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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2026.

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Wednesday, July 22, 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).

Pledge of allegiance.

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.

Guests of the House.

Padraig O'Neill and Thomas Hughes.

During the session, Mr. Lawn of Watertown took the Chair and introduced former state Representative Edward Coppinger of Boston, who was accompanied by his cousin, Dr. Padraig O'Neill of Glasgow, Scotland (originally from Kenmare, County Kerry, Ireland); his partner, Thomas Hughes; and their children, Will and Allie. They were the guests of Mr. Lawn.

Statement of Representative Hamilton of Methuen.

A statement of Mr. Hamilton of Methuen was spread upon the records of the House, as follows:

Statement of Mr. Hamilton of Methuen.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to call to the attention of the House the fact that I am not present in the House Chamber for today's sitting due to illness. My missing of roll calls is due entirely to the reason stated.

Remote Participation.

Remote participation.

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

Petitions.

Acushnet,—special police.

Representatives Ouellette of Westport and Sylvia of Fairhaven presented a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5597) of Steven J. Ouellette, Mark C. Montigny and Mark D. Sylvia (by vote of the town) that the town of Acushnet be authorized to appoint retired police officers as special police officers in said town; and the same was referred to the committee on Public Service. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Crystal Swinimer,—retirement.

Representative Sena of Acton presented a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Danillo A. Sena relative to the retirement classification of Crystal Swinimer, an employee of the Middlesex county sheriff's office; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Papers from the Senate.

House bills

Belmont,—liquor licenses.

Removing the seating capacity requirements for licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises in the town of Belmont (House, No. 5344), came from the Senate passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with amendments in section 1 (as printed), in line 3, by inserting after the word "seats" the words "as otherwise permitted by law"; and in section 2 (as printed), in line 6, by inserting after the word "seats" the words "as otherwise permitted by law"; and

Springfield,—Misael Rodriguez.

Regarding the disability pension for Misael Rodriguez administered by the Springfield retirement board (House, No. 5391), 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 3185;

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

Taunton,—land.

A petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3182) of Kelly A. Dooner and Norman J. Orrall (with approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the city of Taunton to utilize certain areas of conservation land for road improvements, was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Reports of Committees.

Dighton,—land.

By Mr. Honan of Boston, for the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, that the Senate Bill authorizing the town of Dighton to use a portion of conservation land for public way purposes (Senate, No. 3052) [Local Approval Received], be scheduled for consideration by the House.

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

Menopause care.

By Mr. Lawn of Watertown, for the committee on Health Care Financing, that the Bill expanding access to perimenopause and menopause care (House, No. 5303), ought to pass [Cost: Greater than $100,000.00]. Read; and referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

PFAS.

By Mr. Lawn of Watertown, for the committee on Health Care Financing, that the Bill to protect Massachusetts public health from PFAS (House, No. 4870), ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor a bill with the same title (House, No. 5598) [Cost: Greater than $100,000.00]. Read; and referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. Lawn of Watertown, for the committee on Health Care Financing, that the following bills ought to pass:

Gynecological care.

Relative to eliminating the PCP referral requirement for specialty gynecological care (House, No. 1168) [Cost: Greater than $100,000.00];

Directing the division of insurance to regularly report on the performance of the merged non-group and small-group health insurance markets (House, No. 1236) [Cost: Greater than $100,000.00]; Health insurance market.

Establishing a pilot program for access to regulated psilocybin (House, No. 2203) [Cost: Greater than $100,000.00]; Psilocybin.

Enabling registered dental hygienists to administer nitrous oxide (House, No. 2426) [Cost: Greater than $100,000.00]; Dental hygienists.

To ensure access to scalp and facial hair prostheses for children and adults with alopecia areata (House, No. 4552) [Cost: Greater than $100,000.00]; Hair prosthesis.

Promoting and enhancing the sustainability of birth centers and the midwifery workforce (House, No. 5016) [Cost: Greater than $100,000.00]; Birth centers and midwives.

Relative to PANDAS/PANS screening in medical/clinical settings (House, No. 5040) [Cost: Greater than $100,000.00]; and PANDAS/PANS screening.

Relative to access to psychiatric collaborative care (House, No. 5230) [Cost: Greater than $100,000.00]. Psychiatric care.

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

By Mr. Livingstone of Boston, for the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, on Senate, No. 3095, a Bill significantly alleviating poverty (House, No. 5594). Read; and referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means. Poverty.

