

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2025.

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Monday, August 4, 2025.

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.

Message from the Governor.

A message from Her Excellency the Governor recommending legislation to preserve and advance Massachusetts' competitiveness in discovery, research, and innovation for a vibrant economy (House, No. 4375), was filed in the office of the Clerk on Thursday, July 31.

Economic
development.

The message was read; and it was referred, under Rule 30, with the accompanying draft of a bill, to the committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Guests of the House.

At the beginning of the session, the Chair (Mr. Donato of Medford) declared a brief recess and introduced the 2025 Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School Softball Team. In June, the Dighton-Rehoboth Falcons achieved their second consecutive Division 3 Softball State Championship. The group were guests of Representatives Thurber of Somerset and Howitt of Seekonk.

Dighton-Rehoboth
Regional
High School
softball team.

Order.

The Order (filed by Mr. Cusack of Braintree) relative to extending until Wednesday, December 3, 2025 the time within which the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy is authorized to report on current House documents, was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Telecommunica-
tions, Utilities
and Energy,—
extension of time
for reporting.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, reported that the order (House, No. 4369), 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 Advisory Commission on Travel and Tourism (see Section 13H of Chapter 23A of the General Laws) submitting its annual report and recommendations on state expenditures to promote tourism for calendar year 2024;

Travel and
tourism.

From the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (see Section 6A of Chapter 18B of the General Laws) submitting a report entitled: “Foster Care Review Report FY2024”;

Foster care.

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 June, 2025;

Gaming and sports wagering revenue.

From the Office of the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds (see Section 2KKK of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting the County Registers Technology Fund fifty-fourth planned expenditure [copies of the communication were forwarded to the committees on Ways and Means and Post Audit and Oversight, as required by said law];

Norfolk County technology.

From the Massachusetts Sheriffs’ Association (see Section 6A of Chapter 124 of the General Laws) submitting its operational capacity report for January 1 to June 30, 2025;

Operational capacity.

From the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (see Section 131Q of Chapter 140 of the General Laws) submitting the Crime Gun annual report of the Department of the Massachusetts State Police for calendar year 2024;

Crime guns.

From the Office of the Comptroller (see item 1599-2040 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting the Paid Prior Year Deficiency Report for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2025;

Paid prior year deficiency.

From the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (see item 4000-0500 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its comparative analysis of the rate differential for inpatient psychiatric and substance use hospital per diem payments achieved by Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and Community Partners;

Psychiatric and hospital per diem payments.

From the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (see item 5046-0000 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting the Department of Mental Health’s police-based Jail and Arrest Diversion Initiatives for fiscal year 2024; and

Jail and arrest diversion initiatives.

From the Department of Public Health (see Chapter 313 of the Acts of 2010) submitting a report entitled: CY22-CY23 Summary of Activities related to Postpartum Depression;

Postpartum depression.

Severally were placed on file.

Papers from the Senate.

Bills

Authorizing the Commonwealth to dispose of certain parcels of land in the town of Upton acquired for conservation and recreation purposes (Senate, No. 2576) (on Senate bill No. 2135); and

Upton,—land.

To promote student learning and mental health (Senate, No. 2581) (on Senate bill No. 2561);

Schools,—personal electronics.

Severally passed to be engrossed by the Senate, were read; and they were referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Petitions were referred, in concurrence, as follows:

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2573) of John F. Keenan (by vote of the town) to amend the charter of the town of Rockland;

Rockland,—charter.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2577) of Patrick M. O’Connor (by vote of the town) relative to parking fines in the town of Scituate; and

Scituate,—parking fines.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2578) of Patrick M. O'Connor and Patrick Joseph Kearney (by vote of the town) for legislation relative to sidewalks in the town of Scituate;

Scituate,—
side walks.

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Honan of Boston, for the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, that the following House bills be scheduled for consideration by the House:

Regarding the recall of elected officers of the town of Sharon (House, No. 862) [Local Approval Received];

Sharon,—
recall elections.

Relative to wastewater treatment and disposal in the town of Sandwich (House, No. 1073) [Local Approval Received];

Sandwich,—
wastewater.

Establishing a sick leave bank for Ana C. Contreras (House, No. 1596);

Ana Contreras.

