The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2025.

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Wednesday, July 16, 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.

Silent Tribute.

At the request of Representatives Fiola of Fall River, Ouellette of Westport and Silvia of Fall River, the members, guests and employees stood in a moment of silence for the 9 residents killed, and the 30 residents and 5 firefighters who were injured in the tragic Gabriel House Assisted Living fire Sunday evening in Fall River. We thank the first responders who saved 60 lives and the community members who have demonstrated an outpouring of support. Our thoughts are with the families of those we lost and with the survivors as they recover from this tragedy.

Gabriel House Assisted Living residents.

Remote Participation.

Notice had been received from House Counsel that, under the provisions of House Rule 49, Representatives Barrett of North Adams, DeCoste of Norwell, Duffy of Holyoke, Ferrante of Gloucester, Sangiolo of Newton, Sullivan-Almeida of Abington, and Ultrino of Malden had been approved to participate remotely for today's formal sitting.

Remote participation.

Special Communication.

The following communication, together with returns of votes and schedules therein referred to, was received from the Secretary of the Commonwealth, to wit:—

July 9, 2025.

To the Honorable House:

I have the honor to lay before you the returns of votes cast at the special election held in this Commonwealth on the tenth day of June, 2025, for Representative in the General Court, Third Bristol District, together with schedules showing the number of ballots which appear to have been cast for each person voted for.

These returns have been duly canvassed by the Governor and Council, and are now transmitted for examination by the House of Representatives, as required by the Constitution.

Returns of votes for Representative in the Third Bristol District.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

The communication was read; and, there being no objection, it was placed on file.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

Ordered, That a special committee of the House be appointed to wait upon Her Excellency the Governor and inform her that Representative-elect Lisa M. Field of the Third Bristol District is ready to take the oaths and affirmations of qualification.

Governor notified.

The Chair then appointed Representatives Fiola of Fall River, Scanlon of North Attleboro, LaNatra of Kingston, Hawkins of Attleboro, Hendricks of New Bedford, Kane of Shrewsbury and Wong of Saugus as the special committee of the House.

Subsequently Ms. Fiola of Fall River, for the committee, reported that they had attended to the duties assigned to them, and that the Governor had stated that she would attend forthwith and administer the oaths of office.

Member Qualified.

Ms. Hogan of Stow being in the Chair,—

Soon afterward Her Excellency the Governor, Maura T. Healey, accompanied by Her Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Kim Driscoll, and members of the Honorable Council came in; the oaths and affirmation required by the Constitution and laws was administered by the Governor to Ms. Field, and were subscribed by her; after which Her Excellency declared that Ms. Field was duly qualified to enter upon the discharge of her duties.

Representative Field of Taunton,— qualification.

Her Excellency the Governor, Her Honor the Lieutenant-Governor and the Honorable Councillors present then departed the Chamber under escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms. Ms. Field then was assigned to Seat No. 156 by the Speaker.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Representative Sabadosa of Northampton) recognizing the thirtieth anniversary of the Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival; and

Scottish festival.

Resolutions (filed by Representatives Sangiolo of Newton and Michael Moran of Boston) congratulating Father Gerald Francis Finnegan, SJ on fifty-eight years of ministry as a priest and more than seven decades as a member of the Society of Jesus;

Gerald Finnegan.

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 Mr. Garballey of Arlington, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Luddy of Orleans and Senator Cyr, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4288) of Hadley Luddy (by vote of the town) relative to the inclusion of commercial fishermen as a designated vocation for affordable and attainable housing preference in the town of Chatham; Chatham,— commercial fishermen.

By the same members, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4289) of Hadley Luddy (by vote of the town) relative to the appropriation and expenditure of community preservation funds for community housing purposes in the town of Chatham; and Chatham,— community housing.

By the same members, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4290) of Hadley Luddy (by vote of the town) that the town of Chatham be authorized to establish a housing trust fund in said town. Chatham,— housing trust fund.

Severally to the committee on Housing.

