

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2026.

[75]*

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Wednesday, July 29, 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.

Silent Tribute.

At the request of Representative Kassner of Hamilton, the members, guests and employees stood in a moment of silent tribute for Geoffrey "Geof" Hyde Walker, 79, of Newbury, who passed away on July 6.

Geoffrey
"Geof" Hyde
Walker.

Geof spent decades fighting for the Great Marsh and Newbury's open spaces, earning regional recognition for his work on invasive species, restoration, and environmental policy. He was named New England Conservationist of the Year in 2005. A portion of the Salisbury Marsh Overlook was dedicated in his honor, reflecting his lasting impact on the landscape.

He served Newbury as a selectman for 18 years. He founded Big Al's Auto Parts in Seabrook, where he brought the same service-first ethic he brought to the marsh and his beloved Olde Town.

Geof was the only child of the late Henry and Alice (Hyde) Walker. He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Josette (Bonasoro) Walker; his sons, Nathan Walker and his fiancée, Jennifer Dewar, and Joshua Walker and his fiancée, Heather Quigly; and his grandchildren, Hunter and Skylar.

Statement of Representative Cabral of New Bedford.

A statement of Mr. Cabral of New Bedford 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 the sitting of Wednesday, July 8. Had I been present for the taking of Yea and Nay Nos. 225 to 231, inclusive, I would have voted in the affirmative.

Statement of
Representative
Cabral of
New Bedford.

Statement of Representative Nguyen of Andover.

A statement of Ms. Nguyen of Andover 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 called away from the House Chamber during today's sitting due to a district event. If I had been present, I would have voted yea on roll call numbers 239, 240 and 241. My missing of roll calls was due entirely to the reason stated.

Statement of
Representative
Nguyen of
Andover.

Remote Participation.

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

Remote participation.

Communication.

A communication from the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission PERAC (under the provisions of Section 50 of Chapter 7 of the General Laws) submitting proposed amendments to the rules and regulations governing retirement of public employees in Massachusetts (840 CMR 28.00) (House, No. 5617), was referred to the committee on Public Service. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission.

Petitions.

Representative Murray of Milford and Senator Fattman presented a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5611) of Brian W. Murray (by vote of the town) that the water and sewer commission of the town of Hopedale be authorized to be the appointing authority for all employees of the water and sewer department; and the same was referred to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Hopedale,—
water
and sewer
commission.

Representative Kilcoyne of Clinton and Senator Cronin presented a joint petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Meghan K. Kilcoyne for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for David Gilman, an employee of the Department of Correction; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

David
Gilman,—
sick leave.

Papers from the Senate.

The Senate Bill promoting pet equity, treatment and safety (Senate, No. 3028), came from the Senate with the endorsement that said branch had non-concurred with the House in its amendments (striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 5589; and 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.”).

The bill bore the further endorsement that the Senate had asked for a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches; and that Senators Feeney, Lewis and Tarr had been appointed the committee on the part of the Senate.

On motion of Mr. O'Day of West Boylston, the House insisted on its amendments; and concurred with the Senate in the appointment of a committee of conference. Representatives O'Day, Lewis of Framingham and Howitt of Seekonk were appointed the committee on the part of the House. Sent to the Senate to be noted.

Pet equity.

Committee of conference.

Id.

The House Bill to improve Massachusetts home care (House, No. 4706, amended), came from the Senate with the endorsement that said branch had insisted on its amendment (striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 3183) (in which the House had non-concurred).

Home care.

The bill bore the further endorsement that said branch had concurred with the House in the appointment of a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches; and that Senators Brownsberger, Jehlen and Fattman had been joined as the committee on the part of the Senate.

Committee of conference.

The House Bill authorizing the division of capital asset management and maintenance to take by eminent domain certain land in the town of Norwood (House, No. 5553), 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 3231. The amendment was referred, under Rule 35, to the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

Norwood,—
land.

A Bill authorizing the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to take easements over certain land located in the city of Woburn and the town of Burlington held in trust by the city of Boston for the Mary P. C. Cummings Testamentary Trust (Senate, No. 3229) (on Senate bill No. 3169), passed to be engrossed by the Senate, was read.

