

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.**



**THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026.**

[37]

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# JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

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Thursday, April 16, 2026.

Met according to adjournment at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Mr. Owens of Watertown 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. Owens), 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. Owens of Watertown), declared a brief recess and introduced, seated in the Chamber, students from Squantum Elementary School. They were the guests of Representative Ayers of Quincy.

Squantum  
Elementary  
School.

At the beginning of the session, the Chair (Mr. Owens of Watertown), declared a brief recess and introduced, seated in the Chamber, the Weston High School girls swim team who won their third consecutive Division 2 state swimming and diving championship and the Weston High School girls indoor track team who won the Division 4 indoor track state championship earlier this year. They were accompanied by their head coaches, Jim McLaughlin and Danielle Mitchell. They were the guests of Representative Peisch of Wellesley.

Weston High  
School girls  
swim and  
indoor track  
teams.

### *Resolutions.*

Resolutions (filed with the Clerk by Representative Sullivan-Almeida) honoring Carl F. Kowalski for over 40 years of distinguished public service to the town of Whitman, were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules.

Carl  
Kowalski.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for said committee, reported that the resolutions ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Ayers of Quincy, 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 Sheriffs' Association (see Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting the aggregate data on the population of the Barnstable County Correctional Facility for the third quarter of calendar year 2025;

Barnstable,—  
correctional  
facility data.

From the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (see Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting the aggregate data on the population of the Berkshire County Correctional Facility for the third quarter of calendar year 2025;

Berkshire,—  
correctional  
facility data.

From the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (see Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting the aggregate data on the population of the Bristol County Correctional Facility for the third quarter of calendar year 2025;

Bristol,—  
correctional  
facility data.

From the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (see Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting the aggregate data on the population of the Dukes County Correctional Facility for the third quarter of calendar year 2025;

Dukes,—  
correctional  
facility data.

From the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (see Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting the aggregate data on the population of the Essex County Correctional Facility for the third quarter of calendar year 2025;

Essex,—  
correctional  
facility data.

From the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (see Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting the aggregate data on the population of the Franklin County Correctional Facility for the third quarter of calendar year 2025;

Franklin,—  
correctional  
facility data.

From the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (see Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting the aggregate data on the population of the Hampden County Correctional Facility for the third quarter of calendar year 2025;

Hampden,—  
correctional  
facility data.

From the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (see Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting the aggregate data on the population of the Hampshire County Correctional Facility for the third quarter of calendar year 2025;

Hampshire,—  
correctional  
facility data.

From the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (see Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting the aggregate data on the population of the Middlesex County Correctional Facility for the third quarter of calendar year 2025;

Middlesex,—  
correctional  
facility data.

From the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (see Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting the aggregate data on the population of the Norfolk County Correctional Facility for the third quarter of calendar year 2025;

Norfolk,—  
correctional  
facility data.

From the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (see Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting the aggregate data on the population of the Plymouth County Correctional Facility for the third quarter of calendar year 2025;

Plymouth,—  
correctional  
facility data.

From the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (see Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting the aggregate data on the population of the Suffolk County Correctional Facility for the third quarter of calendar year 2025; and

Suffolk,—  
correctional  
facility data.

From the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (see Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting the aggregate data on the population of the Worcester County Correctional Facility for the third quarter of calendar year 2025;

Worcester,—  
correctional  
facility data.

Severally were placed on file.

*Petitions.*

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative McKenna of Sutton and Senator Fattman, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5383) of Joseph D. McKenna, Ryan C. Fattman and Paul K. Frost (by vote of the town) that the town of Oxford be authorized to grant one 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.

Oxford,—  
liquor  
licenses.

Representative Vargas of Haverhill, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5384) of Andres X. Vargas (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize Craig Riley to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill, notwithstanding the maximum age requirement. To the committee on Public Service.

Haverhill,—  
Craig  
Riley.

Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

*Paper from the Senate.*

The House Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2026 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (House, No. 5280), 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 3054.

Supplemental appropriations.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Ms. Peisch of Wellesley, 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 Michlewitz of Boston, Diggs of Barnstable and Swezey of Duxbury were appointed the committee on the part of the House. Sent to the Senate to be joined.

Committee of conference.

Subsequently notice was received from the Senate that said branch had insisted on its amendment, concurred with the House in the appointment of a committee of conference; and that Senators Rodrigues, Comerford and O'Connor had been appointed the committee on the part of the Senate.

*Reports of Committees.*

By Mr. Honan of Boston, for the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, that the House 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), be scheduled for consideration by the House.

General Appropriation Bill.

Under suspension of Rule 7A, on motion of Mr. Ayers of Quincy, the bill was read a second time forthwith. Pending the question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Ms. Peisch of Wellesley moved that further consideration thereof be postponed until Monday, April 27; and the motion prevailed.

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 extending the deadline for the town of Milton to appropriate money for the construction of a new school on certain land acquired for conservation purposes (Senate, No. 2963) [Local Approval Received]; and

Milton,—  
land.

House bills

Relative to tow lien reform (House, No. 3485);

Towed vehicles.

Relative to automatic re-enrollment in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) (House, No. 3509);

Energy assistance.

Relative to Massachusetts identification cards (House, No. 3735);

Identification cards.

Relative to the maintenance of pre-employment physical examination records for public safety personnel in the city of Quincy (House, No. 4890) [Local Approval Received]; and

Quincy,—  
physical examinations.

Creating parity among Massachusetts beaches (House, No. 5140);

Beaches.

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

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

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

To enhance standards of care for those with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities (House, No. 242) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000];

To increase the safety of individuals with disabilities relying on life-support equipment (House, No. 282) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000]; and

Relative to home care services (House, No. 762, changed) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000].

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

Care standards.

Life-support equipment.

Home care services.

By Mr. Lawn of Watertown, for the committee on Health Care Financing, on a petition, a Bill to protect medically fragile children (House, No. 1366) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00].

Children,—  
medical care.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to support equal access to community care for elders and persons with disabilities (House, No. 1371) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00].

Community care.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill exempting medications used for the treatment of opioid use disorder from the prior approval process under the Massachusetts Medicaid program (House, No. 1379) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00].

Medicaid,—  
prescriptions.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to promote continuity of health coverage for children (House, No. 1382) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00].

Children,—  
health care.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to preserve and protect public health (House, No. 1392) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00].

Vaccines,—  
reimbursement.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to protect MassHealth applicants facing undue hardship (House, No. 1402) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00].

MassHealth,—  
applicants.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to ensure equitable health coverage for children (House, No. 1403) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00].

Children,—  
health care.

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

*Orders of the Day.*

The Senate amendment of the House Bill designating the Weider park tennis courts as the Kim O'Connell tennis courts (House, No. 4259), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was adopted, in concurrence.

Boston,—  
tennis courts.

House bills

Providing for the election of candidates in the city of Haverhill (House, No. 4203);

Third reading bills.

Providing for the election of candidates in the city of Haverhill (House, No. 4204);

Authorizing the Dalton Fire District to continue the employment of interim fire chief Christopher Francis Cachat (House, No. 4321); and

Regulating elections in the town of Conway (House, No. 4498);

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

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.

*Order.*

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

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

Next  
sitting.

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At fifteen minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Howitt of Seekonk (Mr. Owens of Watertown being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Tuesday at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.