By Representative Luddy of Orleans and Senator Cyr, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4291) of Hadley Luddy (by vote of the town) relative to exempting the town of Chatham from the prevailing wage law. To the committee on Labor and Workforce Development. Chatham,— prevailing wage law.

Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Representative Kerans of Danvers presented a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Sally P. Kerans for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Stephanie Bramante Miller, an employee of the Massachusetts Appellate Tax Board; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules. Stephanie Bramante Miller,— sick leave.

Papers from the Senate.

A report of the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2101) of Michael O. Moore for legislation to require that joint committee rules of procedure be adopted within 4 weeks of the appointment of the joint standing committees, and recommending that the same be referred to the Senate committee on Rules,— accepted by the Senate, in so much as relates to the discharge of the committee, was considered forthwith, under Rule 42; and it was accepted, in concurrence. Joint committees.

A report of the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2099) of James B. Eldridge, Patricia D. Jehlen, Mike Connolly, Erika Uyterhoeven and other members of the General Court for legislation to provide sunlight to state government,— and recommending the same be referred to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight,— accepted by the Senate, was considered forthwith, under Rule 42; and it was accepted, in concurrence. State government,— transparency.

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 Alexandra Schwartz,—

the petition of Thomas M. Stanley and Michael J. Barrett for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Alexandra Schwartz, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of State Police. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Garballey of Arlington, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 then was suspended; and petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Public Service. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

sick leave.

By Mr. Haggerty of Woburn, for the committee on Housing, asking to be discharged from further consideration:

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1512) of Richard M. Haggerty, David F. DeCoste and Colleen M. Garry relative to the operations of local housing authorities;

Local housing authorities.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1514) of James K. Hawkins and Colleen M. Garry relative to zoning ordinances in MBTA communities; and

Zoning ordinances.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1535) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and others relative to triennial reports on the impacts of multi-family zoning in MBTA communities;

Zoning,— MBTA communities.

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

By Mr. Lewis of Framingham, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2347) of Andres X. Vargas, Tara T. Hong and Vanna Howard relative to zoning ordinances and taxation of land owned by religious sects or denominations for multifamily housing,— and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Housing.

Zoning,— religious sects.

Under Rule 42, the reports severally were considered forthwith; and they were accepted. Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

By Ms. Barber of Somerville, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on a petition, a Bill providing for the ownership and maintenance of the Town Line Brook and Linden Brook culverts and dams (House, No. 956) [Representative Gaskey of Carver dissenting].

Town Line and Linden Brooks.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the Douglas State Forest Maintenance Trust Fund (House, No. 1002).

Douglas State Forest.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill to provide for housing within the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest (House, No. 1007).

Correllus State Forest.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill creating the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest Trust Fund (House, No. 1008) [Representative Gaskey of Carver dissenting].

Id.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to establish a study of Kingsbury Pond in the town of Norfolk (House, No. 1061) [Representative Gaskey of Carver dissenting].

Norfolk,— Kingsbury Pond.

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

By Ms. Barber of Somerville, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on a petition, a Bill dedicating certain park and field space in the South Boston section of the city of Boston (House, No. 899).

Boston,— land.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to water flow in the Central Plymouth County Water District (House, No. 984).

Central Plymouth County.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill establishing memorial markers in the towns of Milton and Canton in memory of certain law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty (House, No. 1069). Milton and Canton.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to wastewater treatment and disposal in the town of Sandwich (House, No. 1073) [Local Approval Received]. Sandwich,— wastewater.

