

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025.

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Wednesday, October 22, 2025.

Met according to adjournment at eleven o'clock A.M. 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.

Silent Tributes.

During the session (Ms. Hogan of Stow being in the Chair), at the request of Representatives Ryan of Boston and Consalvo of Boston, the members, guests and employees stood in a moment of silent tribute in respect to the memory of Bernard “Bernie” Fang of Charlestown, who entered eternal life on October 17th.

Bernard
“Bernie”
Fang.

Bernie began his career at the State House in 1974 as a research assistant in the Taxation Committee. Throughout his tenure, he served in the offices of Representative Scaccia of Boston and Representative Ryan of Boston, working in the committees on Science and Technology, Post Audit and Oversight, and Rules. Proud of his public service, Bernie served countless constituents over the course of his career. Outside of the legislature, he volunteered for numerous organizations including Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services, Meals on Wheels, and the Jennifer Creed fund.

He is predeceased by his brother, George. He leaves behind his sister Madeleine Fang of Richmond, California, his nieces, Melissa Fang and her husband, Andrew Hargens, and Amy Lannon and her husband, Paul; and his grandnephews, Grayson and Holland Hargens and Joshua and Owen Lannon, along with his many friends and colleagues, here at the State House, who mourn his loss and honor his legacy.

During the session (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), at the request of Representatives Flanagan of Dennis, Diggs of Barnstable, and Xiarhos of Barnstable, the members, guests and employees stood in a moment of silent tribute in respect to the memory of longtime Yarmouth Port resident and former Massachusetts State Representative Thomas N. George, who passed away on October 11th, 2025, at the age of 87.

Thomas
George.

The town of Yarmouth and the Cape Cod region are grateful for Mr. George’s 43 years of dedicated public service and volunteerism within the town of Yarmouth in multiple capacities. In 1996, Mr. George was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives and served four terms representing Dennis, Yarmouth, and Brewster, where he faithfully served his community.

Sadly, Mr. George was pre-deceased by his son Thomas George. He is survived by his wife Alice McConathy George of Yarmouth, their children Alicia and Christopher, and his 5 granddaughters. The Cape Cod community sends their love and support to the entire George family.

Statement of Representative Keefe of Worcester.

A statement of Ms. Keefe of Worcester 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 the sitting of Wednesday, October 15th due to illness. If I had been present for the taking of roll call numbers 89 to 92, inclusive, I would have voted in the affirmative, in each instance. My missing of roll calls that day was due entirely to the reason stated.

Statement of
Representative
Keefe of
Worcester.

Distinguished Guests.

During the session, the Chair (Mr. Donato of Medford) turned the gavel over to Representative Chan of Quincy, for the purpose of introducing guests from Hokkaido, Japan in celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Hokkaido-Massachusetts Sister-State Relationship. Joining the House Asian Caucus was the Consul General of Japan, Vice-Governor of Hokkaido, Speaker of the Hokkaido Assembly, the Superintendent of Education, along with members of the Hokkaido Assembly and honorable guests.

Hokkaido-
Massachusetts
Sister- State
Relationship.

Ito Jochi, Speaker of the Hokkaido Assembly, then addressed the House briefly; and on motion of Mr. Chan of Quincy, the remarks were spread upon the record as follows:

Thank you very much. The last time we visited Massachusetts it was 10 years ago, back in 2015. I was also part of the delegation last time so it brings me back memories now that I have visited here again and I find all the familiar faces around me.

I am also honored to be able to join the commemorative ceremony for the 35 years of the sister-state relationship between Massachusetts and Hokkaido this time. Massachusetts and Hokkaido share a long standing connection from the developmental phase of Hokkaido and our sister-state relationship dates back to 1990.

The members of the Hokkaido legislative assembly hope that celebrating this commemorative year, the exchanging between our two regions will expand to a wider range of fields which reflect the needs of our time and the friendship and mutual understanding will deepen even farther.

Thank you very much for taking your time today despite your busy schedules. I appreciate your warm hospitality. Thank you.

