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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2025.

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Monday, December 1, 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).

Pledge of allegiance.

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.

Silent Prayer.

Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante of Gloucester.

At the request of Speaker Mariano of Quincy, the members, guests and employees stood in a moment of silent tribute to the memory of Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante, Vice Chair of the committee on Ways and Means, who passed away at her home in Gloucester on November 27, 2025 after a long battle with pancreatic cancer.

Ann-Margaret Ferrante lived a life full of purpose, joy, and service.

For nearly 17 years, Ann-Margaret served the people of Cape Ann as their state representative with a relentless commitment to helping those in need. Ann-Margaret was a valued colleague in the House who easily built trust amongst the membership, always working to build coalitions and erase divisions to help the Commonwealth's most vulnerable residents — especially children, seniors, and in recent years, as a voice for patients.

The members of the House of Representatives offer sincere condolences to her mother Frances Ferrante, her family, her House staff, and to her many valued friends and loved ones.

Message from the Governor — Bill Returned with Recommendation of Amendment.

Marblehead,— board of health.

A message from Her Excellency the Governor returning with recommendation of amendment the engrossed Bill increasing the membership of the board of health of the town of Marblehead from three members to five [see House, No. 3912] (for message, see House, No. 4798), was filed in the office of the Clerk on Wednesday, November 26.

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.

Communications.

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From the Office of the Comptroller (see Section 2TT of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting a report on the annual financial plan for the Liability Management and Reduction Fund for fiscal year 2026; Liability management and reduction.

From the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (see Section 29A of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting a report on consultant contracts for the first quarter of fiscal year 2026; Consultant contracts.

From the Executive Office for Administration and Finance and the Executive Office for Housing and Livable Communities (see Section 10 of Chapter 1 of the Acts of 2025 and Section 19 of Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024) submitting the October 2, 2025 biweekly report on the emergency housing assistance program; Emergency housing assistance.

From the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (see item 1599-1213 contained in Section 2A of Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024) submitting the Temporary Respite Center monthly report from September 4, 2025 to October 2, 2025; Temporary respite centers.

From the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (see item 1599-2051 of Section 2A of Chapter 102 of the Acts of 2021, as amended by Section 54 of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023) providing a status update regarding immediate Covid-19 recovery needs for the second quarter of calendar year 2025; and Covid-19 recovery.

From the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (see Section 81 of Chapter 102 of the Acts of 2021) submitting the second quarterly report for calendar year 2025 relative to ensuring the coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund monies received under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, 42 U.S.C. 802, comply with applicable federal law, including statutes, regulations, and sub-regulatory guidance; American rescue plan.

Severally were placed on file.

Petitions.

Representative Holmes of Boston presented a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4799) of Russell E. Holmes (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the appointment of Jose Reyes as a police officer in the city of Boston, notwithstanding the maximum age requirement; and the same was referred to the committee on Public Service. Sent to the Senate for concurrence. Boston,— Jose Reyes.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Ashe of Longmeadow, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Brian M. Ashe for legislation to further regulate dogs and kennels. Dogs and kennels.

By Representative McKenna of Sutton, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Joseph D. McKenna for legislation to exempt certain software from the sales taxes. Software,— sales tax.

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

Paper from the Senate.

A petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2750) of Michael F. Rush (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to add certified emergency telecommunicators within the city of Boston to the Group 2 retirement classification, was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Public Service. Boston,— retirement classification.

Reports of Committees.

Condominiums,—rights.

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 petition of Meghan K. Kilcoyne relative to the condominium owners' rights. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on the Judiciary. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

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:

Livestock.

Relative to the definition of livestock (House, No. 138);

Nantucket,—fertilizer.

Relative to the regulation of nutrient management and fertilizer in the town of Nantucket (House, No. 4437) [Local Approval Received];

Behavioral health.

Protecting first responders and enhancing access to behavioral health centers (House, No. 4673);

Latent diseases.

Relative to tort actions for latent diseases (House, No. 4676); and

Affordable housing.

