

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026.

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Thursday, August 20, 2026.

Met according to adjournment at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Mr. Garballey of Arlington 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. Garballey), the members, guests and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of
allegiance.

Communication.

A communication from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center stating that its fiscal year 2026 annual reports required under section 5 of chapter 23J of the General Laws, including its clean energy industry report and audited financial report, would be delayed and submitted not later than January 30, 2027, was placed on file.

Massachusetts
Clean Energy
Technology Center.

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Ferguson of Holden and Senator Durant, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5659) of Kimberly N. Ferguson (by vote of the town) that the town of Rutland be authorized to grant one additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk off the premises. To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Rutland,—
liquor
license.

By Representative Rogers of Cambridge and Senator Brownsberger, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5660) of David M. Rogers and William N. Brownsberger (by vote of the town) that the town of Belmont be authorized to hold hybrid and remote town meetings. To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Belmont,—
town
meetings.

By the same members, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5661) of David M. Rogers and William N. Brownsberger (by vote of the town) that the town of Belmont be authorized to increase certain income, asset and benefit limits for senior property tax abatements. To the committee on Revenue.

Belmont,—
senior property
tax abatements.

Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Papers from the Senate.

A petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3262) of Kelly A. Dooner and Justin Thurber (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Dighton to impose community impact linkage fees, was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Dighton,—
linkage
fees.

Reports of Committees.

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 relative to supported decision-making agreements for certain adults (House, No. 4852),— and recommending that the same be referred to the House committee on Rules with an amendment previously recommended by the committee on Health Care Financing,— that the bill be amended by substitution of a bill with the same title (House, No. 5644),— pending. Under Rule 42, the report was considered forthwith; and it was accepted.

Supported
decision-making.

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:

Authorizing the continued employment of Michael Marchand, the fire chief in the town of Upton (House, No. 5389) [Local Approval Received];

Upton,—
Michael Marchand.

Providing for tenant representation on the Great Barrington Housing Authority board (House, No. 5554); and

Great Barrington
Housing Authority.

Establishing the term of office for the town manager of the town of Bridgewater (House, No. 5600) [Local Approval Received];

Bridgewater,—
town manager.

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

Orders of the Day.

House bills

Extending the timeframe for the issuance of licenses granted pursuant to Chapter 46 of the Acts of 2020 in the city of Easthampton (House, No. 5547); and

Third
reading
bills.

Amending the charter of the town of Bellingham to allow the Director of Finance to serve as the Town Accountant (House, No. 5564);

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 Senate Bill providing equal opportunity for residents to vote on establishment of the Great River Regional School District (Senate, No. 3181), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Great River
regional
schools.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, in concurrence, Mr. Walsh of Peabody moved to amend it by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 5658.

The amendment was adopted; and the bill (Senate, No. 3181, amended) was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence. Sent to the Senate for concurrence in the amendment.

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

Authorizing the division of capital asset management and maintenance to release a certain sewer line easement in the West Roxbury section of the city of Boston (see House, No. 5304); and

Bills
enacted.

Authorizing the division of capital asset management and maintenance to convey certain parcels of land to the town of Bolton, the town of Lancaster or a municipal utility serving the town of Bolton or the town of Lancaster (see House, No. 5440);

(Which severally originated in the House);

In respect to each of which the Senate had concurred in adoption of the emergency preamble, were passed to be enacted; and they were signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Engrossed bills

Providing for a real property exemption for persons with disabilities in the town of Swampscott (see House, No. 4444);

Id.

Authorizing Sean Duffy to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (see House, No. 4573); and

Authorizing the town of Lynnfield to appropriate funds from the Golf Enterprise Fund to the Recreation Capital Trust Stabilization Fund (see House, No. 5416);

(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.

Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair,—

The engrossed Bill exempting the positions of police chief and deputy police chief in the city of Medford from the civil service law (see House, No. 5380) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Bill
enacted.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

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

Next
sitting.

At twenty-six minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Muradian of Grafton (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Monday at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.