Boston, Woburn
and Burlington,—
land.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, the bill was read a second time forthwith; and it was ordered to a third reading.

A petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3201) of Mark C. Montigny and Steven J. Ouellette (by vote of the town) for legislation to provide for the appointment of retired police officers as special police officers in the town of Acushnet, was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Public Service.

Acushnet,—
special police.

A petition of Barry R. Finegold for legislation to authorize the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to acquire interests in certain portions of land owned by the town of Andover which were acquired by the town for Article XCVII purposes, came from the Senate referred, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Andover,—
land.

The House then concurred with the Senate in the suspension of said rule; and the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate No. 3230) was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Reports of Committees.

Mr. Cahill of Lynn, for the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches, with reference to the Senate amendment (striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 3086) of the House Bill promoting rule of law, oversight, trust and equal constitutional treatment (House, No. 5316), reported a bill with the same title (House, No. 5620). Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Civil immigration
enforcement,—
participation.

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 to amend the structure of the Commission of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (House, No. 225), ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor a Bill relative to the structure of the commission on the status of grandparents raising grandchildren (House, No. 5610). Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Grandparents
raising
grandchildren.

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 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, under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Garballey of Arlington, the bill (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. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

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 authorizing the release or exclusion of certain land from conservation restrictions in the town of Deerfield (House, No. 4483) [Local Approval Received], ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor a bill with the same title (House, No. 5614). Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Deerfield,—
land.

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, under suspension of the rules on motion of Mr. Holmes of Boston, the bill (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. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

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 validating a conveyance of land and authorizing the recording of a confirmatory deed in the city of Marlborough (House, No. 5191), ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor a bill with the same title (House, No. 5615). Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Marlborough,—
land.

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, under suspension of the rules on motion of Mr. Garballey of Arlington, the bill (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. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

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 authorizing the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to take easements over certain land located in the city of Woburn and the town of Burlington held in trust by the city of Boston for the Mary P. C. Cummings Testamentary Trust for highway purposes (House, No. 5541), ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor a bill with the same title (House, No. 5616). 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. Ouellette of Westport, 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, under suspension of the rules on motion of Mr. Holmes of Boston, the bill (having been reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) was read a third time.

The committee on Bills in the Third Reading reported recommending that the bill be consolidated with the Senate Bill authorizing the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to take easements over certain land located in the city of Woburn and the town of Burlington held in trust by the city of Boston for the Mary P. C. Cummings Testamentary Trust (Senate, No. 3229), likewise referred to said committee; and the report was accepted.

Pending the question on passing the consolidated bill (House, No. 5616) to be engrossed, Mr. Walsh of Peabody moved to amend it in section 2, in line 14, by striking out the year: “2025” and inserting in place thereof the year: “2018”.

The amendment was adopted; and the bill (House, No. 5616, amended) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

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

To ensure efficient and effective implementation of the Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform (House, No. 2193) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

To increase access to nurse-midwifery services (House, No. 4334) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

Improving the health insurance prior authorization process (House, No. 4616) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

To remove barriers to patient care (House, No. 4617) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

Relative to medical health and fitness facilities (House, No. 4834) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

Providing for certain health insurance coverage (House, No. 4937) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

To facilitate timely access to quality health care by expanding access to patient navigation (House, No. 4939) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

Relative to health savings accounts (House, No. 4941) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00];

Relative to epinephrine injectors (House, No. 4943) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00]; and

Boston,
Woburn and
Burlington,—
land.

Behavioral
health.
Nurse-midwifery
services.
Prior
authorization.
Diagnostic
evaluations.
Medical fitness
facilities.
Health insurance
coverage.
Care and access,—
screenings.
Health savings
accounts.
Epinephrine.

Providing insurance coverage for biennial echocardiograms for persons under the age of 18 (House, No. 4945) [Cost: Greater than \$100,000.00].

Youth health screenings.

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 joint petition, a Bill modernizing the lease authorization for East Mountain State Forest (House, No. 5363). Read; and referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

East Mountain State Forest.

By Mr. Lewis of Framingham, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Wayland Select Board to grant permission to use land for green burials (House, No. 5485) [Local Approval Received].