Relative to increasing affordable and public housing options (House, No. 4694);

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

Diwali holiday,—study.

By Mr. Cabral of New Bedford, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on House, Nos. 3326 and 3430, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to Diwali Day (House, No. 4800) [Representative Kane of Shrewsbury dissenting]. Referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Subsequently, Mr. Galvin of Canton, for said committees, reported asking to be discharged from further consideration of the order; 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.

State Administration and Regulatory Oversight,—study.

Subsequently, Mr. Galvin of Canton, for said committee, on the foregoing Order relative to authorizing the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to Diwali Day (House, No. 4800) reported, asking to be discharged from further consideration:

Diwali.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3326) of Rodney M. Elliott, Estela A. Reyes and Natalie M. Higgins for legislation to designate Diwali as a legal holiday in the Commonwealth; and

Id.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3430) of Marcus S. Vaughn, Hannah Kane and others for the issuance of an annual proclamation by the Governor to designate the fifteenth day of the Hindu lunisolar month of Kartik as Diwali day;

And recommending that the same severally be recommitted to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Under Rule 42, the reports severally were considered forthwith; and they were accepted.

Community development and small businesses,—study.

By Mr. Vargas of Haverhill, of the committee on Community Development and Small Businesses, on House, Nos. 301, 310 and 311, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Community Development and Small Businesses to make an

investigation and study of certain House documents concerning community development and small businesses (House, No. 4778).

By Mr. Murphy of Weymouth, for the committee on Financial Services, on House, Nos. 1086, 1124, 1152, 1166, 1195, 1200, 1219, 1220, 1263, 1265 and 1280, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Financial Services to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to automobile insurance (House, No. 4777). Automobile insurance,— study.

By Mr. Rogers of Cambridge, for the committee on Higher Education, on House, No. 1424, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Higher Education to make an investigation and study of a certain House document concerning higher education (House, No. 4779). Higher education,— study.

By Mr. Arciero of Westford, for the committee on Transportation, on House, No. 3710, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Transportation to make an investigation and study of a certain House document concerning driver education (House, No. 4780) [Representative DeCoste of Norwell dissenting]. Driver education,— study.

Severally referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for said committees, reported, in each instance, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the orders; and recommending that the same severally be referred to the House committee on Rules.

Under Rule 42, the reports severally were considered forthwith; and they were accepted.

By Ms. Fiola of Fall River, for the committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies, on a petition, a Bill including worker-owned businesses in economic development programs (House, No. 491, changed in section 3, in line 7, by striking out the following: "48(i)" and inserting in place thereof the following: "48(e)(i)"). Worker-owned businesses.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill relative to establishing a workforce training trust fund for emerging technologies (House, No. 3983). Workforce training.

By Mr. Cahill of Lynn, for the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, on a petition, a Bill relative to the well-being of law enforcement officers after involvement in a critical incident (House, No. 2653). Law enforcement,— well-being.

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

By Mr. Cahill of Lynn, for the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, on a petition, a Bill relative to police certification (House, No. 2582). Read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling. Police certification.

Emergency Measure.

The engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for David A. Russell, an employee of the Department of Correction (see House, No. 4587), 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. David Russell,— sick leave.

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 3 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 Bills.

Bills

Revising the charter of the city of Lynn (see House, No. 4149, amended);

Authorizing the town of Somerset to grant an additional license for the sale of wine and malt beverages not to be drunk on the premises (see House, No. 4286); and

Providing a simplified procedure for the layout and acceptance of subdivision roads in the city of Marlborough (see House, No. 4439);

(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.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

Ordered, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Thursday next at ten o'clock A.M. Next sitting.

Mr. Mariano of Quincy moved that when the House adjourns today, it do so in respect to the memory of Ann-Margaret Ferrante, a member of the House from Gloucester from 2009 to 2025, inclusive; and the motion prevailed.

Accordingly, at twenty-seven minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mrs. Kane of Shrewsbury (Mr. Garballey of Arlington being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Thursday at ten o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.