Hamasaka Shinichi, Vice-Governor of Hokkaido, then addressed the House briefly; and on motion of Mr. Chan of Quincy, the remarks were spread upon the record as follows:

Good morning my name is Hamasaka. I am the vice Governor of Hokkaido. Everyone present here today from the assembly of the commonwealth thank you very much for the warm welcome despite your busy schedules. The connection between Massachusetts and Hokkaido dates back to 150 years ago.

Thanks to the cooperation from the notable figures from Massachusetts, for example Mr. Horace Capron and Dr. William Clark and many other advisors, we have the Hokkaido that we have today. With that history as a background Massachusetts and Hokkaido became sister-states to each other in 1990. And just now we signed the re-affirmation and proclamation of friendship and affiliation commemorating our 35 years of friendship with Governor Healey.

We are looking forward to even deepening the friendship between us with this opportunity so thank you very much and we are looking forward to working with everyone from the Commonwealth assembly. Thank you. Thank you very much.

They were the guests of Representatives Chan of Quincy, Wong of Saugus, Nguyen of Andover, Howard of Lowell, Uytterhoeven of Somerville, Sangiolo of Newton, Hong of Lowell, and Gentile of Sudbury.

Remote Participation.

Notice had been received from House Counsel that, under the provisions of House Rule 49, Representatives Barber of Somerville and Sullivan-Almeida of Abington had been approved to participate remotely for today's formal sitting.

Remote participation.

Resolutions.

Resolutions (filed with the Clerk by Representatives Kushmerek of Fitchburg and other members of the House) recognizing the Copernicus Institute in honoring October 2025 as Polish American Heritage Month, were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules.

Polish American Heritage Month.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for said committee, reported that the resolutions ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Ouellette of Westport, 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 authorizing the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to provide sewer services to a certain parcel of land in the town of Sharon (House, No. 1024), came from the Senate passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with an amendment inserting before the enacting clause the following emergency preamble:

Sharon,—land.

“Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to authorize the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to supply sewer services to certain parcels of land in the town of Sharon, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.”.

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

A Bill providing for the issuance of revenue bonds for the construction and reconstruction of telecommunications facilities by the city of Quincy (Senate, No. 2625) (on Senate bill No. 1450) [Local Approval Received], passed to be engrossed by the Senate, was read; and it was referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Quincy,—bonds.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2665) of Jason M. Lewis, James B. Eldridge, Joanne M. Comerford, Rebecca L. Rausch and other members of the General Court for legislation to require employers to notify current employees of an I-9 employment eligibility verification form, or other employment records, within 72

Employment,—eligibility forms.

hours of receiving the notice from a government agency. To the committee on Labor and Workforce Development.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2666) of Rebecca L. Rausch, Dylan A. Fernandes, Patricia D. Jehlen, Nick Collins and others for legislation to establish Lobular Breast Cancer Awareness Day. To the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Lobular
breast cancer
day.

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 Shirley B. Arriaga for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Amy Tanguay, an employee of the Trial Court. To the committee on the Judiciary.

Amy Tanguay,—
sick leave.

Joint petition (accompanied by bill) of Leigh Davis relative to the purchase or lease of a certain property known as Fenn Farm. To the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Fenn Farm.

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

By Mr. Madaro of Boston, for the committee on Revenue, on a petition, a Bill relative to clarifying property tax exemptions for solar and wind systems (House, No. 3179). Read; and referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Solar and
wind systems,—
exemptions.

By Mr. Ryan of Boston, for the committee on Public Service, on a joint petition, a Bill relative to the appointment of retired police officers as special police officers in the town of Fairhaven (House, No. 4234) [Local Approval Received].

Fairhaven,—
retired police.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for David A. Russell, an employee of the Department of Corrections (DOC) (House, No. 4587).

David Russell,—
sick leave.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Jeanne McCarron (House, No. 4624).

Jeanne
McCarron.

By Mr. Madaro of Boston, for the committee on Revenue, on a petition, a Bill relative to non-contiguous farm land (House, No. 3008).

Farm
land.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill to promote urban agriculture and horticulture (House, No. 3130).

Urban
farms.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a joint petition, a Bill updating the tax treatment of recreational lands in the town of Swampscott (House, No. 3917) [Local Approval Received].

