

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025.

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Thursday, September 18, 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.

Statement of Representative Swezey of Duxbury.

A statement of Mr. Swezey of Duxbury 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 not present in the House Chamber for yesterday's sitting due to unforeseen circumstances. If I had been present for the taking of roll call number 73, I would have voted in the affirmative. My missing of said roll call was due entirely to the reason stated.

Statement of
Representative
Swezey of
Duxbury.

Orders.

The following orders were referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules:

Order (filed by Representatives Stanley of Waltham and Montaño of Boston) relative to extending until Wednesday, December 3, 2025 the time within which the committee on Aging and Independence is authorized to report on a current House document (House, No. 4535).

Extensions
of time for
committees to
make reports.

Order (filed by Representatives Chan of Quincy and Keefe of Worcester) relative to extending until Wednesday, March 18, 2026 the time within which the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure is authorized to report on current House documents (House, No. 4540).

Order (filed by Representatives Haggerty of Woburn and Ramos of North Andover) relative to extending until Friday, October 31, 2025 the time within which the committee on Housing is authorized to report on current House documents (House, No. 4541).

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 (House, No. 4527).

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, reported that the orders ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, in each instance, on motion of Mr. Owens of Watertown, the orders were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Communications.

Communications

From the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (see Section 18 ¾ of Chapter 6A of the General Laws) submitting a report for Firearm-Related Activity in Massachusetts for calendar years 2022-2023;

Firearm activity.

From the Department of Mental Health (see Section 23 of Chapter 19 of the General Laws) submitting the annual report of the Children's Behavioral Health Knowledge Center for fiscal year 2024;

Children's Behavioral Health Knowledge Center.

From the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (see item 8000-0601 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting the Office of Grants and Research Commonwealth Project Safe Neighborhoods annual report for fiscal year 2025;

Project Safe Neighborhoods.

From the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (see item 8000-0605 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting the Office of Grants and Research Human Trafficking Enforcement and Training annual report for fiscal year 2025;

Human trafficking.

From the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (see item 8000-0655 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting the Office of Grants and Research Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative annual report for fiscal year 2025;

Emerging adult reentry.

From the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (see item 8000-1127 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting the Office of Grants and Research Commonwealth Nonprofit Security Grant Program annual report for fiscal year 2025; and

Nonprofit security grants.

From the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (see item 8100-0111 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting the Office of Grants and Research Charles E. Shannon Jr. Community Safety Initiative annual report for fiscal year 2025;

Shannon grants.

Severally were placed on file.

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representatives Hawkins of Attleboro and Pease of Westfield, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of James K. Hawkins, Kelly W. Pease and others for legislation to designate August 10th as Agent Orange awareness day.

Agent Orange awareness day.

By Representative Scarsdale of Pepperell and Senator Cronin, a joint petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Margaret R. Scarsdale that the Department of Conservation and Recreation be authorized to designate a certain trail in the J. Harry Rich State Forest in the town of Groton as the Marion Stoddart riverwalk.

Groton,—
Stoddart riverwalk.

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

Papers from the Senate.

Petitions severally were referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, as follows:

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2614) of Joanne M. Comerford for legislation to reform charter school funding in Massachusetts. To the committee on Education.

Charter schools,—
funding.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2613) of Joan B. Lovely for legislation to authorize the retirement board of the city of Salem to retire Kathleen Rocheville, a police officer of the city of Salem. To the committee on Public Service.

Salem,—
Kathleen Rocheville.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2612) of Joanne M. Comerford for legislation to provide for utility shutoff protections during periods of extreme heat. To the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

Utility
shutoffs.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2611) of Joanne M. Comerford for legislation to educate the public on the importance of wearing a seatbelt while riding in a vehicle carrying many passengers. To the committee Transportation.

Seatbelts.

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:

Relative to employees of the Dedham Westwood Water District (House, No. 2917);

Dedham Westwood
Water District.

Relative to the membership of the PRIM Board (House, No. 2933);

PRIM Board.

Relative to the Williamstown Library Trustees (House, No. 4347) [Local Approval Received]; and

Williamstown,—
library trustees.

Relative to rodeos (House, No. 4424).

Rodeos.

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

By Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, that the Bill establishing a legislative commission to study and make recommendations regarding the Chapter 70 funding formula (House, No. 555) ought to pass. Referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Chapter 70,—
funding study.

