

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026.

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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.

Appointment of the Speaker.

The Speaker announced that (under the provisions of Section 241 of Chapter 111 of the General Laws) he had appointed Dr. William Keough to the Rare Disease Advisory Council.

Rare Disease
Advisory
Council.

Guests of the House.

During the session, the Chair (Mr. Donato of Medford) declared a brief recess and introduced, seated in the Chamber, students from the wind ensemble of the Luther Burbank Middle School in Lancaster and their chaperones. They were the guests of Ms. Kilcoyne of Clinton.

Luther
Burbank
Middle School.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Representative Hogan of Stow) recognizing the Melanoma Action Coalition for promoting skin cancer awareness and prevention throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts during May 2026;

Melanoma
Action
Coalition.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Diggs of Barnstable) commending all 411 directory assistance workers in the Commonwealth as they celebrate May 26, 2026, as 411 Directory Assistance Workers Day;

411 Directory
Assistance
Workers Day.

Resolutions (filed by Representative LaNatra of Kingston) commending the Plympton Historical Society, Inc. on its recognition of Deborah Sampson Day; and

Deborah
Sampson Day.

Resolutions (filed by Representatives Soter of Bellingham and McKenna of Sutton) honoring Frank and Alice Susskey on the occasion of their eightieth wedding anniversary;

Frank and Alice
Susskey.

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 Ms. Kilcoyne of Clinton, 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 Cahill of Lynn and Worrell of Boston) relative to extending until Friday, June 12, 2026 the time within which the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security is authorized to report on a current House document, was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Public Safety and Homeland Security,— extension of time for reporting.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, reported that the order (House, No. 5424) ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Ms. Kilcoyne of Clinton, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted.

Communications.

Communications

From the Office of the Comptroller (see Section 35T(b) of Chapter 10 of the General Laws) submitting the April, 2026 certification of MBTA Dedicated Sales Tax Revenues for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026;

MBTA,— sales tax revenues.

From the Department of Transitional Assistance (see Section 2 (B) (s) of Chapter 18 of the General Laws) submitting a report entitled: Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Photo Requirements Exemptions;

DTA,— EBT photo exemptions.

From the Department of Public Utilities (see Section 2 of Chapter 25 of the General Laws) of its activities for calendar year 2025;

Department of Public Utilities.

From the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (see Section 8 of Chapter 90K of the General Laws) submitting a report detailing camera enforceable violations issued by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority;

MBTA,— enforceable violations.

From the Lowell Regional Transit Authority (see Section 8(g) of Chapter 161B of the General Laws) submitting financial statements, supplementary information, and a schedule of expenditures of federal awards and OMB uniform guidance auditors' reports for fiscal year 2025;

Lowell Regional Transit Authority.

From the Lowell Regional Transit Authority (see Section 8(g) of Chapter 161B of the General Laws) submitting their annual financial statements for fiscal year 2025;

Id.

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 March 19, 2026 biweekly report on the emergency housing assistance program;

Emergency housing program.

From the Office of the Comptroller (see item 1599-3384 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting the Settlements and Judgements accounts payable report for the first quarter of fiscal year 2026;

Settlements and judgements.

From the Department of Transitional Assistance (see item 4401-1003 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its report entitled: 2-Gen Economic Mobility Programs report;

DTA,— 2-Gen economic mobility.

From the Department of Transitional Assistance (see item 4401-1003 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its report entitled: Employment Services Program Report; and

DTA,— employment services.

From the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission (see Section 145 of Chapter 126 of the Acts of 2022) submitting a report entitled: "Emergency Boarding in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts";

Emergency boarding.

Severally were placed on file.

Annual Report.

The annual report of the State Lottery Charitable Gaming Division (under Section 38 of Chapter 10 of the General Laws) for calendar year 2025, was placed on file.

Charitable gaming.

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Kassner of Hamilton and Senator Tarr, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5432) of Kristin E. Kassner and Bruce E. Tarr (by vote of the town) for legislation to restrict the use of second generation anticoagulant rodenticides in the town of Newbury; and

Newbury,—
rodenticides.

By Representative Luddy of Orleans and Senator Cyr, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5433) of Hadley Luddy (by vote of the town) for legislation to regulate the use of fertilizer in the town of Wellfleet.

Wellfleet,—
fertilizer.

Severally to the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

By Representative Moakley of Falmouth and Senator Cyr, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5434) of Thomas W. Moakley (by vote of the town) for legislation to provide for the appointment of associate members of the planning board of the town of Tisbury to fill vacancies on the board. To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Tisbury,—
planning
board.

By Representatives Kassner of Hamilton and Kerans of Danvers, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5435) of Kristin E. Kassner, Sally P. Kerans and Bruce E. Tarr (by vote of the town) that the town of Topsfield be authorized to continue to employment of police chief Neal Hovey. To the committee on Public Service.