By Mr. Madaro of Boston, for the committee on the Revenue, ought NOT to pass, on the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1947) of John J. Cronin for legislation relative to neighborhood stabilization and economic development. Neighborhoods and economic development.

By the same member, for the same committee, ought NOT to pass, on the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1971) of Lydia Edwards for legislation to create a graduated deed excise tax for affordable housing. Deed excise tax,—housing.

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

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

Exempting the positions of police lieutenant and police sergeant in the city of Leominster from the civil service law (see House, No. 4702); Bills enacted.

Authorizing the town of Milton to grant additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (see House, No. 4813);

Providing for the powers of the town administrator of the town of Carlisle (see House, No. 5308); and

Further regulating property tax classifications in the city of Watertown for fiscal year 2027 and subsequent fiscal years (see House, No. 5569);

(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.

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

The following House bills, having been reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, were discharged from their position in the Orders of the Day, and read a third time forthwith, under suspension of Rule 47, in each instance, on motion of Mr. Owens of Watertown:

Petersham,— police.

Authorizing the town of Petersham to continue the employment of police department members Richard D. Cooley Jr. and David A. Shoemaker (House, No. 5110);

Weston,— land.

Authorizing the transfer of certain parcels of land in the town of Weston from the Weston conservation commission to the select board (House, No. 5467); and

Southborough,— liquor license.

Authorizing the town of Southborough to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 5546);

And they severally were passed to be engrossed. Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Recess.

Recess.

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

Engrossed Bills – Land Takings.

North Carver Water District.

The engrossed Bill dissolving the North Carver water district (see Senate, No. 2735) (which originated in the Senate), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was put upon its final passage.

Bill enacted (land taking),— yea and nay No. 234.

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 153 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

[See Yea and Nay No. 234 in Supplement.]

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

Marion,— select board.

The engrossed Bill authorizing the transfer of a certain parcel of land in the town of Marion from the Marion open space acquisition commission to the Marion select board (see House, No. 5388) (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.

Bill enacted (land taking),— yea and nay No. 235.

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 154 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

[See Yea and Nay No. 235 in Supplement.]

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

Pregnancies,— care.

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 Bill prioritizing patient access to care (House, No. 2370), ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor a bill with the same title (House, No. 5595) [Representatives Smola of Warren, McKenna of Sutton, Pease of Westfield, Marsi of Charlton, Sullivan-Almeida of Abington and Xiarhos of Barnstable dissenting]. 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. 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, the noon recess having terminated (Ms. Hogan of Stow being in the Chair), under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Day of Stoneham, 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. Donato of Medford being in the Chair) Mr. McKenna of Sutton moved to amend it by adding the following section:

"SECTION 4. Chapter 62 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition of the General Laws of Massachusetts, is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

Section 65.

(a) For the purposes of this section, 'abortion services' shall include the performing of or referring for an abortion.

(b) Taxpayers shall have the option to indicate on their income tax return that they do not want any portion of their income tax liability to be utilized for abortion services. When a taxpayer makes such election, the taxpayer's income tax liability may not be used to pay for abortion services.

(c) The portion of the taxpayer's income tax liability that is not to be used to pay for abortion services, pursuant to this section, must be deposited into a special account, separate and apart from the General Fund, whose purpose shall be to develop and implement a public information program to inform the general public of the provisions of section 39-½ of Chapter 119, concerning voluntary abandonment of a newborn infant, also known as the Baby Safe Haven Law.

(d) The amount of the taxpayer's income tax liability to be set aside in the special account specified in paragraph (c) shall be determined by multiplying the taxpayer's income tax liability by the percentage of the General Fund dedicated to paying for abortion services in the previous year.".

Point of order.

Ms. Peisch of Wellesley thereupon raised a point of order that the amendment offered by the gentleman from Sutton is beyond the scope of the bill presently before the House.

In answer to the point of order, the Chair (Mr. Donato of Medford) stated that the pending bill concerns the legal and medical standards governing the performance of an abortion. The amendment concerns tax administration and the allocation of

public funds and is therefore beyond the scope of the pending bill. The point of order is well taken. The amendment will be laid aside accordingly.

Bill passed to be engrossed,— yea and nay No. 236.

On the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, the sense of the House was taken by the yeas and nays, at the request of Mr. Day of Stoneham and on the roll call 119 members voted in the affirmative and 33 in the negative.

[See Yea and Nay No. 236 in Supplement.]

Therefore the bill (House, No. 5595) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

Next sitting.

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

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-four minutes before four 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.