

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.**



**THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025.**

[40]

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# JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

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Thursday, May 1, 2025.

Met according to adjournment at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Mr. Garballey of Arlington 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. Garballey), the members, guests and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of  
allegiance.

## *Silent Tribute.*

At the request of Representatives Day of Stoneham, McMurtry of Dedham, Vaughn of Wrentham, Philips of Sharon and Rogers of Norwood, the members, guests, and employees stood in a moment of silent tribute in respect to the memory of James A. Johnson, III of Winchester.

James A.  
Johnson, III.

James A. Johnson, III, known affectionately as Jimmy, passed away at the age of 71 on April 16 leaving behind a legacy of steadfast dedication to the Winchester community, a loving family and countless friends.

Jimmy was a lifelong Winchester resident, graduating from Winchester High School in 1972. A pillar of the community, Jimmy served with distinction on the select board of the town for 18 years. Additionally, Jimmy served on the finance committee, town day committee and the capital planning committee. Honored as 2016's Winchester Citizen of the Year, Jimmy raised his family of three children with his wife Barbara to whom he was married for 49 years. He leaves behind five beloved grandchildren.

Jimmy exemplified the best of public service through his steadfast commitment to the Winchester community.

## *Communications.*

### Communications

From the Office of the Worcester County District Attorney (see Section 32(e) of Chapter 12 of the General Laws) submitting a statistical report on community based juvenile justice program activities in Worcester County for the calendar year 2024;

Worcester,—  
juvenile  
justice.

From the Office of the Child Advocate (see Section 10 of Chapter 18C of the General Laws) submitting its annual report of the office's accomplishments and activities for fiscal year 2024;

Child  
Advocate.

From the Office of the Worcester County District Attorney (see Section 24W(e) of Chapter 90 of the General Laws) submitting a report on motor vehicle forfeiture fund statistics for fiscal year 2024;

Worcester,—  
motor vehicle  
forfeiture funds.

From the Office of the Worcester County District Attorney (see Section 47(d) of Chapter 94C of the General Laws) submitting a report on its law enforcement trust funds for drug rehabilitation, drug education and other drug or neighborhood crime watch programs for fiscal year 2024; and

Worcester,—  
drug and  
crime funds.

From the Hampden County Sheriff's Office (see item 8910-1000 contained in Section 2 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its Prison Industries (PI) report for fiscal year 2024;  
Severally were placed on file.

Hampshire,—  
Prison  
Industries.

*Petitions.*

The following additional petitions (having been deposited in the office of the Clerk of the House, previously to five o'clock in the afternoon on Friday, January 17, 2025) were referred, under Rule 24 and Joint Rule 13, as follows:

By Representatives Cruz of Salem and Reid of Lynn, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4058) of Manny Cruz relative to licensure of and negligence by HVAC companies and technicians. To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

HVAC  
licensure.

By Representative McMurtry of Dedham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4059) of Paul McMurtry relative to fresh fruits and vegetables in schools; and

Schools,—  
fresh produce.

By Representative Scanlon of North Attleborough, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4060) of Adam J. Scanlon relative to recess at schools and for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to student discipline and bullying.

Schools,—  
recess and  
discipline.

Severally to the committee on Education.

By Representative LeBoeuf of Worcester, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4061) of David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf for legislation to authorize the commissioner of insurance to maintain a publicly accessible database for certificates of insurance. To the committee on Financial Services.

Insurance,—  
public  
database.

By Representative Lawn of Watertown, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4062) of John J. Lawn, Jr., relative to the closing of hospitals or the discontinuance of essential health services. To the committee on Health Care Financing.

Hospital  
closures.

By Representative Meschino of Hull, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4063) of Joan Meschino and Carmine Lawrence Gentile relative to increases of the annual rent of affordable housing units and for rental unit and project oversight. To the committee on Housing.

Affordable  
housing,—  
rent.

By Representative Boldyga of Southwick, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4064) of Nicholas A. Boldyga relative to witness protection and intimidation;

Witness  
protection.

By Representative LeBoeuf of Worcester, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4065) of David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf and Patrick Joseph Kearney relative to survivors of domestic violence and enhancing child welfare; and

Domestic  
violence.

By Representative Ultrino of Malden, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4066) of Steven Ultrino relative to expanding homestead protections.

Homestead  
protections.

Severally to the committee on the Judiciary.

By Representative Diggs of Barnstable, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4067) of Kip A. Diggs relative to expanding and modernizing apprenticeships;

Apprentice-  
ships.

By Representative Scanlon of North Attleborough, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4068) of Adam J. Scanlon for legislation to address health insurance coverage by implementing a fair share employer contribution; and

Health  
insurance,—  
employers.

