

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026.

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JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Thursday, October 1, 2026.

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.

Messages from the Governor — Bills Returned with Recommendation of Amendment.

A message from Her Excellency the Governor returning with recommendation of amendment the engrossed Bill amending the charter of the town of Nantucket [see House, No. 4441, changed] (for message, see House, No. 5680), was filed in the office of the Clerk on Monday, September 28.

Nantucket,—
charter.

The message was read; and, under the provisions of Article LVI of the Amendments to the Constitution, the bill was thereupon “before the General Court and subject to amendment and re-enactment”.

Pending the question on adoption of the amendment recommended by Her Excellency, the bill was referred, on motion of Mr. Walsh of Peabody, to the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

A message from Her Excellency the Governor returning with recommendation of amendment the engrossed Bill amending the charter of the city of Pittsfield [see House, No. 4716, amended] (for message, see House, No. 5683), was filed in the office of the Clerk on Wednesday, September 30.

Pittsfield,—
charter.

The message was read; and, under the provisions of Article LVI of the Amendments to the Constitution, the bill was thereupon “before the General Court and subject to amendment and re-enactment”.

Pending the question on adoption of the amendment recommended by Her Excellency, the bill was referred, on motion of Mr. Walsh of Peabody, to the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

Appointment of the Speaker.

The Speaker announced that (under the provisions of Section 2A of Chapter 71B of the General Laws) he had appointed Representative Armini of Marblehead to serve as co-chair on the Bureau of Special Education Appeals Advisory Council, replacing Representative Lipper-Garabedian of Melrose.

Special
Education
Appeals Advisory
Council.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Representative Jones of North Reading) commending the AADC Family Network in acknowledging October 23, 2026 as AADC Deficiency Awareness Day in Massachusetts;

AADC
Family
Network.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Soter of Bellingham) congratulating Reverend Albert M. Faretra on the occasion of his entering of senior priest status;

Albert
Faretra.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Soter of Bellingham) congratulating Carolyn Joan Prescott on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday; and

Carolyn
Prescott.

Resolutions (filed by Representative Worrell of Boston) honoring District Elder Dr. Margaret Booker on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday;

Margaret
Booker.

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

Papers from the Senate.

The House Bill designating a certain intersection in the town of Pembroke as the Lavina A. Hatch corner (House, No. 3790), came from the Senate passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document 3276. Referred, under Rule 35, to the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

Pembroke,—
Hatch corner.

A joint petition (accompanied by bill) of Brendan P. Crighton and Donald H. Wong for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Jessica Lynlee Ayala, an employee of the department of corrections, came from the Senate referred, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Service.

Jessica Lynlee
Ayala,—
sick leave.

The House then concurred with the Senate in the suspension of said rule; and the joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3278) was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Public Service.

The following notices were received from the Senate, to wit:—

October 1, 2026.

Honorable Timothy Carroll
Clerk of the House of Representatives
Room 145, State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Mr. Clerk:

I have the honor to inform you that the Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate made the following appointments:

Senator John F. Keenan (pursuant to Section 36 of Chapter 285 of the Acts of 2024) to the Special Commission to study and make recommendations on ways to address the public health and safety concerns posed by the proliferation of xylazine;

Xylazine
commission.

Michael Vaughan (pursuant to Section 305 of Chapter 238 of the Acts of 2024) to the Special working group on youth sports to conduct an investigation and study the current state of youth sports;

Senator Dylan A. Fernandes (pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter 277 of the Acts of 2010) to the Food Policy Council;

Lisa Jenike and Nicole Nyberg (pursuant to Section 260 of the Acts of 2020) to the Rare Disease Advisory Council;

Senator Rebecca L. Rausch as co-chair (pursuant to Section 163 of Chapter 238 of the Acts of 2024) to the permanent commission on recruitment, hiring and retention of municipal police officers and firefighters in the commonwealth;

Senator Joanne M. Comerford (pursuant to Chapter 3 of the Resolves of 2016, revived and continued by Section 308 of Chapter 238 of the acts of 2024) to the Special commission on local and regional public health to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of municipal and regional public health systems;

Re-appointment of David Rosenbloom (pursuant to Chapter 309 of the Acts of 2020) to the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Council;

Senator Joanne M. Comerford and Senator Sal N. DiDomenico (pursuant to Executive Order 643) to the Governor's Anti-Hunger Task Force;

Senator Paul R. Feeney (pursuant to Section 35QQ of Chapter 10 of the Massachusetts General Laws) to the Economic Empowerment Trust Fund;

Senator Barry R. Finegold (pursuant to Executive Order 644) to the Advisory Commission on Advancing Research and Discovery in Massachusetts;

