation, on House, No. 3753, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Transportation to make

Commuter
rail,—
study.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

an investigation and study of a certain House document relative to electrification of commuter rail lines of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (House, No. 5360).

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. Lawn of Watertown, for the committee on Health Care Financing, that the Bill relative to routine childhood immunizations (House, No. 2554) ought to pass [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00]. Referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Childhood immunizations.

By Mr. Lawn of Watertown, for the committee on Health Care Financing, that the following bills ought to pass:

Prioritizing patient access to care (House, No. 2370) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

Existing pregnancies.

Relative to collaborative drug therapy management optimization (House, No. 2372) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

Collaborative drug therapy.

Protecting patients and healthcare workers from exposure to surgical smoke (House, No. 2442) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

Smoke exposure.

Authorizing a 90-day supply of medically necessary testosterone therapy medication (House, No. 2447) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

Testosterone therapy.

Relative to patient access to certain health care services (House, No. 2477) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

Health care,— patient access.

Establishing the psychology interjurisdictional compact (House, No. 2528) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

Psychology compact.

To promote rehabilitation including guaranteed health, treatment, and safety for incarcerated LGBTQI+ People (House, No. 2656) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

Incarceration,— rehabilitation.

Relative to insurance coverage of mobile integrated health (House, No. 4336) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

Insurance coverage.

Improving access to breast pumps (House, No. 4345) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

Breast pumps.

Requiring coverage of medically necessary oral and dental care for head and neck cancer survivor (House, No. 4553) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

Cancer,— dental care.

Relative to dual diagnosis treatment coverage (House, No. 4898) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

Dual diagnosis,— coverage.

Mandating access to cancer screenings for firefighters through health care benefits plans or programs provided by the public employer (House, No. 4946) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

Firefighters,— cancer screenings.

Increasing access to acute hospital at home services (House, No. 5018) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

At home health services.

Relative to ensuring treatment for genetic craniofacial conditions (House, No. 5041) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

Craniofacial conditions.

Protecting patients from surprise bills related to emergency ambulance service (House, No. 5042) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00]; and

Ambulances,— billing.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

To preserve and advance Massachusetts' competitiveness in discovery, research, and innovation for a vibrant economy (House, No. 5259) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00].

Economic development.

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

By Mr. Lewis of Framingham, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on a petition, a Bill removing the Treasurer as Acting Mayor in the Holyoke Charter (House, No. 5171) [Local Approval Received].

Holyoke,—
charter.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill amending the town charter in the town of Oxford (House, No. 5261) [Local Approval Received].

Oxford,—
charter.

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

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

The House Bill authorizing the grant of easements in or takings of certain parcels of land to the city of Boston (House, No. 5317), 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. Honan of Boston; and it was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Boston,—
land.

Recess.

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

Recess.

Special Communication.

The following communication, together with returns of votes and schedules therein referred to, was received from the Secretary of the Commonwealth, to wit:—

April 15, 2026.

To the Honorable House of Representatives:

I have the honor to lay before you the returns of votes cast at the special election held in this Commonwealth on the thirty-first day of March, 2026, for Representative in General Court, Fifth Essex District, together with schedules showing the number of ballots which appear to have been cast for each person voted for.

Returns of
votes for
Representative
in the
Fifth Essex
District.

These returns have been duly canvassed by the Governor and Council, and are now transmitted for examination by the House of Representatives, as required by the Constitution.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN,

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

The communication was read; and, there being no objection, it was placed on file.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

Ordered, That a special committee of the House be appointed to wait upon Her Excellency the Governor and inform her that Representative-elect Andrew Francis Robert Tarr of the Fifth Essex District is ready to take the oaths and affirmations of qualification.

Governor notified.

The Chair then appointed Representatives Nguyen of Andover, Giannino of Revere, Reid of Lynn, Bowen of Beverly, Cruz of Salem, Wong of Saugus and Smola of Warren as the special committee of the House.

Subsequently Ms. Nguyen of Andover, for the committee, reported that they had attended to the duties assigned to them, and that the Governor had stated that she would attend forthwith and administer the oaths of office.

Member Qualified.

Soon afterward Her Excellency the Governor, Maura T. Healey, accompanied by Her Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Kim Driscoll, and members of the Honorable Council came in; the oaths and affirmation required by the Constitution and laws was administered by the Governor to Mr. Tarr, and were subscribed by him; after which Her Excellency declared that Mr. Tarr was duly qualified to enter upon the discharge of his duties. Her Excellency the Governor, Her Honor the Lieutenant-Governor and the Honorable Councillors present then departed the Chamber under escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Tarr then was assigned to Seat No. 23 by the Speaker.

Representative Tarr of Gloucester,— qualification.

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 financing long-term improvements to municipal roads and bridges (House, No. 5279), ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor a bill with the same title (House, No. 5375) [Bond Issue: General Obligation Bonds: \$2,237,000,000.00]. Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Municipal roads and bridges.

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 motion of Mr. Arciero of Westford, the bill (having been reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) was read a third time.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

After debate on the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, the sense of the House was taken by the yeas and nays, at the request of the same member; and the roll call 155 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

[See Yea and Nay No. 157 in Supplement.]

Therefore the bill (House, No. 5375) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Bill passed to
be engrossed,—
yea and nay
No. 157.

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.

Next
sitting.

Accordingly, without consideration of the matters in the Orders of the Day, at twenty-six minutes before three o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Howitt of Seekonk (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.