

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026.

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JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Monday, July 20, 2026.

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.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Representative Gaskey of Carver) congratulating Marc D. Sirrico upon his retirement after twenty-seven years of service to the Veterans Health Administration; and

Marc
Sirrico.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Smola of Warren) congratulating Jean M. Bubon on her retirement after twenty-one years of dedicated service to the town of Sturbridge;

Jean
Bubon.

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

Orders.

An Order (filed by Representatives Gordon of Bedford and Ayers of Quincy) relative to extending until Friday, July 31, 2026 the time within which the committee on Education is authorized to report on a current House document, was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Education,—
extension
of time for
reporting.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, reported that the order (House, No. 5591) ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted.

Communications.

Communications

From the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (see Section 69 of Chapter 23K of the General Laws) submitting its gaming revenue reports and associated sports wagering revenue report through May, 2026;

Gaming and
sports wagering
revenue.

From the Office of the Comptroller (see Section 5G of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting the Capital Gains Tax Revenue Transfers to the Stabilization Fund,

Capital gains,—
transfers.

the State Retiree Trust Fund, and the Pension Liability Fund for the third quarter of fiscal year 2026; and

From the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (see Section 30 of Chapter 285 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its “Report on the Plan to End Operations at the Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center”;

Severally were placed on file.

Alcohol and
substance
abuse center.

Reports.

Reports

Of the Executive Office of Veterans Services (under Section 150 of Chapter 178 of the Acts of 2024) submitting a report on the findings and recommendations of the working group to review alternative therapies for mental health treatments for veterans; and

Veterans,—
mental health
treatments.

Of the Massachusetts Health Connector (under Section 81 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting the ConnectorCare Expansion Pilot Annual Report for fiscal year 2026;

Connector
Care.

Severally were placed on file.

Petition.

Representative Kerans of Danvers and Senator Lovely presented a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5593) of Sally P. Kerans (by vote of the town) relative to the town manager in the town of Danvers; and the same was referred to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Danvers,—
town
manager.

Papers from the Senate.

House bills

Authorizing the town of Conway to continue the employment of fire department member Howard Boyden (House, No. 4506), came from the Senate passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with an amendment in section 1, in line 10, by inserting after the word “purposes” the following: “and, upon retirement, Howard Boyden shall receive a superannuation retirement allowance equal to that which he would have been entitled had he retired at 65 years of age”; and

Conway,—
Howard
Boyden.

Authorizing the town of Conway to continue the employment of police department member Michael Habel (House, No. 4525), came from the Senate passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with an amendment in section 1, in line 10, by inserting after the word “purposes” the following: “and, upon retirement, Michael Habel shall receive a superannuation retirement allowance equal to that which he would have been entitled had he retired at 65 years of age”;

Conway,—
Michael
Habel.

Severally referred, under Rule 35, to the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

A Bill authorizing the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to grant easements to NSTAR electric company d/b/a Eversource Energy in return for NSTAR releasing or modifying easements for the benefit of the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 3180) (on Senate bill No. 2922), passed to be engrossed by the Senate, was read; and it was referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Boston,
Cambridge and
Wendell —
easements.

Bills

Reclassifying fire alarm operators in the city of Beverly (Senate, No. 1876) (on a petition) [Local Approval Received];

Beverly,—
retirement.

Authorizing the town of Dighton to use a portion of conservation land for public way purposes (Senate, No. 3052) (on Senate, No. 2961) [Local Approval Received]; and

Dighton,—
land.

Providing equal opportunity for residents to vote on establishment of the Great River Regional School District (Senate, No. 3181) (on Senate, No. 3026);

Great River
regional schools.

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.

Petitions were referred, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, in concurrence, as follows:

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate No. 3186) of James B. Eldridge for legislation to conform with the electoral count reform act of 2022 and ensure uniform faithful presidential electors. To the committee on Election Laws.

