

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025.

[78]

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Thursday, August 28, 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.

Appointment of the Minority Leader.

The Minority Leader announced that (under the provisions of Section 14 of Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2016) he had re-appointed Mary J. Gatslick of Plymouth to the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel.

Nuclear
panel.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Representatives Ashe of Longmeadow and Puppolo of Springfield) congratulating the Monson Lions Club on its seventieth anniversary;

Monson
Lions Club.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Ramos of North Andover) congratulating the town of Groveland on the one hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary of its incorporation; and

Groveland.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Roy of Franklin) congratulating James McLaughlin on celebrating his retirement from the Franklin Fire Department;

James
McLaughlin.

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. Saunders of Belchertown, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Communications.

Communications

From the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (see item 4595-1068 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting the Department of Public Health's report entitled: "Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children Status";

Pappas
Rehabilitation
Hospital.

From the Office of the Comptroller (see item 1595-1068 of Section 2E of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting the Medical Assistance Trust Fund transfer schedule for fiscal year 2026;

Medical
assistance.

From the Office of the Comptroller (see item 1595-6368 of Section 2E of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting the Massachusetts Transportation Trust Fund (MTTF) transfer schedule for fiscal year 2026;

Transportation
trust fund.

From the Office of the Comptroller (see item 1595-6369 of Section 2E of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) transfer report for fiscal year 2026; and

MBTA.

From the Office of the Comptroller (see item 1595-6379 of Section 2E of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting the Merit Rating Board transfer report for fiscal year 2026;

Merit
Rating
Board.

Severally were placed on file.

Orders.

The Order (filed by Representatives Barber of Somerville and Cataldo of Concord) relative to extending until Wednesday, December 31, 2025 the time within which the committee on Environment and Natural Resources is authorized to report on current House documents, was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Environment
and Natural
Resources,—
extension
of time for
reporting.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, reported that the order (House, No. 4458), ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Vieira of Falmouth, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted.

The Order (filed by Representatives Haggerty of Woburn and Ramos of North Andover) relative to extending until Thursday, October 2, 2025 the time within which the committee on Housing is authorized to report on current House documents, was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Housing,—
extension
of time for
reporting.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, reported that the order (House, No. 4455), ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Saunders of Belchertown, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted.

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 a commission to study the intentional misrepresentation of a service animal (House, No. 4371),— and recommending that the same be referred to the House committee on Rules. Under Rule 42, the report was considered forthwith; and it was accepted.

Service
animals,—
commission.

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

The Senate Bill further regulating the Gloucester Fisheries Commission (Senate, No. 2566); and

Gloucester,—
fisheries.

House Bills

Authorizing a special election in the city of Methuen to fill a vacancy in the Office of Mayor (House, No. 838) [Local Approval Received];

Methuen,—
mayor.

Relative to assault and battery upon a transit worker (House, No. 1877);

Transit workers.

Authorizing the city of New Bedford Retirement Board to provide certain retirement benefits to Lavar Gilbert (House, No. 2864) [Local Approval Received];

New Bedford,—
Lavar Gilbert.

Designating veterans suicide awareness and remembrance day (House, No. 3388);

Veterans
suicide day.

Providing for recall elections in the town of Berlin (House, No. 3896) [Local Approval Received];

Berlin,—
recall elections.

Providing for violent act injury retirement benefits for retirement police officer Leo MacAskill (House, No. 3915) [Local Approval Received];

Increasing the age limit for retired police officers serving as special police officers in the town of Weston (House, No. 4031) [Local Approval Received];

Changing the term of the elected office of moderator in the town of Holden (House, No. 4211) [Local Approval Received];

Authorizing the town of Hingham to utilize alternative methods for publication of legal notices (House, No. 4244) [Local Approval Received]; and

To enforce support orders for adult children in need of support (House, No. 4327).