Swampscott,—
recreational
land tax.

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

Emergency Measure.

The engrossed Bill providing for the terms of certain bonds to be issued by the Commonwealth (see House bill printed in House, No. 4413), 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.

Bonding
terms.

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 5 to 0. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

Removing the town of Hull from the eastern regional commission on the status of women (see House, No. 2313);

Increasing the membership of the select board of the town of Lanesborough (see House, No. 4056); and

Authorizing the treasurer of the town of Norton to make certain payments (see House, No. 4348);

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.

Recess.

At seventeen minutes before twelve o'clock P.M., on motion of Ms. Ferguson of Holden (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House recessed until one o'clock P.M.; and twenty-five minutes after one o'clock, the House was called to order with Ms. Hogan of Stow in the Chair.

Recess.

Orders of the Day.

The House Bill relative to assault and battery upon a transit worker (House, No. 1877) was read a third time.

The committee on Bills in the Third Reading reported recommending that the bill be amended by substitution of a bill with the same title (House, No. 4645), which was read.

The amendment was adopted.

After debate on the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of Mr. Day of Stoneham; and on the roll call 160 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 93](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the substituted bill (House, No. 4645) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Third reading
bill amended.

Bill passed to
be engrossed,—
yea and nay
No. 93.

Reports of Committees.

Prior to the noon recess (Mr. Donato being in the Chair), By Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Bill authorizing the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to convey a certain parcel of land in the town of Stoneham (House, No. 3312), ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor a bill with the same title (House, No. 4643). Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Mr. Honan of Boston, for said committee, then reported that the matter be scheduled for consideration by the House.

Stoneham,—
land.

Under suspension of Rule 7A, on motion of Ms. Badger of Plymouth, the bill was read a second time forthwith.

The amendment recommended by the committee on Ways and Means then was adopted; and the substituted bill was ordered to a third reading.

Subsequently, the noon recess having terminated, under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Day of Stoneham, the bill (having been 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. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Prior to the noon recess (Mr. Donato being in the Chair), By Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Bill enhancing child welfare protections (House, No. 4416), ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor a bill with the same title (House, No. 4644). Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Child welfare
protections.

Mr. Honan of Boston, for said committee, then reported that the matter be scheduled for consideration by the House.

Under suspension of Rule 7A, on motion of Mr. Ouellette of Westport, the bill was read a second time forthwith.

The amendment recommended by the committee on Ways and Means then was adopted; and the substituted bill was ordered to a third reading.

Subsequently, the noon recess having terminated (Ms. Hogan of Stow being in the Chair), under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Jones of North Reading, the bill (having been reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) was read a third time.

After remarks on the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Gaskey of Carver moved to amend the bill by adding the following section:

“SECTION 50. Chapter 272 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out in section 28, the final sentence.”.

Ms. Peisch of Wellesley thereupon raised a point of order that the amendment offered by the gentleman from Carver is beyond the scope of the bill presently before the House. The bill reorganizes and regulates the Department of Children and Families and the Office of the Child Advocate, and concerns child welfare administration and oversight. The amendment proposes to amend chapter 149 of the General Laws relative to labor-law enforcement, which is a separate and unrelated subject not contained in the bill or in any of the matters upon which it is based.

Point of
order.

In answer to the point of order, the Chair (Ms. Hogan of Stow) stated that the bill currently before the House reorganizes and regulates the authorities of the Department of Children and Families and the Office of the Child Advocate and related child-welfare statutes and does not address the criminal obscenity statute contained in chapter 272 of the General Laws. The amendment would introduce a criminal-law subject which is not contained in the current bill or in any of the matters upon which the bill is based. The subject matter is therefore outside the scope of the pending bill.

Therefore the Chair ruled that the point of order was well taken; and the amendment was laid aside accordingly.