By Representative Vargas of Haverhill, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4069) of Andres X. Vargas relative to the Department of Unemployment Assistance.

Unemployment assistance.

Severally to the committee on Labor and Workforce Development.

By Representative Vargas of Haverhill, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4070) of Andres X. Vargas relative to food delivery transparency. To the committee on Public Health.

Food delivery.

By Representative Fiola of Fall River, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4071) of Carole A. Fiola that the secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation be authorized to convey certain parcels of land in the city of Fall River to the Fall River Redevelopment Authority. To the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Fall River,—land.

By Representative Arriaga of Chicopee, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4072) of Shirley B. Arriaga for legislation to exempt non-profits from certain motor vehicle registration fees. To the committee on Transportation.

Non-profits,—fees.

Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Representative Higgins of Leominster and Senator Cronin presented a joint petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Natalie M. Higgins and John J. Cronin for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Steven Forget, an employee of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Steven Forget,—sick leave.

*Reports of Committees on Proposals for Legislative Amendments to the Constitution.*

The committee on Revenue, on the petition (accompanied by proposal, Senate, No. 11) of Joanne M. Comerford for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to agricultural and horticultural lands,— reported, in accordance with a provision of Joint Rule 23, recommending that the amendment proposed by said petition (see Senate, No. 11), ought to pass. The report was read and placed on file, in accordance with the requirements of said rule.

Agricultural and horticultural lands.

The committee on Revenue, on the petition (accompanied by proposal, Senate, No. 12) of Bruce E. Tarr for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to cap the state income tax,— reported, in accordance with a provision of Joint Rule 23, recommending that the amendment proposed by said petition (see Senate, No. 12), ought NOT to pass [Senator Fattman dissenting].

Income tax,—cap.

The same committee, on the petition (accompanied by proposal, Senate, No. 13) of Bruce E. Tarr for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to require a supermajority vote for the utilization of rainy day funds,— reported, in accordance with a provision of Joint Rule 23, recommending that the amendment proposed by said petition (see Senate, No. 13), ought NOT to pass [Senator Fattman dissenting].

Rainy day funds.

The reports were severally read and placed on file, in accordance with the requirements of said rule.

Under the provisions of Joint Rule 23, the following proposals were placed on file, the time within which the said committees were required to report having expired:—

Of the committee on Election Laws, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 23):

On the petition (accompanied by proposal, Senate, No. 6) of James B. Eldridge for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to establish an independent redistricting commission;

Redistricting,—  
commission.

On the petition (accompanied by proposal, Senate, No. 7) of Liz Miranda for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to voting rights;

Voting rights,—  
felons.

On the petition (accompanied by proposal, Senate, No. 8) of Paul W. Mark for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to campaign finance reform; and

Campaign finance  
reform.

On the petition (accompanied by proposal, House, No. 63) of Erika Uytterhoeven and others for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to voting rights of certain persons incarcerated in correctional facilities due to felony convictions;

Voting  
rights.

Of the committee on Housing, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 23), on the petition (accompanied by proposal, House, No. 65) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to the right to housing;

Housing  
rights.

Of the committee on the Judiciary, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 23):

On the petition (accompanied by proposal, Senate, No. 9) of Vincent Dixon, for a legislative amendment to the Constitution for term renewal process;

Judges,—  
term renewal.

On the petition (accompanied by proposal, Senate, No. 10) of Paul W. Mark for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to define the succession plan for a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor;

Lt. Governor,—  
succession plan.

On the petition (accompanied by proposal, House, No. 64) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to establish a right to health care;

Health care.

On the petition (accompanied by proposal, House, No. 66) of Kate Donaghue for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to the oaths and affirmations of public office;

Public office,—  
oaths.

On the petition (accompanied by proposal, House, No. 67) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and others for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to prohibiting eminent domain takings;

Eminent  
domain,—  
prohibit.

On the petition (accompanied by proposal, House, No. 68) of Paul McMurtry for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to changing the mandatory age of retirement for judges; and

Judges,—  
retirement.

On the petition (accompanied by proposal, House, No. 69) of Susannah M. Whipps and Francisco E. Paulino for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to a succession plan for a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant-Governor;

Lieutenant  
Governor,—  
vacancy.

Of the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 23), on the petition (accompanied by proposal, House, No. 70) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to a Constitutional right to employable skills training; and

Employable  
skills training.

Of the committee on Revenue, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 23), on the petition (accompanied by proposal, House, No. 71) of Natalie M. Blais, Hannah Kane and others for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to agricultural and horticultural lands.

Agricultural and  
horticultural  
lands.

*Order.*

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

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

Next  
sitting.

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At four minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus (Mr. Garballey of Arlington being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Monday at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.