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

By Mr. Stanley of Waltham, for the committee on Aging and Independence, on a petition, a Bill relative to providing dental care to senior citizens (House, No. 758).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to home care services (House, No. 762, changed in line 1 by striking out the words “elder affairs” and inserting in place thereof the words “aging and independence”).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to assisted living and the frail elder waiver (House, No. 791).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 780, a Bill establishing the hospital to home partnership program (House, No. 4432).

Referred, under Joint Rule 1E, to the committee on Health Care Financing.

By Mr. Livingstone of Boston, for the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, on a petition, a Bill to amend the structure of the Commission of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (House, No. 225). Read; and referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

By Mr. Stanley of Waltham, for the committee on Aging and Independence, on a petition, a Bill relative to LGBT and HIV-positive seniors in the Commonwealth (House, No. 776, changed in line 1 by striking out the figures: “44” and inserting in place thereof the figures: “45”).

By Mr. Livingstone of Boston, for the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, on a petition, a Bill relative to child fatality review (House, No. 234).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to a loan repayment program for human services workers (House, No. 283).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 227 and 262, a Bill enhancing child welfare protections (House, No. 4416).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 247, a Bill updating the juvenile justice policy and data board (House, No. 4417).

By Mr. Rogers of Cambridge, for the committee on Higher Education, on a petition, a Bill relative to admissions requirements to institutions of higher education (House, No. 1458).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 1425 and 1452, a Bill banning legacy and donor preferences in higher education (House, No. 4406).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 1430, 1432, 1435, 1441 and 1455, a Bill relative to college in high school (House, No. 4407).

Revere,—
Leo MacAskill.

Weston,—
police officers.

Holden,—
moderator.

Hingham,—
charter.

Adult children,—
support orders.

Dental care,—
seniors.

Home care
services.

Frail elder
waiver.

Hospital to
home program.

Grandparents
raising
grandchildren.

LGBT
seniors.

Child
fatalities.

Human service
workers.

Child welfare
protections.

Juvenile
justice.

Public
universities,—
admissions.

Id.

Advanced
placement.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1466, a Bill establishing the hunger free campus initiative (House, No. 4408).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1467, a Bill to facilitate student financial assistance (House, No. 4409).

By Mr. Cahill of Lynn, for the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, on a petition, a Bill ensuring confidentiality for emergency service providers (House, No. 2668).

By Mr. Ryan of Boston, for the committee on Public Service, on a petition, a Bill providing killed in the line of duty benefits to Joanne Songy, surviving spouse of Detective John D. Songy, a police officer of the town of Rutland (House, No. 2823).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill regarding the disability pension for John Moran administered by the Middlesex County retirement board (House, No. 2922).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to the disability retirement of David Patterson, a police officer in the of Commonwealth of Massachusetts (sic) (House, No. 2953).

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 establishing a sick leave bank for John C. Murphy (House, No. 4454). Read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Food security.

Students,—
financial aid.

Emergency
service
providers.

Rutland,—
Joanne Songy.

John Moran,—
retirement.

David
Patterson,—
retirement.

John
Murphy,—
sick leave.

Emergency Measures.

The engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for James Caruso, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (see House, No. 4230), 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.

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 4 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.

James
Caruso,—
sick leave.

Bill
enacted.

The engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Carlos Borges, an employee of the Department of Correction (see House, No. 4322, amended), 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.

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 7 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.

Carlos
Borges,—
sick leave.

Bill
enacted.

Engrossed Bill.

The engrossed Bill dissolving the Wellesley Housing Development Corporation (see House, No. 4139) (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

To increase the income limit for the Senior Tax Deferral Program in the town of Ipswich (House, No. 3156) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading); and

Third
reading
bills.

Relative to the assessment of local property taxes in the city of Springfield (House, No. 3213);

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 House Bill amending the charter of the town of Seekonk (House, No. 3913), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Seekonk,—
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. 4459), 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 Tuesday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Next
sitting.

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