Mr. Jones of North Reading and other members of the House then moved to amend the bill in section 3, in line 21, by inserting after the word “shall” the words “, subject to appropriation,”; and the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair,—

Mr. O’Day of West Boylston then moved to amend the bill in section 34, in lines 481, 482 and 483, by striking out the following: “and (xvii) any other person, selected by the co-chairs or by majority vote of the members of the state team, with expertise

or information relevant to an individual case” and inserting in place thereof the following: “(xvii) the department of children and families chapter president or designee of the certified collective bargaining representative of bargaining unit 8; and (xviii) any other person, selected by the co-chairs or by majority vote of the members of the state team, with expertise or information relevant to an individual case”; and in lines 515, 516 and 517, by striking out the following: “and (x) any other person with expertise or information relevant to an individual case who may attend meetings, on an ad hoc basis, by agreement of the permanent members of each local team” and inserting in place thereof the following: “(x) the department of children and families chapter president or designee of the certified collective bargaining representative of bargaining unit 8; and (xi) any other person, selected by the co-chairs or by majority vote of the members of the state team, with expertise or information relevant to an individual case.”.

After remarks on the question on adoption of the amendments, the sense of the House was taken by the yeas and nays, at the request of the same member, and on the roll call 159 members voted in the affirmative and 1 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 94](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendments were adopted.

Mr. LeBoeuf of Worcester then moved to amend the bill by inserting after section 47 the following section:

“SECTION 47A. (a) There shall be established a commission to study, report and make recommendations on the creation and implementation of a digital education portfolio system to support the educational stability and well-being of foster children and youth in the commonwealth. The commission shall: (i) evaluate the current processes by which the department of children and families and the department of elementary and secondary education collect, manage and share the educational records of foster children and youth; (ii) develop recommendations for the design and implementation of a secure and accessible digital education portfolio system to ensure the educational stability of foster children and youth; (iii) identify and assess data privacy, interoperability and record transfer standards necessary to protect student information and support timely school transitions; (iv) examine best practices from other states and jurisdictions that maintain centralized education record systems for children and youth in the care and custody of the state’s or jurisdiction’s department of children and families or equivalent agency; and (v) determine appropriate access protocols for educators, foster parents, caseworkers, medical providers and other authorized individuals.

(b) The commission shall consist of: 6 persons appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a current or former foster youth, 1 of whom shall be a foster parent, 1 of whom shall have expertise in foster care or child welfare policy, 1 of whom shall represent an education advocacy organization, 1 of whom shall have expertise in education data systems or student records management and 1 of whom shall represent a child welfare or youth-serving nonprofit organization; the chairs of the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities, who shall be co-chairs; the commissioner of children and families or a designee; the commissioner of elementary and secondary education or a designee; the child advocate or a designee; the secretary of education or a designee; 1 person appointed by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, Inc.; 1 person appointed by the Massachusetts Teachers Association; 1 person appointed by the Massachusetts Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc.; and 1 person appointed by the Service Employees International Union Local 509.

Amendments
adopted,—
yea and nay
No. 94.

(c) Not later than November 30, 2026, the commission shall submit its report and recommendations to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate and the house and senate committees on ways and means. Recommendations shall include, but shall not be limited to, strategies, programs and legislation necessary to implement the digital education portfolio system and strengthen coordination between the department of children and families, educational agencies and any other relevant child welfare agencies.”.

After remarks on the question on adoption of the amendment, the sense of the House was taken by the yeas and nays, at the request of the same member, and on the roll call 160 members voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 95](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the amendment was adopted.

On the question on passing the bill, as amended, to be engrossed, the sense of the House was taken by yeas and nays, at the request of Mr. Livingstone of Boston; and on the roll call 159 members voted in the affirmative and 1 in the negative.

[See [Yea and Nay No. 96](#) in Supplement.]

Therefore the bill (House, No. 4646, published as amended) was passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Amendment
adopted,—
yea and nay
No. 95.

Bill passed to
be engrossed,—
yea and nay
No. 96.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

Ordered, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet tomorrow at eleven o’clock A.M.

Next
sitting.

Representatives Marsi of Charlton and Smola of Warren then moved that when the House adjourns today, it do so in respect to the memory of Mark J. Carron, a member of the House from Southbridge from 1999 to 2006; and the motion prevailed.

Accordingly, at a quarter after three o’clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Jones of North Reading (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following day at eleven o’clock A.M., in an Informal Session.