Wayland,—land.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill allowing 'print free' digital legal notices for the town of Wayland (House, No. 5486) [Local Approval Received].

Wayland,—digital legal notices.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill amending the town charter for the town of Plymouth (House, No. 5497) [Local Approval Received].

Plymouth,—town charter.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill allowing print-free digital legal notices in the town of Shrewsbury (House, No. 5512) [Local Approval Received].

Shrewsbury,—digital legal notices.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill relative to the membership of the Conservation Commission in the town of Chatham (House, No. 5524) [Local Approval Received].

Chatham,—conservation commission.

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

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

Amending the charter of the town of Millis (see House, No. 3911, amended);

Validating the actions taken at the New Salem annual town election (see House, No. 4224); and

Bills enacted.

Further regulating the filling of vacancies in the office of ward councilor in the city of Marlborough (see House, No. 5227);

(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.

Recesses.

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

Recesses.

The House thereupon took a further recess, on motion of Mr. Jones of North Reading, subject to the call of the Chair; and at twenty-three minutes before three o'clock the House was called to order with Ms. Hogan in the Chair.

Engrossed Bill – Land Taking.

The engrossed Bill authorizing the town of Dighton to use a portion of conservation land for public way purposes (see Senate, No. 3052) (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.

Dighton,—
land.

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

Bill enacted
(land taking),—
yea and nay
No. 237.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 237](#) 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 Bill relative to home care services (House, No. 762, changed), ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor a bill with the same title (House, No. 5612). Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Home care
services.

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. Ouellette of Westport, 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 in the Chair), under suspension of the rules on motion of Mr. Cusack of Braintree, 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, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of same member; and on the roll call 157 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

Bill passed to
be engrossed,—
yea and nay
No. 238.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 238](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the bill (House, No. 5612) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

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 to improve care and prepare for the new era of Alzheimer's and dementia (House, No. 4302), ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor a bill with the same title (House, No. 5613). Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Alzheimer's
and dementia.

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. Ouellette of Westport, 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 in the Chair), under suspension of the rules on motion of Miss Gregoire of Marlborough, 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. Donahue of Worcester moved to amend the bill in section 1, in line 5, in section 2, in line 35, in section 4, in line 116, and in section 9, in line 271, by striking out the words “Association - West”, each time they appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the words “Association, Massachusetts Chapter, Inc”; and

In section 6, in lines 149, 158 and 172, by striking out the word “physician”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the words “health care provider”.

The amendments were adopted.

On the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of Miss Gregoire of Marlborough and on the roll call 156 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 239](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the bill (House, No. 5621, published as amended) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Bill passed to
be engrossed,—
yea and nay
No. 239.

Engrossed Bill – Land Taking.

The engrossed Bill further providing for the disposition of certain land in the town of West Brookfield (see House, No. 5379) (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.

West
Brookfield,—
land.

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

Bill enacted
(land taking),—
yea and nay
No. 240.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 240](#) in Supplement.]

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

Emergency Measure.

Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair,—

The engrossed Bill authorizing the commissioner of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to transfer certain parcels of land in the town of Norton (see House, No. 5561), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was considered, the question being on adopting the emergency preamble.

Norton,—
land.

A separate vote was taken, as required by the provisions of Article XLVIII (as amended by Article LXVII) of the Amendments to the Constitution; and the preamble was adopted, by a vote of 6 to 0. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Subsequently, the Senate having concurred in adoption of the emergency preamble, the bill (which originated in the House) was put upon its final passage.

On the question on passing the bill to be enacted (Ms. Hogan of Stow being in the Chair), 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 (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair) 156 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 241](#) in Supplement.]

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

Bill enacted
(land taking),—
yea and nay
No. 241.

Motion to Discharge a Certain Matter from the Orders of the Day.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Marion to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 5451), 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. Ouellette of Westport; and it was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Marion,—
liquor
license.

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.; and that, notwithstanding the provisions of House Rule 12, the Clerk be authorized to dispense with the printing of a Calendar for the next sitting.

Next
sitting.

Mr. Vieira of Falmouth 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 seventeen minutes after 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.