By Mr. Lewis of Framingham, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on a joint petition, a Bill dissolving the Whately Water District (House, No. 2250, changed in section 1, in line 1, by inserting after the word "contrary," the following: "but subject to paragraphs (a), (b) and (g) of section 16 of chapter 30B of the General Laws,"). Whately Water District.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the charter in the city of Lynn (House, No. 4149) [Local Approval Received]. Lynn,— charter.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill relative to the town of Richmond Free Public Library (House, No. 4154) [Local Approval Received]. Richmond,— library.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill establishing a charter for the city of Cambridge (House, No. 4156) [Local Approval Received]. Cambridge,— charter.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill further regulating procurements by the city of Cambridge (House, No. 4157) [Local Approval Received]. Cambridge,— procurements.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill expanding the select board of the town of Weston (House, No. 4158) [Local Approval Received]. Weston,— select board.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Acton to establish a minimum charge for a checkout bag (House, No. 4167) [Local Approval Received]. Acton,— bag fee.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Acton to increase the residency limit for members of its police and fire departments (House, No. 4168) [Local Approval Received]. Acton,— residency limit.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill amending the special legislation establishing the Acton Memorial Library (House, No. 4173) [Local Approval Received]. Acton,— library.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the Ayer Library (House, No. 4174) [Local Approval Received]. Ayer,— library.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill relative to the charter of the town of Provincetown (House, No. 4175) [Local Approval Received]. Provincetown,— charter.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill relative to the charter of the town of Provincetown (House, No. 4176) [Local Approval Received]. Id.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing the city of Watertown to lease property at 124 Watertown street, Watertown (former Parker school) (House, No. 4205) [Local Approval Received]. Watertown,— land.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 4146, a Bill establishing a charter for the city of Medford (House, No. 4263) [Local Approval Received]. Medford,— charter.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 4153, a Bill establishing a charter for the city of Somerville (House, No. 4264) [Local Approval Received]. Somerville,— charter.

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

Recess.

At four minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus (Mr. Donato of Medford in the Chair) the House recessed until one o'clock P.M.; and at eighteen minutes after one o'clock, the House was called to order with Ms. Hogan of Stow in the Chair.

Recess.

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 strengthening health care protections in the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 2543), ought to pass with an amendment by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 4271. Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Health care protections.

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 bill (Senate, No. 2543, 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. Jones of North Reading, the bill (having been reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn), was read a third time.

After remarks on the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, as amended, in concurrence, (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair) Mr. McKenna of Sutton and other members of the House then moved to amend it by adding the following section:

"SECTION 27. Chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following section:

Section 51B ½.

(a) All state agencies shall cease funding ad campaigns which dissuade pregnant women from choosing pregnancy resource centers to assist with their pregnancy.

(b) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

'Pregnancy Resource Center', any organization that is a pregnancy resource center, pregnancy help center or organization, or pregnancy medical center, that: (i) supports expectant mothers in promoting pregnancy equity; and (ii) offers resources and services to mothers, fathers, and families, including, but not limited to, relationship counseling, prenatal and pregnancy education, pregnancy testing, diapers, baby clothes, or material supports.

'Ad campaign', any advertisement, including, but not limited to, those on billboards, buses, trains, garbage cans, television commercials, and social media, which dissuade pregnant women from choosing pregnancy resource centers to assist with their pregnancy.

(c) All state agencies shall suspend negative ad campaigns against pregnancy resource centers, which dissuade pregnant women from choosing pregnancy resource centers to assist with their pregnancy in the commonwealth. Any agency, including, but not limited to the department of public health, that provides or oversees services for the wellbeing of pregnant mothers, shall equally promote all facilities serving such needs, including, but not limited to, pregnancy resource centers and licensed medical facilities.

(d) All existing state laws or regulations in conflict with this section shall be unenforceable under state law.".

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. Soter of Bellingham then moved to amend the bill by adding the following section:

"SECTION 27. Section 11I 1/2 of chapter 12 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the definition of 'Legally protected health care activity' and inserting in place thereof the following definition:

'Legally-protected health care activity', (i) the exercise and enjoyment, or attempted exercise and enjoyment, by any person of rights to reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services secured by the constitution or laws of the commonwealth or the provision of insurance coverage for such services; (ii) any act or omission undertaken to aid or encourage, or attempt to aid or encourage, any person in the exercise and enjoyment, or attempted exercise and enjoyment, of rights to reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services secured by the constitution or laws of the commonwealth; or (iii) the refusal by any person to obtain reproductive health care services, gender-affirming health care services or any other preventative medical care on behalf of themselves or their minor children; provided, however, that the provision of such a health care service by a person duly licensed under the laws of the commonwealth and physically present in the commonwealth and the provision of insurance coverage for such services shall be legally protected if the service is permitted under the laws of the commonwealth, regardless of the patient's location; and provided further, that 'legally-protected health care activity' shall not include any service rendered below an applicable professional standard of care or that would violate anti-discrimination laws of the commonwealth.".