Senator Adam G. Gomez replacing Senator Liz Miranda as co-chair (pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Acts of 2010, as most recently amended by Chapter 350 of the Acts of 2016) to the special commission on Ellen Story commission on Postpartum Depression;

Senator Joanne M. Comerford (pursuant to Executive Order 645) to the Commission on PILOT for State-Owned Land;

Senator Dylan A. Fernandes (pursuant to Section 4C of Chapter 21A of the Massachusetts General Laws) to the Ocean Advisory Commission;

Natascha George and Heather Panahi (pursuant to Section 66 of Chapter 3 of the Massachusetts General Laws) to the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women;

Senator Pavel A. Payano (pursuant to Section 3A, Chapter 15D of the Massachusetts General Laws) to the State Advisory Council on Early Education and Care;

Senator James B. Eldridge (pursuant to Executive Order 645) to the Commission on PILOT for State-Owned Land;

Senator Nick Collins (pursuant to Section 132 of Chapter 24 of the Acts of 2021, as amended by section 42 of chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023) to the Special commission on the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the American Revolution;

Dr. Melissa Spash to serve as her designee (pursuant to Section 37P of Chapter 71 of the Massachusetts General Laws) on the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding Review Commission;

Senator Paul R. Feeney and Senator Barry R. Finegold (pursuant to Executive Order 647) to the Governor's Competitiveness Council;

Senator William J. Driscoll, Jr. and Senator Dylan A. Fernandes (pursuant to Chapter 69 of the Acts of 2003), Selection Committee for the Madeline Amy Sweeney Award for Civilian Bravery;

Youth sports commission.

Food Policy Council.

Rare Disease Advisory Council.

Municipal police and firefighter retention.

Local and regional public health.

Opioid recovery council.

Anti-Hunger Task Force.

Economic empowerment.

Advancing research.

Postpartum depression commission.

PILOT commission.

Ocean Advisory Commission.

Status of Women.

Early Education and Care.

PILOT commission.

250th American Revolution anniversary.

School resource officers.

Competitiveness Council.

Sweeney award selection committee.

Senators Lydia Edwards and Pavel M. Payano (pursuant to Section 15 of Chapter 163 of the Acts of 2026) to commission on immigration matters in the commonwealth;

Superintendent Armand Pires (pursuant to Section 4 of Chapter 70 of the General Laws) to the Chapter 70 Foundation Budget Review Commission;

Senator Dylan A. Fernandes (pursuant to Section 152 of Chapter 178 of the Acts of 2024) to the Special commission to study and develop proposals for ways to improve the quality of life of veterans in the commonwealth; and

Senator Joanne Comerford (pursuant to Section 109 of Chapter 137 of the Acts of 2026) to serve on the Special Commission to Review Transitional Planning Services.

Immigration
matters
commission.

Foundation
budget.

Veterans
quality of life
commission.

Transitional
planning services.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL D. HURLEY,
Clerk of the Senate.

October 1, 2026.

Honorable Timothy Carroll
Clerk of the House of Representatives
Room 145, State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Mr. Clerk:

I have the honor to inform you that the Honorable Bruce E. Tarr, Minority Leader of the Senate made the following appointments:

Senator Patrick M. O'Connor (pursuant to Chapter 29 of the Acts of 2020) Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund advisory council when current appointee John Rosenthal's term ends May 25, 2025;

Senator Peter J. Durant (pursuant to Chapter 3 of the Acts of 2016) to the special commission on local and regional public health;

Tai Pasquini (under section 26 of chapter 260 of the Acts of 2020) to the Rare Disease Advisory Council;

Senator Peter J. Durant (pursuant to Section 42 of Chapter 19A of the General Laws) to the Commission of Malnutrition Prevention Among Older Adults;

Senator Peter J. Durant (pursuant to Section 3A of Chapter 15D of the General Laws) to the Early Education and Care Advisory Council;

Michael Fortini (pursuant to Section 14 of Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2016) to the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel;

Michael Coyne (pursuant to Section 213 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) to the special commission to study current law and practice around the collection of delinquent property tax revenue by cities and towns;

Eric Mitchell (pursuant to Section 79 of Chapter 154 of the Acts of 2018) to the Early Education and Care Workforce Council;

Michael Hursh (pursuant to Section 37P(b) of Chapter 71 of the General Laws) to the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding (SRO MOU) Review Commission;

Opioid recovery
council.

Local public
health.

Rare Disease
Advisory Council.

Malnutrition
prevention.

Early education
and care.

Nuclear
decommissioning.

