

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2025.

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Wednesday, June 4, 2025.

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.

Statement of Representative Hong of Lowell.

A statement of Mr. Hong of Lowell 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 today's sitting due to a previously scheduled commitment to give the commencement address at Lowell High School. Had I been present, I would have voted in the affirmative on roll call numbered 55. My missing of said roll call was due entirely to the reason stated.

Statement of
Representative
Hong of
Lowell.

Statement of Representative Hunt of Boston.

A statement of Mr. Hunt of Boston 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 for today's sitting due to due to official business outside of the Commonwealth. My missing of roll calls is due entirely to the reason stated.

Statement of
Mr. Hunt of
Boston.

Statement of Representative Lewis of Framingham.

A statement of Mr. Lewis of Framingham 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 for today's sitting due to a previously scheduled human rights conference and legislative meetings in Washington, D.C. My missing of roll calls is due entirely to the reason stated.

Statement of
Mr. Lewis of
Framingham.

Remote Participation.

Notice had been received from House Counsel that, under the provisions of House Rule 49, Representatives Barber of Somerville, Ferrante of Gloucester, Sullivan-Almeida of Abington and Tyler of Boston had been approved to participate remotely for today's formal sitting.

Remote
participation.

Guests of the House.

At the beginning of the session, the Chair (Mr. Donato of Medford), declared a brief recess and introduced, seated in the Chamber, students from the Frederick C. Murphy Elementary School of Weymouth. They were accompanied by their teachers Mrs. Howard and Mrs. Walton, along with volunteer chaperones. At the invitation of the Chair, the students participated in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. They were the guests of Mr. Murphy of Weymouth.

Weymouth,—
Murphy
Elementary
School.

During the session, the Chair (Mr. Donato of Medford), declared a brief recess and in recognition of the Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Month, introduced Sokthea Phay of Quincy.

Sokthea
Phay.

At 19 years old, he pioneered the Khmer Street Children and Youth Program at the Cambodia YMCA, supporting them to break the cycle of extreme poverty and intergenerational trauma stemming from the Khmer Genocide.

In 2013, Sokthea was sponsored to the U.S. by an indigenous American elder, Mr. Bob Cabeza. Sokthea worked as Operations Director at Long Beach YMCA for 10 years. In 2019 Sokthea was appointed the U.S. Representative of the World YMCA's United Nations Advocacy Group. In January 2024, he became the first Khmer American YMCA Executive Director in the U.S. at the Wang YMCA of Chinatown/YMCA of Greater Boston. He is joined today by his wife and 2 children.

He was the guest of Representatives Chan of Quincy, Wong of Saugus, Nguyen of Andover, Howard of Lowell, Uytterhoeven of Somerville, Sangiolo of Newton and Hong of Lowell.

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 fourth quarter of calendar year 2024;

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 fourth quarter of calendar year 2024;

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 fourth quarter of calendar year 2024;

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 fourth quarter of calendar year 2024;

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 fourth quarter of calendar year 2024;

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 fourth quarter of calendar year 2024;

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 fourth quarter of calendar year 2024;

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 fourth quarter of calendar year 2024;

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 fourth quarter of calendar year 2024;

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 fourth quarter of calendar year 2024;

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 fourth quarter of calendar year 2024;

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 fourth quarter of calendar year 2024; 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 fourth quarter of calendar year 2024;

Worcester,—
correctional
facility data.

Severally were placed on file.

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative McMurtry of Dedham and Senator Rush, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4188) of Paul McMurtry and Michael F. Rush (by vote of the town) that the town of Westwood be authorized to grant licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages in said town. To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Westwood,—
liquor
licenses.

By Representative Domb of Amherst and Senator Comerford, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4189) of Mindy Domb and Joanne M. Comerford (with the approval of the town council) relative to ranked choice voting in the town of Amherst; and

Amherst,—
ranked choice
voting.

By the same members, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4190) of Mindy Domb and Joanne M. Comerford (with the approval of the town council) that the city known as the town of Amherst be authorized to extend local voting rights for lawful permanent residents residing in said town.

Amherst,—
voting
rights.

Severally to the committee on Election Laws.

By Representative Luddy of Orleans and Senator Cyr, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4191) of Hadley Luddy and Julian Cyr (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Wellfleet to enact a pesticide reduction bylaw. To the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Wellfleet,—
pesticide
reduction.

By Representative Boldyga of Southwick and Senator Mark, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4192) of Nicholas A. Boldyga (by vote of the town) relative to the election and composition of the conservation commission in the town of Southwick. To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Southwick,—
conservation
commission.

By Representative Domb of Amherst and Senator Comerford, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4193) of Mindy Domb and Joanne M. Comerford (by vote of the town) that the city known as the town of Amherst be authorized to establish a real estate transfer fee in said town. To the committee on Revenue

Amherst,—
real estate
transfer fee.

Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

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 following petitions:

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Colleen M. Garry relative to notification of alcohol by volume in beers to be consumed on the premises. To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Alcohol
by volume.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Colleen M. Garry for legislation to establish parity in funding for regional vocational school districts and traditional public school districts. To the committee on Education.

Education
parity.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Jeffrey N. Roy relative to legal protections for victims of childhood sexual abuse. To the committee on the Judiciary.

Abuse
prevention.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Moakley of Falmouth, the reports were considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 then was suspended, in each instance. Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

By Mr. Honan of Boston, for the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, that the House Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Eric J. Iwaniec (House, No. 1590), be scheduled for consideration by the House.

Eric
Iwaniec,—
sick leave.

Under suspension of Rule 7A, on motion of Mr. Moakley of Falmouth, the bill was read a second time forthwith; and it was ordered to a third reading.