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 to amend the structure of the Commission of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (House, No. 225),— 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.

Grandparents
raising
grandchildren.

By Mr. Gordon of Bedford, for the committee on Education, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 684) of Jeffrey N. Roy, Marjorie C. Decker and Carlos González relative to providing for the availability of disposable menstrual products in schools,— and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Public Health. Under Rule 42, the report was considered forthwith; and it was accepted. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Schools,—
menstrual
products.

By Mr. Murphy of Weymouth, for the committee on Financial Services, on a petition, a Bill protecting 340B contract pharmacies (House, No. 785).

Drug pricing
pharmacies.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to enact the pharmacy benefit manager compensation reform (House, No. 1082).

Pharmacy
benefit managers.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to enact pharmacy benefit manager duties (House, No. 1167).

Id.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to prescription medication re-authorization (House, No. 1222).

Prescriptions,—
re-authorization.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to prescription drug pricing (House, No. 1324).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to enact pharmacy benefit manager duties (House, No. 1334).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1330, a Bill relative to pharmacy benefit managers reimbursements to pharmacies in the Commonwealth (House, No. 4488).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1092, a Bill to ensure affordable prescription medications through accountability standards (House, No. 4489).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1107, a Bill prohibiting discrimination against 340b drug discount program participants (House, No. 4490).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1125, a Bill relative to non-medical switching (House, No. 4491).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1133, a Bill relative to patient financial protection (House, No. 4492).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1157, a Bill to ensure access to prescription medication and community pharmacies (House, No. 4493).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1274, a Bill prohibiting PBMs from discriminating against hospitals and patients participating in the 340B drug discount program (House, No. 4494).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1296, a Bill to protect 340B providers (House, No. 4495).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1305, a Bill to help patients and reduce health care costs by ensuring patient adherence to medications (House, No. 4496).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, No. 1322, a Bill ensuring access to specialty medications (House, No. 4497).

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

By Mr. Murphy of Weymouth, for the committee on Financial Services, on a petition, a Bill relative to pharmacy benefit managers (House, No. 1234).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to promoting healthcare access and affordability for patients (House, No. 1364).

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 joint petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Candy J. Pike, an employee of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) (House, No. 4514).

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Kathleen Rodrigue (House, No. 4521).

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

Prescriptions,—
pricing.

Pharmacy
benefit managers.

Id.

Prescriptions,—
affordability.

Drug pricing,—
participants.

Prescriptions,—
alternate drugs.

Prescriptions,—
out-of-pocket.

Community
pharmacies.

Drug pricing,—
discrimination.

Drug pricing,—
providers.

Prescriptions,—
costs.

Specialty
medications.

Pharmacy
benefit managers.

Healthcare
access.

Candy Pike,—
sick leave.

Kathleen
Rodrigue,—
sick leave.

Orders of the Day.

House bills

Relative to certain powers of the board of water commissioners of the Cotuit Fire District (House, No. 2258) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading);

Third
reading
bills.

Relative to the charter of the town of Acushnet (House, No. 2341);

Relative to the charter of the town of Provincetown (House, No. 4175);

Relative to the charter of the town of Provincetown (House, No. 4176); and

Changing the term of the elected office of moderator in the town of Holden (House, No. 4211);

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 relative to making the charter of the city of Chicopee gender neutral (House, No. 2244), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Chicopee,—
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. 4542), which was read.

The amendment was adopted; and the substituted bill was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The House Bill designating veterans suicide awareness and remembrance day (House, No. 3388), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Veterans
suicide day.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Walsh of Peabody moved to amend it 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 designate forthwith September 22 as Military Service Members and Veterans Suicide Awareness and Remembrance Day, 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 (House, No. 3388, amended) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Recess.

At thirteen minutes after eleven o’clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House recessed subject to the call of the Chair; and at ten minutes after one o’clock P.M., the House was called to order with Mr. Donato in the Chair.

Recess.

Emergency Measures.

The engrossed Bill making appropriations for fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (see House, No. 4530), 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.

Supplemental
appropriations.

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 2 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.

The engrossed Bill establishing the 2026 state primary election date (see House, No. 4531), 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.

State primary
election
date.

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 2 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.

Engrossed Bill.

The engrossed Bill designating July 2 as Machado-Joseph Disease Awareness Day (see House, No. 3298) (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-one minutes after one o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus (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.