Delinquent
property tax
collection.

Early education
workforce.

School resource
officers.

Senator Peter J. Durant (pursuant to Section 64 of Chapter 137 of the Acts of 2026) to the foundation budget review commission to review the way foundation budgets are calculated and to make recommendations for potential changes in those calculations as the commission deems appropriate for prekindergarten to grade 12, inclusive;

Foundation
budget.

Senator Patrick J. O'Connor (pursuant to Section 109 of Chapter 137 of the Acts of 2026) to the special commission to: (i) review current practices and gaps in transitional planning services; (ii) prepare a comprehensive plan to address the complex and growing number and needs of persons with disabilities whose entitlement to services under special education programs has terminated or will terminate as a result of such person's graduation from high school or attainment of age 22, hereafter referred to as transition-age youth; and (iii) recommend solutions to improve transition planning services and outcomes for transition-age youth and their families or guardians;

Transitional
planning services.

Tara Gregorio of MA Senior Care (pursuant to Section 4 of Chapter 180 of the Acts of 2026) to the special commission to study and report on the creation of a statewide long-term services and supports benefit program.

Long-term
services and
supports.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL D. HURLEY,
Clerk of the Senate.

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 joint petition of Sean Garballey, Cindy F. Friedman and David M. Rogers for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Carry Shulock-Sexton, an employee of the Department of Agricultural Resources. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Garballey of Arlington, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the joint petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Public Service. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Carry Shulock-
Sexton,—
sick leave.

By Mr. Honan of Boston, for the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, that the House Bill relative to Fall River polling places (House, No. 5556) [Local Approval Received], be scheduled for consideration by the House.

Fall River,—
polling places.

Under suspension of Rule 7A, on motion of Mr. Garballey of Arlington, the bill was read a second time forthwith; and it was ordered to a third reading.

By Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules, that the Bill relative to supported decision-making agreements for certain adults (House, No. 4852) ought to pass. Referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means, with the amendment previously recommended by the committee on Health Care Financing.

Supported
decision-
making.

By Mr. Ryan of Boston, for the committee on Public Service, on House, No. 5609, a Bill relative to the retirement classification of Crystal Swinimer, an employee of the Middlesex County Sheriff's Office (House, No. 5682).

Crystal
Swinimer,—
retirement.

By Mr. Cabral of New Bedford, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on a petition, a Bill relative to the release or amendment of certain use restrictions for certain property in the city of Malden (House, No. 5664).

Malden,—
property.

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

By Mr. Lewis of Framingham, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on a joint petition, a Bill amending the town manager act for the town of Danvers (House, No. 5593, changed in section 25, in line 237, by striking out the following: “Ccerk” and inserting in place thereof the word “clerk”) [Local Approval Received].

Danvers,—
town
manager.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing “print-free” digital legal notices for the town of Stow (House, No. 5603) [Local Approval Received].

Stow,—
digital
notices.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill restructuring the town of Ludlow recreation department and the town of Ludlow recreation commission (House, No. 5604) [Local Approval Received].

Ludlow,—
recreation.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill relative to the water and sewer commission of the town of Hopedale (House, No. 5611) [Local Approval Received].

Hopedale,—
water and
sewer.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill expanding the select board of the town of Tisbury (House, No. 5655) [Local Approval Received].

Tisbury,—
select
board.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill authorizing remote participation at town meetings and special town meetings in the town of Belmont (House, No. 5660) [Local Approval Received].

Belmont,—
town
meetings.

By Mr. Ryan of Boston, for the committee on Public Service, on a joint petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for David Gilman, an employee of the department of correction (House, No. 5677).

David
Gilman,—
sick leave.

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

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

Designating a portion of state highway Route 7A in the town of Lenox as the Ross B. Dindio Memorial highway (see House, No. 3645);

Bills
enacted.

Providing for violent act injury retirement benefits for retired police officer Leo MacAskill (see House, No. 3915);

Revising the term length of certain members of the board of library trustees of the town of Williamstown (see House, No. 4347, amended);

Designating a certain bridge in the town of Chelmsford as the Ferreira Brothers bridge (see House, No. 4723); and

Authorizing the town of Petersham to continue the employment of police department members Richard D. Cooley Jr. and David A. Shoemaker (see House, No. 5110, amended);

(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.

Orders of the Day.

The Senate Bill authorizing the town of Holbrook to appoint Patrick Doherty as a firefighter notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (Senate, No. 3165), 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 amending the charter of the town of Middleton (House, No. 5462), reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, was read a third time.

Middleton,—
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. 5684), 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 nine minutes after eleven o'clock A.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.