

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025.

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JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Thursday, August 21, 2025.

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.

Guests of the House.

During the session, the Chair (Mr. Garballey of Arlington) declared a brief recess and introduced the Rolling Warriors Volt Hockey Team of North Attleboro, winners of the first-ever gold medal by a United States team at the North American Volt Hockey Championship, held in Toronto, Canada, in May of this year. The Chair commended their skill, teamwork and dedication, and wished them success at the Volt Hockey World Cup in Sweden in September.

Rolling Warriors
Volt Hockey
Team.

The Chair recognized the following team members: Mia Bean; Christian Caruso; Ellary Kinnane; Lara Liedtke; Vivienne Liedtke; and Maddie Manning.

The Chair further acknowledged the contributions of: Helena Liedtke, Co-Founder and President of Space2Thrive; Helge Liedtke, Coach of the Rolling Warriors and Co-Founder and Vice President of Space2Thrive; Craig Kinnane, Co-Coach; Paul Caruso, for equipment maintenance; Kim Damato, for helping bring volt hockey to the United States and purchasing the first eight volt-hockey wheelchairs; and Patrick Murphy, Sarah Hennessey, Jim Downs, Autumn Greco, Karen Bean, and the team at the Hockomock Area YMCA, Hurley Branch, for their partnership, practice space and support. They were the guests of Mr. Scanlon of North Attleborough and Senator Feeney.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Representative Berthiaume of Spencer) commending the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration for its recognition of the week of September 22, 2025 as Frontotemporal Degeneration Awareness Week;

Frontotemporal
degeneration.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Roy of Franklin) congratulating Dyuthi Papineni on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout of Scouting America; and

Dyuthi
Papineni.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Soter of Bellingham) congratulating town administrator Denis Fraine on the occasion of his retirement from the town of Bellingham;

Denis
Fraine.

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. Scanlon of North Attleborough, the resolutions (reported

by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Orders.

The Order (filed by Representatives Fiola of Fall River and Giannino of Revere) relative to extending until Monday, December 1, 2025 the time within which the committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies is authorized to report on current House documents, was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Economic Development and Emerging Technologies,—extension of time for reporting.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, reported that the order (House, No. 4436), ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Donato of Medford, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted.

The Order (filed by Representatives Arciero of Westford and Philips of Sharon) relative to extending until Wednesday, March 18, 2026 the time within which the committee on Transportation is authorized to report on current House documents, was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Transportation,—extension of time for reporting.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, reported that the order (House, No. 4433), ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Owens of Watertown, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted.

Communications.

Communications

From the Commissioner of the Division of Occupational Licensure (see Section 1 of Chapter 82A of the General Laws) submitting the Office of Public Safety and Inspections (OPSI) annual report on fines imposed, collected and expended regarding evacuation and trench safety for fiscal year 2025;

Evacuation and trench safety.

From the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (see item 1790-0100 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting a report on IT-related project expenditures for fiscal year 2025;

IT project expenditures.

From the Office of the Comptroller (see item 1595-0035 of Section 2E of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting the Twenty-First Century Education Trust Fund transfer schedule for fiscal year 2026;

Twenty-first century education trust fund.

From the Office of the Comptroller (see item 1595-0115 of Section 2E of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting the Civic Projects Trust Fund transfer schedule for fiscal year 2026; and

Civic projects trust fund.

From the Office of the Comptroller (see item 1595-0116 of Section 2E of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting the Genocide Education Trust Fund transfer schedule for fiscal year 2026;

Genocide education trust fund.

Severally were placed on file.

Monthly Reports.

Monthly reports

Of the Department of Unemployment Assistance (under Section 14F of Chapter 151A of the General Laws) relative to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund for July 2025; and

Unemployment insurance trust fund.

Of the Executive Office of the Trial Court (under Section 15 of Chapter 239 of the General Laws, as amended by Section 64 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its report on filings, actions, and dispositions of summary process cases relative to permanent rental protections;

Permanent
rental
protections.

Severally were placed on file.

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Moakley of Falmouth and Senator Cyr, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4437) of Thomas W. Moakley (by vote of the town) for legislation relative to the regulation of nutrient management and fertilizer in the town of Nantucket. To the committee on Agriculture and Fisheries.

Nantucket,—
fertilizer.

