

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2025

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, July 10, 2025.

Met at twenty-two minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair).

The Chair (Mr. Brownsberger), members, guests and staff then recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of
allegiance.

Reports.

The following reports were severally received and placed on file, to wit:

Report of the Massachusetts Health Connector (pursuant to Section 81 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its Connector Care Expansion 2025 report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing and the Joint Committee on Public Health) (received July 2, 2025);

Connector Care
Expansion report.
SD3039

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to line item 4000-0300 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its MassHealth Dual Eligible Initiative 2025 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received July 8, 2025); and

MassHealth,-- Dual
Eligible Initiative
2025 report.
SD3041

Report of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to line item 8000-0105 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Fiscal Year 2024 Office of the Chief Medical Examiner annual report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received July 8, 2025).

EOPSS,-- Chief
Medical Examiner
FY24 report.
SD3042

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Mrs. Dooner and Mr. Orall of Berkeley, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2553) of Kelly A. Dooner and Norman J. Orrall (by vote of the town) to authorize the town of Berkley to grant additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises [Local approval received];

Berkley,-- liquor
license.

Under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

By Mrs. Dooner and Mr. Orall of Berkeley, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2552) of Kelly A. Dooner and Norman J. Orrall (by vote of the town) to authorize the town of Berkley to recall elected officials [Local approval received];

Berkley,-- recall
elected officials.

Under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Election Laws.

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

By Mr. Kennedy, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Edward J. Kennedy for legislation to modernize permitting for the transportation of certain loads; and

Permitting,-- certain
vehicles.
SD3043

By Mr. Moore, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Michael O. Moore for legislation to establish compliance with federal education reporting requirements for out of home placement students;

Academic record,--
students out-of-
home.
SD3040

Severally, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

By Ms. Edwards, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 584) (subject to Joint Rule 9) of Lydia Edwards for legislation to modernize the governance of Port Authority parks in East Boston,-- **having been deposited in the office of the Clerk of the Senate prior to five o'clock P.M., on Friday, January 17, 2025) was retransmitted to the Secretary of State (under the provisions of Section 5 of Chapter 3 of the General Laws).**

East Boston,-- Port Authority parks.

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Driscoll, for the committee on Public Health, on petition, a Bill to update postural screenings in schools (Senate, No. 1501);

Schools,-- postural screenings.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to diabetes prevention (Senate, No. 1565); and

Diabetes,-- prevention.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill improving Hepatitis C screening (Senate, No. 1582);

Hepatitis C,-- screening.

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

By Mr. Lewis, for the committee on Education, on Senate, Nos. 323, 333, 335, 381, 424, 461 and 463, a Bill to promote student learning and mental health (Senate, No. 2549);

Student learning,-- mental health.

By Mr. Driscoll, for the committee on Public Health, on petition, a Bill to restrict the use of polystyrene (Senate, No. 1477);

Restrict,-- polystyrene.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill protecting patients and health care workers from exposure to surgical smoke (Senate, No. 1482);

Health care workers,-- surgical smoke.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to menstrual product ingredient disclosure (Senate, No. 1483);

Menstrual product, - information.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1549), a Bill to increase access to disposable menstrual products (Senate, No. 2546);

Menstrual products,-- access.

By Mr. Collins, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on petition, a Bill relative to amending certain use restrictions for the Foxborough State Hospital (Senate, No. 2141); and

Foxborough State Hospital.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill improving the usage of state property (Senate, No. 2217);

Boston,-- land.

Severally read and, under Senate Rule 27, referred to the committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. Driscoll, for the committee on Public Health, on petition, a Bill removing social security numbers from death certificates (Senate, No. 1523);

Death certificates,-- social security number.

Read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules.

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on petition, a Bill providing killed in the line of duty benefits to Joanne Songy, surviving spouse of Detective John D. Songy, a police officer of the town of Rutland (Senate, No. 1831) [Local approval received];

Rutland,-- Songy benefits.

Read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Petitions were severally referred, in concurrence, as follows, to wit:

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4252) of Paul J. Donato (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to establish a linkage exaction program in the city of Medford; and

Medford,-- linkage program.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4253) of Daniel J. Ryan (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to terms of elected office in the city of Boston;

Boston,-- terms of office.

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4254) of Brandy Fluker-Reid (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the appointment of Rodney Alcindor as a police officer in the city of Boston, notwithstanding the maximum age requirement;

Boston,-- Rodney Alcindo.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4255) of Brandy Fluker-Reid (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the appointment of Jonathan Telfort as a police officer in the city of Boston, notwithstanding the maximum age requirement; and

Boston,-- Jonathan Telfort.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4256) of Russell E. Holmes (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the appointment of Jose Ortiz as a police officer in the city of Boston, notwithstanding the maximum age requirement;

Boston,-- Jose Ortiz.

Severally to the committee on Public Service.

Reports

Of the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2238) of Jeffrey Rosario Turco for legislation to require the State Auditor to audit cities and towns for certain assessments charged for the furnishing of sewer or water service, and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight;

MWRA,-- rates.

Of the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, asking to be discharged from further consideration

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2319) of James J. O'Day relative to animal health,-- and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Agriculture and Fisheries;

Animal health,-- protections.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2302) of Kristin E. Kassner for legislation to expand designation of priority development sites,-- and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Community Development and Small Businesses;

Community development,-- expansion.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2255) of Mike Connolly relative to local approval of inclusionary zoning;

Affordable housing,-- zoning.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2298) of Kristin E. Kassner and Vanna Howard relative to site plan zoning review;

Municipal zoning,-- site plans.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2328) of David M. Rogers, Samantha Montañó and others relative to enabling cities and towns to stabilize rents and protect tenants;

Tenants,-- protections.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2350) of David T. Vieira relative to site plan zoning review; and

Municipal zoning,-- site plans.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3996) of Michelle L. Badger relative to zoning restrictions for solar systems;

Solar systems,-- zoning.

