

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.**



**WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026.**

[69]\*

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## JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

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Wednesday, July 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.

### *Statement of Representative Linsky of Natick.*

A statement of Mr. Linsky of Natick 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 official business outside of the State House. My missing of roll calls is due entirely to the reason stated.

Statement of  
Representative  
Linsky  
of Natick.

### *Remote Participation.*

Notice had been received from House Counsel that, under the provisions of House Rule 49, Representatives Cruz of Salem, Garballey of Arlington, Ferguson of Holden, Ouellette of Westport and Vaughn of Wrentham had been approved to participate remotely for today's formal sitting.

Remote  
participation.

### *Resolutions.*

Resolutions (filed with the Clerk by Representatives Badger of Plymouth and LaNatra of Kingston) honoring the Gellar Family for one hundred years of commitment to the Plymouth community, were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules.

Gellar  
Family.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for said committee, reported that the resolutions ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Soter of Bellingham, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

### *Papers from the Senate.*

A Bill protecting children from addictive social media feeds (Senate, No. 3175) (on Senate bill No. 3164), passed to be engrossed by the Senate, was read; and it was referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Children,—  
social  
media.

Bills

Designating a certain promenade in the town of Clinton as the Honorable Harold P. Naughton, Jr. Promenade (Senate, No. 564) (on a petition); and

Clinton,—  
promenade.

Changing the membership of the Ware river watershed advisory committee (Senate, No. 2570) (on a petition);

Ware River.

Severally passed to be engrossed by the Senate, were read; and they were referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

A report of the committee on Revenue, recommending that the report of the Massachusetts Capital Resource Company (under the provisions of Section 20 of Chapter 816 of the Acts of 1977) submitting its forty-ninth annual report (Senate, No. 2994), be placed on file,— accepted by the Senate, was considered forthwith, under Rule 42; and it was accepted, in concurrence.

Capital  
Resource  
Company.

*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 of Kathleen R. LaNatra that the Commissioner of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance be authorized to enter into lease with the town of Plymouth for Pilgrim Memorial Park in said town. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Sylvia of Fairhaven, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Plymouth,—  
Pilgrim Park.

By Mr. Madaro of Boston, for the committee on the Revenue, ought NOT to pass, on the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1962) of William J. Driscoll, Jr. relative to excluding student loan forgiveness from taxable income for permanently and totally disabled veterans.

Disabled  
veterans,—  
student loan  
forgiveness.

By the same member, for the same committee, ought NOT to pass, on the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1974) of James B. Eldridge for legislation to align the long-term capital gains tax rate with the short-term capital gains tax rate.

Capital  
gains tax.

By the same member, for the same committee, ought NOT to pass, on the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1981) of Ryan C. Fattman and Bruce E. Tarr for legislation relative to graduate student loan deductions.

Graduate  
student loans,—  
deductions.

By the same member, for the same committee, ought NOT to pass, on the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1983) of Ryan C. Fattman and Bruce E. Tarr for legislation to promote student loan repayment.

Student  
loans,—  
repayment.

By the same member, for the same committee, ought NOT to pass, on the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2000) of Paul R. Feeney for legislation to extend to qualifying entities sales tax exemptions on research and development.

Sales tax,—  
exemptions.

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

*Engrossed Bill.*

The engrossed Bill increasing the amount of parking fines in the town of Scituate (see Senate, No. 2577) (which originated in the Senate), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Bill  
enacted.

*Motions to Discharge Certain Matters in the Orders of the Day.*

The House Bill relative to benefits for teachers (House, No. 4361, amended), was discharged from its position in the Orders of the Day and considered, under suspension of Rule 47, on motion of Mr. Ryan of Boston, the question being on concurring with the Senate in its amendment.

Teachers,—  
superannuation  
retirement.

The committee on Bills in the Third Reading reported asking to be discharged from further consideration of the bill; and the report was accepted.

The House then non-concurred with the Senate in its amendment; and, on motion of Mr. Ryan of Boston, asked for a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches. Representatives Ryan of Boston, González of Springfield and Ferguson of Holden were appointed the committee on the part of the House. Sent to the Senate to be joined.

Conference  
committee.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Billerica to transfer control of certain land in the town of Billerica for the Yankee Doodle Bike Path (House, No. 5492), 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. Lombardo of Billerica; and it was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Billerica,—  
bike path.

*Recess.*

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

Recess.

*Engrossed Bill – Land Taking.*

The engrossed Bill dissolving the Whately Water District (see House, No. 2250, changed) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was put upon its final passage.

Whately  
Water  
District.