By Representative Blais of Deerfield and Senator Mark, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4434) of Natalie M. Blais and Paul W. Mark (by vote of the town) relative to providing for recall elections in the town of Charlemont. To the committee on Election Laws.

Charlemont,—
recall
elections.

By Representatives Gregoire of Marlborough and Gentile of Sudbury, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4439) of Danielle W. Gregoire (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to providing a simplified procedure for the layout and acceptance of subdivision roads in the city of Marlborough;

Marlborough,—
subdivision
roads.

By Representative Lombardo of Billerica, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4440) of Marc T. Lombardo and Cindy F. Friedman (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Billerica to transfer control of certain land of the town situated in the town of Billerica for recreational purposes for the purposes of constructing the Yankee Doodle Bike Path; and

Billerica,—
land.

By Representative Moakley of Falmouth and Senator Cyr, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4441) of Thomas W. Moakley (by vote of the town) for legislation to amend the charter for the town of Nantucket.

Nantucket,—
charter.

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

By Representative Vargas of Haverhill, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4442) of Andres X. Vargas (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that Anthony Morales be authorized to take the civil service examination for the position of police officer in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement; and

Haverhill,—
Anthony
Morales.

By the same member, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4443) of Andres X. Vargas (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Haverhill be authorized to further regulate the maximum age requirement for original appointment to the positions of firefighter or police officer in said city.

Haverhill,—
civil service.

Severally to the committee on Public Service.

By Representative Blais of Deerfield and Senator Mark, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4435) of Natalie M. Blais and Paul W. Mark (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Charlemont to establish a tax on commercial recreation services. To the committee on Revenue.

Charlemont,—
commercial
recreation.

Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Blais of Deerfield and Senator Comerford, a joint petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Natalie M. Blais and Joanne M. Comerford (by vote of

Deerfield,—
land.

the town) for legislation to authorize the release or exclusion of certain land from conservation restrictions in the town of Deerfield.

By Representative Blais of Deerfield and Senator Mark, a joint petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Natalie M. Blais and Paul W. Mark for legislation to establish a regional fire district and department for the towns of Charlemont and Rowe.

By Representative Cabral of New Bedford, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Antonio F. D. Cabral relative to benefit payments by the New Bedford Police Association.

By Representative Cusack of Braintree, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Mark J. Cusack relative to creditable service for Thomas Brooks.

By Representative Galvin of Canton (by request), a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Charles Strassman relative to condominium associations and management companies.

By the same member, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of William C. Galvin relative to protecting witnesses from intimidation.

By Representatives Hawkins of Attleboro and Pease of Westfield, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of James K. Hawkins and Kelly W. Pease relative to establishing an Orange Star license plate for veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

By Representative Scanlon of North Attleborough, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Adam J. Scanlon relative to fishing licenses for seniors.

Severally, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Charlemont
and Rowe,—
fire district.

New Bedford
Police,—
payments.

Thomas
Brooks.

Condominium
associations.

Witness
intimidation.

Orange star
license plate.

Fishing
licenses.

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules and the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the following petitions:

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Adam J. Scanlon for legislation to further regulate the sales and delivery of alcoholic beverages. To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Adam J. Scanlon for legislation to establish an exemption for personal vehicle values from the MassHealth asset limits. To the committee on Health Care Financing.

Petition (accompanied by bill) of Kathleen R. LaNatra for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for John C. Murphy, an employee of the Department of Correction. To the committee on Public Service.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Donato of Medford, the reports were considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 then was suspended, in each instance. Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Alcoholic
beverages,—
delivery.

MassHealth,—
asset limits.

John Murphy,—
sick leave.

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:

To update postural screenings in schools (House, No. 2517);

Relative to motor vehicle battery storage (House, No. 2652);

Relative to alcohol license permits and suspensions (House, No. 4275);

Creating a maximum allowable check-cashing rate for check cashers (House, No. 4277);

Modernizing the Massachusetts alcohol permitting laws (House, No. 4285);

Postural screenings.

Battery storage.

Alcohol licenses.

Check-cashing
rates.

Alcohol.

Authorizing the town of Somerset to grant an additional license for the sale of wine and malt beverages to be drunk off the premises (House, No. 4286) [Local Approval Received]; and

Somerset,—
liquor license.

Authorizing the city known as the town of West Springfield to grant 4 additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 4287) [Local Approval Received];

West
Springfield,—
liquor licenses.

