

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, JULY 21, 2025

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Monday, July 21, 2025.

Met at twenty-one minutes before twelve o'clock noon (Mr. Collins in the Chair) (having been appointed by the President, under authority conferred by Senate Rule 4, to perform the duties of the Chair).

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

Pledge of allegiance.

Distiguished Guests.

There being no objection, the following guests were introduced:

The Chair (Mr. Collins) handed the gavel to Mr. Tarr for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. Tarr then introduced, in the Senate Gallery, Madeleine Jackman from Newburyport. Madeline is a high school student and was recognized for her passion in teaching CPR and life saving skills after having suffered a traumatic incident as a child. Madeleine was visiting the State House to testify at an Education committee hearing on a bill that would require CPR training to be a high school graduation requirement. Madeleine was accompanied by her mother, Kristen, father, Ken, brother, Spencer, and representatives of the American Red Cross: Director of External Communications Kelly Isenor and Executive Director of Northeastern Massachusetts Kyle McWilliams Lopez. The Senate welcomed them with applause and they withdrew from the Gallery.

Madeleine Jackman.

The Chair (Mr. Collins) introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, His Excellency Lok Darshan Regmi, Ambassador of Nepal to the United States. Ambassador Regmi was recognized for his commitment to building strong relations and partnerships with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the United States of America. The Senate welcomed him with applause and he signed the guestbook. Ambassador Regmi then addressed the Senate from the Rostrum, was presented with a Senate Citation and he withdrew from the Chamber.

His Excellency Lok Darshan Regmi.

Report.

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to Section 6B(b) of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its Fourth Quarter Federal Grants FY25 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received July 18, 2025), -- was placed on file.

Comptroller,-- Federal grants 4Q FY25 report. SD3075

Reports of a Committee.

By Ms. Jehlen, for the committee on Aging and Independence, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 468), a Bill to improve care and prepare for the new era of Alzheimer's and dementia (Senate, No. 2554);

Alzheimer's and dementia,-- care.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 470), a Bill to improve Massachusetts home care (Senate, No. 2555); and

Mass,-- home care.

By Mr. Collins, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on petition, a Bill relative to life saving treatment (Senate, No. 1042);

Overdose,-- patient discharge.

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

By Mr. Cronin, for the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, on petition, a Bill transferring emergency medical services to the executive office of public safety and security (Senate, No. 1701);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to save lives by distributing narcans to individuals at risk for an overdose (Senate, No. 1709);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to injured correctional officers (Senate, No. 1713);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill requiring health care employers to develop and implement programs to prevent workplace violence (Senate, No. 1718);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to allow temporary door-locking devices in public buildings (Senate, No. 1746);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the safety of children in school buses (Senate, No. 1748);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill strengthening synthetic drug laws in correctional facilities (Senate, No. 1753) [Senator Eldridge dissenting]; and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the security of exercise equipment and free weights in correctional institutions (Senate, No. 1762) [Senator Eldridge dissenting];

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

By Ms. Jehlen, for the committee on Aging and Independence, on petition, a Bill relative to the commission on LGBTQ aging (Senate, No. 473, changed; in lines 6 and 7 by striking out the words “elder affairs” and inserting in place thereof the words “aging and independence”; in line 7 by striking out the word “director” and inserting in place thereof the word “secretary”; in line 8 by striking out the words “community development” and inserting in place thereof the words “livable communities”; in lines 9 and 10 by striking out the following “Gay & Lesbian”; in line 12 by striking out the words “Mass Home Care;” and inserting in place thereof the following words “Massachusetts Aging Access Association, Inc.”; and in line 14 by striking out the word “Aides” and inserting in place thereof the following word “Aide”);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to Massachusetts home care eligibility (Senate, No. 487, changed; by striking out in line 13 the words “it may require” and inserting in place thereof the following words: “required and”); and

By Mr. Cronin, for the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, on petition, a Bill relative to crisis intervention services for emergency service providers; confidentiality of information (Senate, No. 1659);

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3918) of Christine P. Barber (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Somerville be authorized to provide voting rights in municipal elections for certain residents aged 16 and 17 years old;

To the committee on Election Laws.

Emergency medical services.

Narcans,-- distribution.

Corrections officers,-- compensation.
Workplace violence,-- programs.

Public buildings,-- door-locking devices.
School buses,-- child safety.

Correctional facilities,-- synthetic drugs.

Correctional facilities,-- exercise equipment.

LGBTQ aging,-- commission.

Councils,-- aging.

EMS,-- confidentiality of information.

Somerville,-- municipal elections.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4266) of Vanna Howard and others (with the approval of the city council) that the city of Lowell be authorized to further regulate the application of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides in said city;

Lowell,--
rodenticides
restrictions.

To the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4288) of Hadley Luddy (by vote of the town) relative to the inclusion of commercial fishermen as a designated vocation for affordable and attainable housing preference in the town of Chatham;

Chatham,--
commercial
fishermen.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4289) of Hadley Luddy (by vote of the town) relative to the appropriation and expenditure of community preservation funds for community housing purposes in the town of Chatham; and

Chatham,--
community housing.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4290) of Hadley Luddy (by vote of the town) that the town of Chatham be authorized to establish a housing trust fund in said town;

Chatham,-- housing
trust fund.

Severally to the committee on Housing.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4291) of Hadley Luddy (by vote of the town) relative to exempting the town of Chatham from the prevailing wage law;

Chatham,--
prevailing wage
exemption.

To the committee on Labor and Workforce Development.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4292) of James C. Arena-DeRosa (by vote of the town) relative to appointment powers of the board of library trustees in the town of Hopkinton; and

Hopkinton,-- town
charter.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4293) of James C. Arena-DeRosa (by vote of the town) that town of Hopkinton be authorized to establish an economic development special revenue account in said town;

Hopkinton,--
revenue account.

