

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026.

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JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Thursday, September 24, 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.

Message from the Governor.

A message from Her Excellency the Governor making appropriations for the fiscal year 2026 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (House, No. 5679), was filed in the office of the Clerk on Wednesday, September 23.

Supplemental
appropriations.

The message was read; and it was referred, under Rule 30, with the accompanying draft of a bill, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Guests of the House.

During the session, the Chair (Mr. Garballey of Arlington) declared a brief recess and introduced, seated in the Chamber, Kim McElwee, Marisa DiLenge, Frank Maglio and John Wilson. They were the guests of Mr. Donato of Medford.

McElwee,
DiLenge, Maglio
and Wilson.

Appointment of the Speaker.

The Speaker announced that (under the provisions of Section 69 of Chapter 3 of the General Laws) he had reappointed Representative Donato of Medford and Gail Williams of Boston to the permanent commission on the status of grandparents raising grandchildren.

Grandparents
raising
grandchildren.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Representative Fluker-Reid of Boston and other members of the House) congratulating the Boston (MA) chapter of the Links, Incorporated on its seventy-fifth anniversary; and

Links,
Incorporated.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Owens of Watertown and other members of the House) commending the CVI Center at Perkins School for the Blind in recognizing the month of September 2026 as Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment Awareness Month;

Perkins School
for the Blind.

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. Donato of Medford, 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 Section 217(c) of Chapter 6 of the General Laws) submitting its annual report of the Massachusetts Autism Commission for fiscal year 2025;

From the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (see Section 18 ¾ (8) of Chapter 6A of the General Laws) submitting the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) annual report for calendar year 2024;

From the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (see Section 18H(b) of Chapter 6A of the General Laws) submitting the State 911 Annual Report for calendar years 2023, 2024 and 2025 and the fiscal year 2025 Grant Expenditure Report;

From the Division of Insurance (see Section 8M(d) of Chapter 26 of the General Laws) submitting the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act Summary report for calendar year 2024;

From the Fall River District Registry of Deeds (see Section 2KKK of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its plan for expenditure for technological improvements from the County Registers Technological Fund [copies of the communication were forwarded to the committees on Ways and Means and Post Audit and Oversight, as required by said law];

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-eighth 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];

From the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (see Section 2WWW of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting the MassHealth Non-Acute Care Hospital Reimbursement Trust Fund report for October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025;

From the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (see Section 2B(f) of Chapter 64C of the General Laws) submitting the annual report of the State Fire Marshall regarding the effectiveness of the Massachusetts Fire Standard Compliant Cigarette Law for calendar year 2025;

From the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (see Section 92(p) of Chapter 71 of the General Laws) submitting a report on the Implementation and Fiscal Impact of Innovation Schools for fiscal years 2023 and 2024;

From the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office (see Section 47(d) of Chapter 94C of the General Laws) submitting a report on its fiscal year 2026 expenditures for drug rehabilitation, drug education and other anti-drug or neighborhood crime watch programs;

From the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office (see Section 47(d) of Chapter 94C of the General Laws) submitting a report on its fiscal year 2026 expenditures for drug rehabilitation, drug education and other anti-drug or neighborhood crime watch programs;

From the Office of the Veteran Advocate (see Section 4 of Chapter 115B of the General Laws) submitting its annual report for fiscal year 2026;

Autism.

Fire Incident Reporting System.

911 and grant expenditures.

Mental health and addiction equity.

Fall River,—technology fund.

Norfolk County,—technology fund.

MassHealth non-acute hospital reimbursement.

Fire Standard Cigarette Law.

Innovation schools.

Middlesex District Attorney,—drugs and crime.

Plymouth District Attorney,—drugs and crime.

Veteran Advocate.

From the Department of Correction (see Section 6A of Chapter 124 of the General Laws) submitting the Department of Correction inventory and operational capacity report for January 1 to June 30, 2024;

Sheriffs,—
operational
capacity.

From the Department of Correction (see Section 6A of Chapter 124 of the General Laws) submitting the Department of Correction inventory and operational capacity report for July 1 to December 31, 2024;

Id.

From the Department of Correction (see Section 6A of Chapter 124 of the General Laws) submitting the Department of Correction inventory and operational capacity report for July 1 to December 31, 2023;

Id.

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 2025;

Crime
guns.

From the Executive Office for Administration and Finance and the Executive Office for Housing and Livable Communities (see Section 10 of Chapter 1 and Section 88 of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 2025 and Section 19 of Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024) submitting the September 3, 2026 biweekly report on the emergency housing assistance program; and

Emergency
housing
assistance.

From the Executive Office for Administration and Finance and the Executive Office for Housing and Livable Communities (see Section 10 of Chapter 1 and Section 88 of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 2025 and Section 19 of Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024) submitting the August 20, 2026 biweekly report on the emergency housing assistance program;

Id.

Severally were placed on file.

Reports.

Reports

Of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (under Section 2(B)(q) of Chapter 18 and Section 16 of Chapter 118 of the General Laws) submitting the Department of Transitional Assistance report on Economic Independence Accounts for fiscal year 2026 [copies were forwarded to the committee on Ways and Means, and the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, as required by said law]; and

Economic
Independence
Accounts.

Of the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office (under Section 24W(e) of Chapter 90 of the General Laws) submitting a report on its fiscal year 2026 Operating Under the Influence Deterrent Trust Fund (Melanie's Law);

Melanie's
Law.

Severally were placed on file.

Paper from the Senate.

The House Bill further regulating the Ayer Library (House, No. 4174) (its title having been changed by the Senate committee on Bills in the Third Reading), came from the Senate passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with an amendment in section 3 by striking out the second sentence and inserting in place thereof the following 2 sentences: "Vacancies on the board of trustees shall be filled until the next annual town election by the remaining members of the board of trustees and the select board at a joint meeting held after 1 week's notice has been posted on the town website, the town bulletin board, if any, and at the Ayer Library. Alternatively, the select board may call for a special election to fill a vacancy; provided, however, that a person

Ayer library.

elected at a special election to fill such vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.”.

The amendment was referred, under Rule 35, to the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

Report 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 joint petition of Sean Garballey, Cindy F. Friedman and David M. Rogers relative to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority red line extension. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Donato of Medford, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the joint petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Transportation. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

MBTA,—
red line.

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

Authorizing the Dracut Water Supply District to supply and sell water to certain customers in the town of Dracut (see House, No. 4101, amended);

Authorizing the select board of the town of Hull to establish a schedule of fines for parking violations (see House, No. 4247);

Amending the town of Arlington's means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (see House, No. 4575, amended);

Authorizing the town of Bourne to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (see House, No. 5347);

Authorizing the town of Natick to continue the employment of police chief James Hicks beyond the age of 65 (see House, No. 5427);

Authorizing the town of Natick to continue the employment of deputy police chief Brian Lauzon (see House, No. 5428); and

Authorizing the town of Southborough to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (see House, No. 5546);

(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.

Bills
enacted.

Orders of the Day.

The Senate amendment of the House Bill relative to the nomination process for candidates for town meeting in Milford (House, No. 4185), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was adopted, in concurrence.

Milford,—
town meeting.

The Senate Bill reclassifying fire alarm operators in the city of Beverly (Senate, No. 1876), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time; and it was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.

Third
reading
bill.

The House Bill relative to the department of public works in the town of Barre (House, No. 5601), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be

Id.

correctly drawn, was read a third time; and it 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 eleven minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Soter of Bellingham (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.