By Mr. Ryan of Boston, for the committee on Public Service, on a joint petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Jato Charlotin, an employee of Massachusetts Department of Transportation (House, No. 4182). Read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Jato
Charlotin,—
sick leave.

Orders of the Day.

The Senate Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Andrew Setera, an employee of the trial court of the commonwealth (Senate, No. 2508), having been reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time; and it was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.

Third
reading
bill.

The House Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Dana Johnson, an employee of the Department of Children and Families (House, No. 4032) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading), reported by said committee to be correctly drawn, was read a third time; and it was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Id.

Recess.

At eight minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Smola of Warren (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House recessed until one o'clock P.M.; and at eleven minutes before two o'clock, the House was called to order with Mr. Donato of Medford in the Chair.

Recess.

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Bill modernizing the commonwealth's cannabis laws (House, No. 4160), ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor a bill with the same title (House, No. 4187). Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Cannabis laws.

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, under suspension of rules, on further motion of Mr. Donahue of Worcester, the bill (having been reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) was read a third time.

Ms. Hogan of Stow being in the Chair,—

After debate on the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Ms. Giannino of Revere moved to amend it in section 40, in line 630, by striking out the figures: "11" and inserting in place thereof the figures: "7.5".

After remarks on the question on adoption of the amendment, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of the same member; and on the roll call 153 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

Amendment adopted,—
yea and nay
No. 53

[See [Yea and Nay No. 53](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Day of Stoneham then moved to amend the bill in section 19, in lines 402 and 403, by striking out the following: "and (iv) licensed in its home state to test hemp or cannabis" and inserting in place thereof the following: "(iv) licensed in its home state to test hemp or cannabis; and (v) certified and in good standing with the commission."

After remarks on the question on adoption of the amendment, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of the same member; and on the roll call 154 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

Amendment adopted,—
yea and nay
No. 54

[See [Yea and Nay No. 54](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Day then moved to amend the bill in section 9, in lines 257 and 258, by striking out the following: "(vi) industrial hemp sold pursuant to chapter 128; and (vii) topical hemp products sold pursuant to section 331" and inserting in place thereof the following: "(vi) industrial hemp sold pursuant to chapter 128; (vii) seeds of the plant Cannabis sativa L.; and (viii) topical hemp products sold pursuant to section 331";

In section 10, in lines 299 and 300, by striking out the words "the seeds thereof;"; and in lines 305 and 306, by striking out the words "or cake or the sterilized seed of the plant which is incapable of germination" and inserting in place thereof the following words ", cake or the seeds of the plant Cannabis sativa L.";

In section 17, in line 366, by striking out the words "the seeds thereof;"; and in line 372, by striking out the words "or the sterilized seed of the plant which is incapable of germination" and inserting in place thereof the words "or the seeds of the plant Cannabis sativa L.";

In section 46, in line 851, by inserting after the word “definitions” the word “Marijuana”, in line 853, by striking out the figure: “2” and inserting in place thereof the figure: “3”; and in line 858, by inserting after the word “registration” the following: “ ‘Marijuana’, as defined in section 1 of chapter 94G.”.

The amendments were adopted.

Ms. Duffy of Holyoke then moved to amend the bill in section 40, in line 567, by striking out the word “immediately” and inserting in place thereof the following: “; within 1 business day after the receipt of such notice,”; and in line 580 by inserting after the word “only”, the words “; provided, however, that the commission may allow third party access to the list by its licensing software provider”.

The amendments were adopted.

Mr. Consalvo of Boston then moved to amend the bill in section 40, in lines 692 through 716, inclusive, by striking out the text contained in those lines and inserting in place thereof the following 6 paragraphs:

“Section 27. (a) No person shall sell a hemp beverage product at wholesale in the commonwealth unless such person holds a license to import or sell all alcoholic beverages at wholesale issued under section 18 of chapter 138. The commission may impose a fine of not more than \$10,000 on any person that advertises, announces, establishes, maintains or is concerned in establishing or maintaining a hemp beverage wholesaler operation without a license. Each day during which a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

(b) Holders of all alcoholic beverage wholesale licenses issued under section 18 of chapter 138 shall only sell hemp beverage products to holders of an off-premises, all alcoholic beverage retail license issued under section 15 of chapter 138.

(c) The commission may conduct surveys and investigations to enforce compliance with this section.

Section 28. (a) Only holders of an off premises all alcoholic beverage license under section 15 of chapter 138 shall sell hemp beverages to consumers. Sales to consumers by any person other than a licensee under section 15 of chapter 138 shall be strictly prohibited. No hemp beverage product shall be sold, or offered for sale, at retail to any individual by way of any indirect means, including, but not limited to, by way of mail or any telephonic or other electronic means. The commission may impose a fine of up to \$10,000 on a person that advertises, announces, establishes, maintains or is concerned in establishing or maintaining a retail establishment that sells, or offers for sale, at retail, hemp beverage products in violation of this subsection. Each day during which a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

(b) Holders of off premises all alcoholic beverage licenses under section 15 of chapter 138 shall only purchase hemp beverage products to be sold at retail from a holder of an all alcoholic beverage wholesale license issued under section 18 of chapter 138.

(c) The commission may conduct surveys and investigations to enforce compliance with this section.”.

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair,—

On the question on passing the bill, as amended, to be engrossed, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of Mr. Donahue of Worcester and on the roll call 153 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 55](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the bill (House, No. 4206, published as amended) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Bill passed to
be engrossed,—
yea and nay
No. 55.

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.

At four o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Jones of North Reading (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.