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

By Mr. Cahill of Lynn, for the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, on a petition, a Bill relative to special state police officers (House, No. 2570).

Police
officers.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to fire safety education in schools and colleges (House, No. 2588).

Fire safety
education.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 2607 and 2682, a Bill relative to injured correctional officers (House, No. 2607).

Correctional
officers.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to violation of regulation regarding hot work processes (House, No. 2690).

Hot
work.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to implementing a blue alert system in the Commonwealth (House, No. 2729).

Blue alert
system.

By Mr. Ryan of Boston, for the committee on Public Service, on a petition, a Bill relative to retirement benefits for Mary Donna Nodurf (House, No. 2746).

Mary Donna
Nodurf.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill relative to the retirement benefits of Officer Brian Murphy of the Massachusetts State Police (House, No. 2790).

Brian
Murphy,—
retirement.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to creditable service for Lynn Turner, a member of the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System (House, No. 2806).

Lynn Turner,—
creditable
service.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the amendment of M.G.L. c.32, section 4(2)(b) and 4(2)(c), solely as they relate to the calculation of Walter L. Guertin's pension (House, No. 2861).

Walter
Guertin,—
pension.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to certain retirement benefits for the surviving spouse of a state police officer injured in the line of duty (House, No. 2886)

Felicia
O'Connor,—
benefits.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill granting creditable service to Cheryl DiLisio, an employee of Nahant public schools (House, No. 2944)

Cheryl DiLisio,—
creditable
service.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill providing the next of kin of a police officer or firefighter killed in the line of duty with the flags of the Commonwealth and the United States (House, No. 2993)

Line of
duty deaths,—
flags.

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

By Mr. Ryan of Boston, for the committee on Public Service, on a petition, a Bill relative to retired Quincy firefighter Kevin Bythrow (House, No. 2775) [Local Approval Received].

Quincy,—
Kevin
Bythrow.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the maximum age requirement for firefighters for the town of Bedford (House, No. 2852) [Local Approval Required].

Bedford,—
firefighters.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing the continued employment of Steven A. Hilliger, firefighter of the town of Lancaster (House, No. 2879) [Local Approval Received].

Lancaster,—
Steven
Hilliger.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill regarding the disability pension for Misael Rodriguez administered by the Springfield retirement board (House, No. 2939) [Local Approval Received].

Springfield,—
Misael
Rodriguez.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing Stephen Justice to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 2985) [Local Approval Received].

Haverhill,—
Stephen
Justice.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing Javier Vargas to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 2986) [Local Approval Received].

Haverhill,—
Javier
Vargas.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing Brittany Sproule to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 2987) [Local Approval Received].

Haverhill,—
Brittany
Sproule.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing Freddy Castaneda to take the civil service examination for the position of police officer in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 2988) [Local Approval Received].

Haverhill,—
Freddy
Castaneda.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the disability retirement of Casey L'Italien, a police officer in the city known as the town of Randolph (House, No. 3914) [Local Approval Received].

Randolph,—
Casey L'Italien.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the retirement of Greg Heath, a former firefighter of the city of Westfield (House, No. 3963) [Local Approval Received].

Westfield,—
Greg Heath.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill Lieutenant Deputy Sheriff Brian McPherson disability pension [sic] (House, No. 3978) [Local Approval Received].

Brian
McPherson,—
retirement.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Paul Starvaski (House, No. 4426).

Paul Starvaski,—
sick leave.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Ankita Gajendra Patel, an employee of the department of corrections [sic] (House, No. 4427).

Ankita
Gajendra Patel,—
sick leave.

By Mr. Arciero of Westford, for the committee on Transportation, on a petition, a Bill relative to improved headlight safety (House, No. 3778).

Headlight
safety.

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

Engrossed Bill.

The engrossed Bill increasing the membership of the select board in the town of Mattapoisett (see House, No. 4245) (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.

Orders of the Day.

House bills

Relative to certain licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises in the city of Holyoke (House, No. 360); and

Establishing a special fund for the festival of the hills receipts for the town of Conway (House, No. 2251);

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.

The House Bill establishing a charter for the city of Somerville (House, No. 4264), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Somerville,—
charter.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Walsh of Peabody moved to amend it by substitution of a bill with the same title (House, No. 4445), which was read.

The amendment was adopted; and the substituted bill 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 Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Next
sitting.

At eighteen minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus (Mr. Garballey of Arlington being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Monday at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.