To increase the income limit for Clause 41A, Senior Tax Deferral Program in Ipswich (House, No. 3156) [Local Approval Received];

Ipswich,— senior
tax deferrals.

Authorizing the town of Acton to establish a minimum charge for a checkout bag (House, No. 4167) [Local Approval Received];

Acton,—
bag fee.

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.

Amending the special legislation establishing the Acton Memorial Library (House, No. 4173) [Local Approval Received]; and

Acton,—
library.

Relative to the Ayer Library (House, No. 4174) [Local Approval Received];

Ayer library.

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

By Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, asking to be discharged from further consideration:

Of the Bill enhancing municipal bonding efficacy (House, No. 2257); and

Municipal bonding.

Of the Bill relative to establishing a commission to study municipal licenses (House, No. 2311);

Municipal licenses.

And recommending that the same be referred to the House committee on Rules.

Under Rule 42, the reports severally were considered forthwith; and they were accepted.

By Mr. Chan of Quincy, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on a petition, a Bill making corrective changes to Chapter 112 of the General Laws (House, No. 468).

Small
appraisal
companies.

By Mr. Lewis of Framingham, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on House, No. 2253, a Bill relative to updating animal health inspections (House, No. 4365).

Animal health
inspections.

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

By Mr. Lewis of Framingham, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on a petition, a Bill relative to municipal publication of zoning by-law procedures (House, No. 2315).

Zoning
by-law
procedures.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing reserved capacity billing in the town of Norfolk (House, No. 3899) [Local Approval Received].

Norfolk,—
billing.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill relative to the town resident requirement for the town manager of the town of Dalton (House, No. 4210) [Local Approval Received].

Dalton,—
town manager.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill changing the term of the elected office of moderator in the town of Holden (House, No. 4211) [Local Approval Received].

Holden,—
moderator.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Lancaster to dissolve its animal control commission (House, No. 4212) [Local Approval Received].

Lancaster,—
animal
control.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing the city of Cambridge to expand the options available to issue notices of violation for parking enforcement above the limits set forth in M.G.L. C. 90, §20A½ or other applicable state laws (House, No. 4231) [Local Approval Received].

Cambridge,—
violation
notices.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill relative to the charter of the town of Fairhaven (House, No. 4232) [Local Approval Received].

Fairhaven,—
charter.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill amending the charter of the city of Malden (House, No. 4233) [Local Approval Received].

Malden,—
charter.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill to amend the town charter of Ipswich (House, No. 4243) [Local Approval Received].

Ipswich,—
charter.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Hingham to utilize alternative methods for publication of legal notices (House, No. 4244) [Local Approval Received].

Hingham,—
charter.

By Mr. Ryan of Boston, for the committee on Public Service, on a petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Carlos Borges (House, No. 4322).

Carlos Borges,—
sick leave.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Alexandra Schwartz, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of State Police (House, No. 4323).

Alexandra
Schwartz,—
sick leave.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Stephanie Bramante Miller, an employee of the Massachusetts Appellate Tax Board (House, No. 4324).

Stephanie
Bramante
Miller,—
sick leave.

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

Engrossed Bills.

The engrossed Bill authorizing the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to supply water to the Lynnfield Center Water District within the town of Lynnfield (see House, No. 972) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was considered.

Lynnfield Center
Water District.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be enacted, Mr. Orrall of Lakeville moved that Rule 40 be suspended; and the motion prevailed.

Rule 40
suspended.

Mr. Walsh of Peabody then moved to amend the bill 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 forthwith supply water to the Lynnfield Center Water District, 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 (see House, No. 972, amended) was sent to the Senate for concurrence in the amendment.

Subsequently, the Senate having concurred in adoption of the amendment, the bill, having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was placed before the House, the question being on adopting the emergency preamble.

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

Bill
enacted.

Orders of the Day.

House bills

Relative to Machado-Joseph Disease Awareness Day (House, No. 3298);

Authorizing the town to establish a millennium fund of the Wayland Free Public Library (House, No. 4137); and

Authorizing the town of Wellesley to dissolve its Housing Development Corporation (House, No. 4139);

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.

Third
reading
bills.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

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

Next
sitting.

At twenty-nine minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Orrall of Lakeville (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Thursday at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.