Electoral
count reform.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate No. 3188) of Dylan A. Fernandes, David T. Vieira and Steven George Xiarhos for legislation to authorize the Buzzards Bay Water District to convey non-exclusive easements over a certain parcel of land. To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Buzzards
Bay Water
District.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate No. 3187) of Dylan A. Fernandes for legislation relative to the leasing of the Pilgrim Memorial Park in Plymouth; and

Plymouth,—
Pilgrim Park.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate No. 3189) of Dylan A. Fernandes, David T. Vieira and Steven George Xiarhos for legislation to authorize the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game to convey easements over certain parcels of land;

Cape Cod,—
easement.

Severally to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Reports of Committees.

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 further regulating insurance claims (Senate, No. 785); and

Insurance.

House bills

Designating asparagus as the official vegetable of the Commonwealth (House, No. 5088); and

Official
vegetable.

Establishing the official crustacean of the Commonwealth (House, No. 5335);

Crustacean.

Authorizing the town of East Bridgewater to grant up to four additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 5582) [Local Approval Received];

East
Bridgewater,—
liquor licenses.

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

By Mr. Lawn of Watertown, for the committee on Health Care Financing, on House, No. 1405, a Bill establishing Medicare for All in Massachusetts (House, No. 5590) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00]. Read; and referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Universal
health care,—
commission.

By Mr. Lawn of Watertown, for the committee on Health Care Financing, on a petition, a Bill relative to preventing discrimination against persons with disabilities in the provision of health care (House, No. 1360) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to asset limits for MassHealth (House, No. 1378) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to promote graduate medical education (House, No. 1393) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill making technical changes to the Betsy Lehman Center for patient safety and medical error reduction enabling statute (House, No. 1408) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill increasing the personal needs allowance for long term care residents (House, No. 1411) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill regarding Medicare savings programs eligibility (House, No. 1413) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill to update Medicaid resource limits for seniors (House, No. 1414) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to pharmacy deserts (House, No. 1419) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to Medicare coverage of end-stage renal disease (House, No. 4425) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00].

By Mr. Arciero of Westford, for the committee on Transportation, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Hingham to grant to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts certain parcels of land in the town of Hingham for highway purposes (House, No. 5504) [Local Approval Received].

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill creating a Legion of Merit license plate (House, No. 5529).

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

By Mr. Arciero of Westford, for the committee on Transportation, on a petition, a Bill designating a certain bridge in the city of Gardner as the Representative Robert L. Rice, Jr. bridge (House, No. 5503). Read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Disabilities,—
discrimination.

MassHealth,—
asset limits.

Graduate medical
education.

Betsy
Lehman
Center.

Personal needs
allowance.

Medicare
savings,—
eligibility.

Medicaid
limits,—
seniors.

Pharmacies,—
access.

Medicare,—
renal disease.

Hingham,—
land.

Legion of Merit
license plate.

Gardner,—
Rice bridge.

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

Dedicating a certain park and a certain field space in the South Boston section of the city of Boston (see House, No. 899, amended);

Authorizing the Dalton Fire District to continue the employment of interim fire chief Christopher Francis Cachat (see House, No. 4321);

(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.

The Senate Bill dissolving the North Carver water district (Senate, No. 2735), 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.

House bills

Relative to the transportation of vessels in the villages of Marston Mills and Osterville in the city known as the town of Barnstable (House, No. 5421) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading);

Third
reading
bills.

Amending the charter of the town of North Attleborough (House, No. 5426); and

Establishing a sick leave bank for Andrew Bartlett, an employee of the department of public health (House, No. 5543);

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.

The House Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Edward Gillen, an employee of the Highway Division (House, No. 5528) (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.

Edward
Gillen,—
sick leave.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Walsh of Peabody moved to amend it 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 establish forthwith a sick leave bank for Edward Gillen, an employee of the highway division, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.”.

The amendment was adopted; and the bill (House, No. 5528, amended) was passed to be engrossed. 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 eight minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Soter of Bellingham (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Wednesday at eleven o'clock A.M.