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3925) of Brandy Fluker-Reid (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the appointment of Pierre Charles Darius as a police officer in the city of Boston, notwithstanding the maximum age requirement;

Boston,-- Pierre
Charles Darius.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3926) of Brandy Fluker-Reid (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Boston be authorized to appoint Keny Gateau a police officer notwithstanding the maximum age requirement;

Boston,-- Keny
Gateau.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3927) of Brandy Fluker-Reid (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Boston be authorized to appoint Jean E. Rosenev a police officer notwithstanding the maximum age requirement;

Boston,-- Jean E.
Rosenev.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3928) of Brandy Fluker-Reid (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Boston be authorized to appoint Adam Watt a police officer notwithstanding the maximum age requirement; and

Boston,-- Adam
Watt.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4268) of Marcus S. Vaughn (by vote of the town) that the town of Wrentham be authorized to remove the position of lieutenant of the police department of said town from the civil service law;

Wrentham,-- police
lieutenant.

Severally to the committee on Public Service.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4269) of Marcus S. Vaughn (by vote of the town) that the town of Wrentham be authorized to exempt certain real estate owned and occupied by the surviving spouse of former deputy police chief George C. Labonte from taxation;

Wrentham,--
surviving spouse tax
exemption.

To the committee on Revenue.

Reports

Of the committee on Housing, asking to be discharged from further consideration

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1512) of Richard M. Haggerty, David F. DeCoste and Colleen M. Garry relative to the operations of local housing authorities;

Housing authorities,-
- MBTA
communities.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1514) of James K. Hawkins and Colleen M. Garry relative to zoning ordinances in MBTA communities; and

MBTA communities,-- zoning. MBTA communities,-- zoning reports.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1535) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and others relative to triennial reports on the impacts of multi-family zoning in MBTA communities;

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Of the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2347) of Andres X. Vargas, Tara T. Hong and Vanna Howard relative to zoning ordinances and taxation of land owned by religious sects or denominations for multifamily housing, and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Housing;

Religious sects,-- zoning.

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

Emergency Preambles Adopted.

An engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Daniel Yender, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (see House, No. 4104), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage and containing an emergency preamble,-- was laid before the Senate; and, a separate vote being taken in accordance with the requirements of Article LXVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the preamble was adopted in concurrence, by a vote of 3 to 0.

Daniel Yender,-- sick leave.

The bill was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Collins) and sent to the House for enactment.

An engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Mark Kratman, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (see House, No. 4161), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage and containing an emergency preamble,-- was laid before the Senate; and, a separate vote being taken in accordance with the requirements of Article LXVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the preamble was adopted in concurrence, by a vote of 3 to 0.

Mark Kratman,-- sick leave.

The bill was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Collins) and sent to the House for enactment.

A Bill authorizing the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to supply water to the Lynnfield Center Water District within the town of Lynnfield (House, No. 972,-- on petition),-- was read.

Lynnfield,-- MWRA water supply.

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

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4297) of Paul McMurtry relative to arts education programs;

Lowell,-- arts education.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4298) of James J. O'Day relative to the manufacture and sale of toxic-free medical devices;

Medical devices,-- toxic-free.

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

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Tarr), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection in memory of Nicolas "Nick" George.

Moment of silence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Engrossed Bills.

The following engrossed bills (both of which originated in the House), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, were severally passed to be enacted and were signed by the Acting President (Mr. Collins) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Establishing a sick leave bank for Daniel Yender, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (see House, No. 4104); and

Establishing a sick leave bank for Mark Kratman, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (see House, No. 4161).

Bills laid before the Governor.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

Ordered, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Thursday next at twelve o'clock noon, in a full formal session with a calendar.

Time of meeting.

Adjournment in Memory of Mr. Nicholas "Nick" George.

The Senator from Essex and Middlesex, Mr. Tarr and the Senator from Second Essex, Ms. Lovely moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Mr. Nicholas "Nick" George.

Nicholas "Nick" George, a cherished patriarch, and decorated war hero, passed away peacefully on June 22, 2025, at the age of 96 in Beverly, Massachusetts. Born in Peabody, Massachusetts, on November 13th, 1928, Nick's journey through life was marked by courage, dedication, and a profound love for his family and community.

A proud graduate of Ipswich High School, Nick's commitment to his country was unwavering, as evidenced by his valiant service during the Korean War. As a Gunnery Sergeant in the Marines, Nick not only served with honor but also earned the prestigious Purple Heart, a testament to his bravery and sacrifice.

After his distinguished military career, Nick dedicated 25 years of service to the United Shoe Machine Corporation. Nick's interests included being a talented carpenter, a passion that he often shared with those around him. His craftsmanship was not only a hobby but a way of life, leaving a tangible legacy in the homes and hearts of his loved ones.

Nick's involvement in Greek life and his local church community was a central aspect of his life. He found great joy in the fellowship and service these communities provided, and his contributions to them were significant. His commitment to faith and culture was a cornerstone of his identity, and it brought him immense fulfillment throughout his life.

Nick was predeceased by his beloved wife of 44 years, Elizabeth "Betty", whose memory he held dear until his final days. He leaves behind a loving family including his son Brian George and wife Jodie; his grandchildren, Elizabeth George, Courtney Poirier and husband Scott, Mark George and wife Liz, Kate Chiu and husband Jason, and Maggie Cullen and husband Pat; and his cherished great-grandchildren. He was also predeceased by his son Robert George and grandson Matthew George. Nick's long-time friend, Lana Doucette, will fondly remember the joy and companionship they shared.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr. Nicholas “Nick” George, at one minute before twelve o’clock noon, on motion of Mr. Tarr, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at twelve o’clock noon.