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the committee on Housing.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2346) of Erika Uyterhoeven relative to municipalities owning and operating broadband high speed internet infrastructure and services;

Municipalities,-- internet providers.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3951) of Mike Connolly relative to municipal fossil fuel free building construction and renovation demonstration projects;

Municipal construction,-- fossil fuel free.
Somerville,-- zero emissions standards.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4035) of Christine P. Barber, Erika Uytterhoeven and Mike Connolly (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Somerville be authorized to establish a net zero emissions standard for zoning of new constructed buildings and major renovation projects; and

Brookline,-- green zoning.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4036) of Tommy Vitolo (by vote of the town) that the town of Brookline be authorized to adopt green zoning by-laws and regulations in said town;

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

Of the committee on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, asking to be discharged from further consideration

Legislative oversight.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3891) of Nicholas A. Boldyga relative to legislative oversight of certain regulatory actions; and

Legislative research and fiscal analysis, - offices.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3892) of Jeanne M. Kempthorne and others for legislation to establish the offices of legislative research and fiscal analysis;

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

Were severally considered forthwith, under Senate Rule 36, and accepted, in concurrence.

Resolutions.

The following resolutions (having been filed with the Clerk) were severally considered forthwith and adopted, as follows:-

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Fattman) “congratulating Fire Chief Brian C. Hickey on his retirement from the town of Webster Fire Department”;

Fire Chief Brian C. Hickey.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Fernandes) “congratulating the Bourne Fire Department on the occasion of its one hundredth anniversary”;

Bourne Fire Department.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Mark) “commending New England Friends of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Inc. for its recognition of July 11, 2025 as Bosnian Remembrance Day”; and

NE Friends of Bosnia & Herzegovina, Inc.
Mayor Robert “Bob” Hedlund.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. O’Connor) “congratulating Mayor Robert “Bob” Hedlund on his retirement from the office of mayor of the city known as the town of Weymouth after a distinguished career in public service.”

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Dylan A. Fernandes for legislation to require equitable funding for non-regional school districts with high transportation costs.

Routes relief fund.
SD2824

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mrs. Dooner, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Education.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Dylan A. Fernandes for legislation to eliminate predatory transportation pricing of school districts.

School,-- transportation pricing.
SD2830

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mrs. Dooner, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Education.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Dylan A. Fernandes for legislation to improve public health and safety standards in communities around aging nuclear power plants and high-level nuclear waste dump sites.

Communities safety,-- aging nuclear power plants. SD2666

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mrs. Dooner, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Kelly A. Dooner for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Carlos Borges, an employee of the department of correction.

Carlos Borges,-- sick leave. SD2666

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mrs. Dooner, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Public Service.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Kelly A. Dooner, Michael O. Moore, Mark C. Montigny, Patrick Joseph Kearney and other members of the General Court for legislation to promote affordable utility services in the Commonwealth.

Utility services,-- cost effective. SD2672

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mrs. Dooner, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

By Mr. Collins, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on petition, a Bill authorizing the commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance to convey certain land in the town of Brookfield (Senate, No. 2128);

Brookfield,-- land conveyance.

The bill was read. There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mrs. Dooner, and the bill was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Petitions were severally referred, in concurrence, as follows, to wit:

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4260) of Adam J. Scanlon relative to the use of virtual credit cards by dental insurance providers;

Dental insurance,-- virtual credit cards.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Financial Services.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4261) of Colleen M. Garry for legislation to regulate the sale of kratom;

Kratom sales.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on the Judiciary.

Orders Adopted.

Mr. Rodrigues offered the following order, to wit:

Procedural Order.

Ordered, that notwithstanding Senate Rule 7 or any other rule to the contrary, the Senate Bill relative to the uniform child custody jurisdiction and enforcement act (Senate, No. 1052) to be reported by the committee on Ways and Means with a recommended new draft with the same title Senate, No. 2550 on Thursday, July 10, 2025, and read into the Senate Journal on Thursday, July 10, 2025, shall be placed in the Orders of the Day for a second reading on Thursday, July 17, 2025, for immediate consideration with the Ways and Means new draft pending.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mrs. Dooner, and the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 2550) was placed in the Orders of the Day for Thursday, July 17, 2025.

Mr. Rodrigues offered the following order, to wit:

Procedural Order.

Ordered, that notwithstanding Senate Rule 7 or any other rule to the contrary, the Senate Bill relative to fairness in debt collection (Senate, No. 2537) to be reported by the committee on Ways and Means with a recommended new draft with the same title Senate, No. 2551 on Thursday, July 10, 2025, and read into the Senate Journal on Thursday, July 10, 2025, shall be placed in the Orders of the Day for a second reading Thursday, July 17, 2025, for immediate consideration with the Ways and Means new draft pending.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mrs. Dooner, and the order was considered forthwith and adopted

The bill (Senate, No. 2551) was placed in the Orders of the Day for Thursday, July 17, 2025.

Reports of a Committee.

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Senate Bill relative to the uniform child custody jurisdiction and enforcement act (Senate, No. 1052),-- ought to pass, with an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2550); and

Uniform child custody.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, that the Senate Bill relative to fairness in debt collection (Senate, No. 2537),-- ought to pass, with an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2551).

Debt collection,-- fairness.

In accordance with the orders previously adopted, the bills were placed in the Orders of the Day for Thursday, July 17th, for a second reading with the amendments pending.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mrs. Dooner,--

Ordered, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M., and that the Clerk be directed to dispense with the printing of a calendar.

Time of meeting.

On motion of the same Senator, at twenty-seven minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.