On the question on passing the bill to be enacted, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays (this being a bill providing for the taking of land or other easements used for conservation purposes, etc., as defined by Article XCVII of the Amendments to the Constitution); and on the roll call (Ms. Hogan of Stow being in the Chair) 153 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

Bill enacted  
(land taking),—  
yea and nay  
No. 232.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 232](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the bill was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

*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 Senate Bill promoting pet equity, treatment and safety (Senate, No. 3028), ought to pass with amendments by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof

Pet equity.

the text contained in House document numbered 5581; and by inserting before the enacting clause the following emergency preamble:

“Whereas, the deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to promote pet equity, treatment and safety, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.”.

Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

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. Wong of Saugus, the bill was read a second time forthwith. The amendments recommended by the committee on Ways and Means then were adopted; and the bill (Senate, No. 3028, amended) was ordered to a third reading.

Subsequently, the noon recess having terminated (Ms. Hogan of Stow being in the Chair), under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Lewis of Framingham, the bill (having been reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) was read a third time.

After debate on the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Howitt of Seekonk and other members of the House moved to amend the bill by adding the following section:

"SECTION 44. Chapter 272 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 107 the following section:

Section 108. Animal Abuse Registry

(a) Definitions.

The following words as used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, shall have the following meanings:

‘animal abuse crime’, the commission of any crime against an animal under Chapter 272, Sections 77 through 81, inclusive, of the General Laws, and the comparable animal cruelty statutes of any other state.

‘animal breeder’, any entity engaged in the practice of facilitating the reproduction of animals for the purpose of distributing the resulting offspring to one or more other individuals or entities.

‘animal shelter’, a public animal control facility, or any other facility which is operated by any organization or individual for the purpose of protecting animals from cruelty, neglect, or abuse.

‘convicted of’, an adjudication of guilt by any court of competent jurisdiction, whether upon a verdict or plea of guilty or nolo contendere.

‘pet store’, every place or premise where birds, mammals or reptiles are kept for the purpose of sale at either wholesale or retail, import, export, barter, exchange or gift.

(b) Creation of an animal abuse registry.

The Department of Criminal Justice Information Services shall establish and maintain a central computerized registry of all persons convicted of an animal abuse crime who are required to register pursuant to subsection (c) of this act, to be known as the Massachusetts animal abuse registry.

The registry shall be updated based on information made available to the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services, including information acquired pursuant to the registration provisions of subsection (c).

The registry shall include the following information: the offender’s name, the offender’s residential address, the date and a description of the crime for which

registration is required, and a photograph of the offender's head and shoulders from the front.

(c) Registration requirement and required information.

All persons 18 years of age or older, or minors who have been tried as adults, who reside in Massachusetts and are convicted of an animal abuse crime on or after the effective date of this law, shall register within 10 days following either the date of judgment or date of release from incarceration, whichever is later. Residents of other states who are convicted of an animal abuse crime on or after the effective date of this law, who subsequently reside in Massachusetts, shall register within their first 10 days of residing in Massachusetts.

Each person required to register under this section shall submit to the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services for inclusion on the registry:

- (1) Their name;
- (2) Their residential address;
- (3) A description of the offense for which registration is required, the city or town where the offense occurred, the date of conviction or adjudication, and the sentence imposed; and
- (4) A photograph of their head and shoulders from the front.

A person required to register under this section shall update registration information to reflect any change in address which may occur, or if no change in address occurs, annually from the date of their first registration.

Registration pursuant to this section shall remain in effect for a period of 5 years following either the date of judgment or date of release from incarceration, whichever is later, provided that such period shall be extended for additional 5 year periods for each conviction which may occur subsequent to an initial registration.

(d) Fees.

Every person required to register under subsection (c) shall pay an annual fee of \$50 to the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services. These funds shall be used to pay the administrative costs of maintaining the registry.

(e) Failure to register.

Any person required to register under subsection (c) who knowingly: (i) fails to register; (ii) fails to verify registration information; (iii) fails to provide notice of a change of address; or (iv) knowingly provides false information shall be punished in accordance with this section.

a. A first conviction under this subsection shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than six months and not more than two and one-half years in a house of correction nor more than 5 years in a state prison or by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by both such fine and imprisonment.

b. A second and subsequent conviction under this subsection shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not less than 5 years.

c. A first conviction under this subsection shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than 10 days, or both.

d. A second conviction under this subsection shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5, 000 or imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than 2 years, or both.

(f) Appealing registration.

Anyone convicted of an animal abuse crime who would otherwise be required to register under subsection (c), may appeal to District Court for a determination of the level of danger posed by the offender. The department may, upon making specific written findings that the circumstances of the offense, in conjunction with the

offender's criminal history, do not indicate a risk of reoffense or a danger to the public and the reasons therefor, relieve such offender of any further obligation to register, and shall remove such offender's registration information from the registry.