Amendment rejected,—yea and nay No. 63.

After debate on the question on adoption of the amendment, the sense of the House was taken by the yeas and nays, at the request of the same member; and on the roll call 30 members voted in the affirmative and 129 in the negative.

[See Yea and Nay No. 63 in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendment was rejected.

Ms. Kilcoyne of Clinton then moved to amend the bill in section 12, in line 191, by inserting after the word "meanings:" the following:

" 'Abortion', as defined in section 12K of chapter 112.

'Abortion-related health care services', all supplies, care and services of a medical, behavioral health, mental health, surgical, psychiatric, therapeutic, diagnostic, preventative, rehabilitative or supportive nature relating to miscarriage management or the termination of a pregnancy.", in line 210, by striking out the text contained in that line; and in lines 212, 218, 222 and 228, by striking out the word "reproductive" and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the words "abortion or abortion-related".

After remarks on the question on adoption of the amendments, the sense of the House was taken by the yeas and nays, at the request of the same member; and on the roll call 130 members voted in the affirmative and 29 in the negative.

Amendments adopted,— yea and nay No. 64.

[See Yea and Nay No. 64 in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendments were adopted.

Mr. Vargas of Haverhill then moved to amend the bill in section 12 by adding the following paragraph:

"(f) A business that discloses, transfers or processes information solely for the purposes of payment, treatment or health care operations, as defined by 45 CFR 164.501, shall not be in violation of this section.".

The amendment was adopted.

Ms. Decker of Cambridge then moved to amend the bill by inserting after section 24 the following section:

"SECTION 24A. (a) The commissioner of public health shall convene a technical advisory group to review section 70I of chapter 111 of the General Laws to advise on technical aspects of the implementation of said section 70I of said chapter 111, including regulations necessary to implement said section. Not later than July 1, 2026, the technical advisory group shall make recommendations to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on the judiciary on measures necessary to mitigate restrictions on appropriate data sharing that limit interoperability to ensure access to necessary clinical information to maximize appropriate clinical care.

(b) The technical advisory group shall explore and make recommendations on: (i) the standardization of service definitions and terminology and structured standardized data; (ii) reducing the administrative burden and impacts on clinical care of patient consent forms, including through the use of consent management platforms; (iii) mitigating restrictions of appropriate data sharing and limitations on interoperability that impact patient care; (iv) the appropriateness of exempting information accessed, used and disclosed for treatment, payment and health care operation purposes; and (v) minimizing penalties for a business that makes a good faith effort to implement said section 70I of said chapter 111.

(c) The technical advisory group shall consist of the following members: the commissioner of public health or a designee, who shall serve as chair; a representative of the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association; a representative of the Massachusetts Medical Society; a representative of the Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals; a representative of the Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts; a representative of Fenway Health; a representative of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans; a representative of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts; a representative of the Massachusetts eHealth Institute; a representative with expertise in health information privacy; a representative with expertise in health information technology; a representative of Health Care for All; and 2 persons with lived experience.".

The amendment was 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; and on the roll call (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair) 136 members voted in the affirmative and 23 in the negative.

Bill passed to be engrossed,— yea and nay No. 65.

[See Yea and Nay No. 65 in Supplement.]

Therefore the bill (Senate, No. 2543, amended) was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence. Sent to the Senate for concurrence in the amendment (being the text contained in House document numbered 4294).

Order.

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Qunicy,—

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

Next sitting.

Mr. Jones of North Reading 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 twenty-six minutes after three o'clock P.M. (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.