Topsfield,—
Neal Hovey.

Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Papers from the Senate.

The House Bill promoting rule of law, oversight, trust and equal constitutional treatment (House, No. 5316), 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 3086.

Civil immigration enforcement,—
participation.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Ms. Kilcoyne of Clinton, the amendment was considered forthwith. The House then non-concurred with the Senate in its amendment; and on further motion of Mr. Cahill of Lynn, asked for a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches. Representatives Cahill of Lynn, Vargas of Haverhill and Vaughn of Wrentham 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 Friedman, Payano and Fattman had been appointed the committee on the part of the Senate.

Id.

Petitions were referred, in concurrence, as follows:

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3088) of Robyn K. Kennedy and Meghan K. Kilcoyne (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize a certain employment contract for the town of Boylston; and

Boylston,—
employment
contract.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate No. 3087) of Michael F. Rush (by vote of the town) for legislation relative to the creation of a sewer and water advisory board in the town of Walpole;

Walpole,—
sewer and
water board.

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, on the Order relative to authorizing the committee on Environment and Natural Resources to make an investigation and study of a certain House document relative to climate change staffing levels (House, No. 5368), reported a Resolve establishing a special commission to study climate change staffing levels (House, No. 1044). Read; and referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Climate change
staffing levels,—
study.

By Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, on the Order relative to authorizing the committee on Environment and Natural Resources to make an investigation and study of a certain House document relative to pet sales (House, No. 5369), reported a Bill banning the retail sale of dogs, cats, rabbits, and guinea pigs in pet shops (House, No. 4319). Read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Pets,—
retail
sales.

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 allowing the town of Somerset to prohibit water fluoridation (Senate, No. 2627) [Local Approval Received]; and

Somerset,—
fluoridation.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Petersham to continue the employment of police department members Richard D. Cooley Jr. [sic] and David A. Shoemaker (House, No. 5110) [Local Approval Received].

Petersham,—
police.

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

By Mr. Lewis of Framingham, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on a petition, a Bill addressing a vacancy in the office of mayor in the city of Holyoke (House, No. 5332) [Local Approval Received].

Holyoke,—
mayoral
vacancy.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill pertaining to Holyoke's residency requirement (House, No. 5333) [Local Approval Received].

Holyoke,—
residency.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing the city of Newton to place municipal charges liens on certain properties in the city of Newton for nonpayment of any local charge, fee or fine (House, No. 5358) [Local Approval Received].

Newton,—
nonpayment
of fees.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill further amending Holyoke's residency requirement (House, No. 5364) [Local Approval Received].

Holyoke,—
residency
requirement.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill amending the home rule charter of the town of Falmouth to create the Falmouth Licensing Commission (House, No. 5365, changed in section 3, in line 32, by striking out the

Falmouth,—
licensing
commission.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

following: “C7-16” and inserting in place thereof the following: “C7-1”) [Local Approval Received].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill relating to the transfer of interest in land in West Brookfield (House, No. 5379) [Local Approval Received].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill allowing “print-free” digital legal notices for the town of Westford (House, No. 5387) [Local Approval Received].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing the transfer of a certain parcel of land in the town of Marion from the Open Space Acquisition Commission to the Select Board (House, No. 5388) [Local Approval Received].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Lynnfield to appropriate funds from the Golf Enterprise Fund to the Recreation Capital Trust Stabilization Fund (House, No. 5416) [Local Approval Received].

By Mr. Madaro of Boston, for the committee on Revenue, on a joint petition, a Bill relative to Grafton’s senior tax exemption (House, No. 5035) [Local Approval Received].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Reading to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (House, No. 5103) [Local Approval Received].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing an increase in the limit of the local (hotel) excise tax that the town of Franklin may impose (House, No. 5334) [Local Approval Received].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill expanding the exemption for residential property in the town of Wellfleet (House, No. 5374) [Local Approval Received].

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

West Brookfield,—
land.

Westford,—
digital legal notices.

Marion,—
land.

Lynnfield,—
appropriation of funds.

Grafton,—
senior tax exemption.

Reading,—
senior tax exemption.

Franklin,—
hotel excise tax.

Wellfleet,—
residential property.

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

Authorizing the town of Dartmouth to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (see House, No. 4006); and

Relative to the charter of the town of Westwood (see House, No. 4753);

(Which severally 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.

Bills enacted.

Orders of the Day.

House bills

Relative to raising the age requirement for entrance to the Boston Police Academy (House, No. 4093);

Authorizing the town of Harwich affordable housing trust to provide for the creation of attainable housing (House, No. 4318);

Third reading bills.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Relative to affordable housing trust fund of the town of West Tisbury (House, No. 4378); and

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);

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 Wednesday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Next
sitting.

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