(g) Availability of registry.

The Department of Criminal Justice Information Services shall keep confidential and shall not publish the information contained in the registry, except that the information contained in the registry shall be made available for inspection by any animal shelter, pet store, or animal breeder in Massachusetts.

(h) Requirement to check registry.

All animal shelters, pet stores, and animal breeders in Massachusetts shall determine whether the name and address of any person seeking to purchase or adopt an animal appears on the registry.

No animal shelter, pet store, or animal breeder shall knowingly offer, sell, deliver, give or provide an animal to any person registered on the registry.

(i) Punishment for not checking registry.

Any animal shelter, pet store, or animal breeder who violates the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,000 or imprisonment for a period of not more than one year for a first offense, provided that each subsequent offense shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$5,000 and imprisonment in a jail or house of correction for not more than 5 years.”.

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. Pease of Westfield then moved to amend the bill by striking out section 17 and inserting in place thereof the following section:

“SECTION 17. Paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of section 137A of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the words:

‘maintain records of individual dog licenses, as required in section 137, for all dogs in its care’

and inserting in place thereof the following:

maintain records sufficient to identify each dog in its care and the owner of such dog.”.

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. Cahill of Lynn then moved to amend the bill in section 27, in line 269, by striking out the figure: “2” and inserting in place thereof the figure: “3”;

By inserting, in line 272, after the word “products” the following paragraph:

“Reasonable effort”, notifying at least 1 collaborating animal rescue organization and providing that organization a reasonable opportunity to evaluate whether it is able to accept an animal.”; and

In section 28, in lines 312 to 320, inclusive, by striking out the paragraph contained in those lines and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:

“(e) Research institutions and product testing facilities shall, annually, report to the department of public health aggregate data on the use and disposition of dogs and cats after the completion of research or testing, including, but not limited to, the number of dogs and the number of cats that were: (i) euthanized upon the termination of the study, as defined and approved by the research or testing protocol; (ii) determined to be suitable and unsuitable for adoption and, if determined to be unsuitable for adoption, the reason why and their disposition; (iii) offered for adoption through a collaborative agreement with an animal rescue organization; and (iv) offered for adoption directly without entering into a collaborative agreement with an animal rescue organization. Annually, the department shall publish such reported data on its website; provided, that no research institution and product testing facility shall



be required to disclose confidential business information, research protocols, security sensitive information or other institution-specific information; and provided further, that the department shall publish only statewide aggregate data and shall not identify individual reporting institutions or disclose confidential business information, research protocols, security sensitive information or other institution-specific information.”.

The amendments were adopted.

Mr. Moran of Lawrence then moved to amend the bill by inserting after section 30 the following section:

“SECTION 30A. Subsection (g) of said section 2 of said chapter 159A1/2 is hereby amended by adding the following sentence: A transportation network company shall provide in its applications a feature to inform a driver that the rider will be accompanied by a service animal.”; and

In section 31, in lines 357, 358 and 359, by striking out the text contained in those lines and inserting in place thereof the following:

“(e)(1) A driver who violates subsection (g) of section 2 shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 for a first offense, by a fine of not more than \$750 for a second offense and by a fine of not more than \$1,000 for a third or subsequent offense.

(2) A transportation network company that violates subsection (g) of section 2, including the requirement to provide a feature in its applications to inform a driver that a rider will be accompanied by a service animal, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 for a first offense, by a fine of not more than \$750 for a second offense and by a fine of not more than \$1,000 for a third or subsequent offense.”.

The amendments were adopted.

The same member then moved to amend the bill in section 8, in line 97, by inserting after the word “patients.”, the following: “(3) Notwithstanding the foregoing, this section shall not apply to vocational veterinary science programs approved under chapter 74.”, in line 103, by inserting after the word “assistants” the following: “, in alignment with the veterinary science curriculum frameworks under chapter 74”; and in line 106, by inserting after the word “assistant” the following “, in alignment with the veterinary science curriculum frameworks under chapter 74”.

The amendments were adopted.

On the question on passing the bill, as amended, to be engrossed, in concurrence, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of Mr. Lewis of Framingham; and on the roll call 151 members voted in the affirmative and 1 in the negative.

Bill passed  
to be engrossed,—  
yea and nay  
No. 233.

**[See [Yea and Nay No. 233](#) in Supplement.]**

Therefore the bill (Senate, No. 3028, amended) was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence. Sent to the Senate for concurrence in the amendment adopted by the House (see House document numbered 5589, published as amended).

*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.



**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

Mrs. Kane of Shrewsbury then moved that the House adjourn; and the motion prevailed. Accordingly, without proceeding to consideration of the matters in the Orders of the Day, at ten minutes after four o'clock P.M., on motion of (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.