

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, July 24, 2025.

Met at eleven minutes past twelve o'clock noon (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.

Distiguished Guests.

There being no objection, during consideration of the Orders of the Day, the following guests were introduced:

The Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) handed the gavel to Ms. Lovely for the purpose of an introduction. Ms. Lovely then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, a group of middle school students from Ota-ku, Tokyo. The students were visiting the United States as part of an exchange program to engage in the English language and cultural immersion activities while staying with host families in Salem. Among the group were: Principal Shideki Komatsu, teachers Ms. Ayako Takahashi, Ms. Atsuko Tsuji and Mr. Takama Bungo, travel agent Megumi Fukazawa, interpreter Airi Honda, President of the Salem-Ota Cultural Exchange Program Peter Dolan and Salem residents Connie Arlander, Midori Oka and Jeff O'Connor. The group was accompanied by Representative Cruz of Salem. The Senate welcomed them with applause and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Ota-ku, Tokyo,-- student exchange program.

The Chair (Ms. Creem) handed the gavel to Ms. Miranda for the purpose of an introduction. Ms. Miranda then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, Director of the Hoop Collaborative Youth Development Program Mitchell Hercule and Founder and Director of SISRun Sports Greg Canzater. Mitchell and Greg were presented with Senate Citations recognizing them for their lasting impact on basketball in New England and for their leadership and dedication to uplifting and inspiring young athletes within the community. They were accompanied by Reggie Carter, who was also recognized for his dedication to basketball and the community. The Senate welcomed them with applause and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Mitchell Hercule, Greg Canzater and Reggie Carter.

The Chair (Ms. Creem) handed the gavel to Mr. O'Connor for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. O'Connor then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, a group of high school students from the South Shore participating in a program to learn about government, policy and the Massachusetts State Senate. Among the group were: Henry Jacobs, Marco Peary, Charles Manewal, Tate Lonsdale, Thomas Pham, McKenna Morris, Greyson Gunter, Christian Wolpers, Emmett Cameron, Louisa Corbett, Nora Finkle, Nicolette Ross, Mason Alvarez and Tierney O'Donnell. The Senate welcomed them with applause and they withdrew from the Chamber.

South Shore high school students.

Communication.

Communication from the Honorable Bruce E. Tarr, Minority Leader, announcing the appointment of Senator Peter Durant (pursuant to Section 42 of Chapter 19A of the General Laws) to the Commission of Malnutrition Prevention Among Older Adults (received July 22, 2025),-- was placed on file.

Malnutrition Prevention Commission,-- appointment. SD3086

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Reports.

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

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to line item 4000-0300 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its MassHealth Pharmaceutical Utilization report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing) (received July 21, 2025);

MassHealth,--
Pharmaceutical
Utilization report.
SD3076

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to line item 4000-0300 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its inpatient psychiatric hospitals and substance abuse treatment hospital per diem payments report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery) (received July 21, 2025);

MassHealth IP
Psych / SUD Rates
report.
SD3077

Report of the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds (pursuant to Section 2KKK(a) of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its plan for expenditure from the Norfolk County Registers Technological Fund report (copies having been forwarded to the Chairs of the Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Post Audit and Oversight) (received July 22, 2025);

Norfolk ROD
Technological
Fund report.
SD3079

Report of Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to Section 131Q of Chapter 140 of the General Laws) submitting its Crime Gun 2024 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security) (received July 22, 2025);

PSHS,-- Crime
Gun 2024 report.
SD3080

Report of the Department of Mental Health (pursuant to line item 5046-0000 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Jail Diversion FY24 annual report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received July 22, 2025);

Jail Diversion
FY24 annual
report.
SD3081

Report of the Advisory Commission on Travel and Tourism (pursuant to Section 13H of Chapter 23A of the General Laws) submitting its 2024 annual report (received July 22, 2025);

ACTT,-- FY24
annual report.
SD3084

Report of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (pursuant to Section 69 of Chapter 23K of the General Laws) submitting its Gaming Revenues June 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 Economic Development and Emerging Technologies and the Joint Committee on Revenue) (received July 23, 2025);

MassGaming,--
Gaming Revenues
June 2025 report.
SD3085

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to line item 1599-2040 of Section 2B of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Fiscal Year 2025 Fourth Quarter Prior Year Deficiency report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received July 23, 2025); and

Comptroller,--
FY25 Q4
deficiency report.
SD3087

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Acts of 2010) submitting its CY22 – CY23 Summary of Activities related to Screening for Postpartum Depression (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Financial Services and the Joint Committee on Public Health) (received July 24, 2025).

DPH,-- Postpartum
Depression CY22 -
CY23 report.
SD3090

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Mr. Fernandes, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Dylan A. Fernandes for legislation to establish safety standards for BMX bicycle and motorcross tracks;

BMX bicycle,--
motorcross tracks
safety.
SD3078

By Mr. Payano, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Pavel M. Payano for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Jeffrey Yacinthe, employee of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education;

Jeffrey Yacinthe,--
sick leave.
SD3082

By Mr. O'Connor, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Patrick M. O'Connor for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Irene O'Rourke, employee of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services; and

Irene O'Rourke,--
sick leave.
SD3088

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Bruce E. Tarr, Kelly A. Dooner, Peter J. Durant, Ryan C. Fattman and others for legislation to enhance background checks for early education providers;

Early education,--
background
checks.
SD3083

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

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Moore, for the committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity, on petition, a Bill relative to the modernization of state agency information technology systems (Senate, No. 31);

State agencies,-- IT
systems.

By Ms. Edwards, for the committee on the Judiciary, on petition, a Bill relative to drug induced homicide (Senate, No. 1225); and

Homicide,-- drug
induced.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Resolve creating a commission to study the intentional misrepresentation of a service animal (Senate, No. 1254);

Service animals,--
misrepresentation.

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

By Mr. Moore, for the committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity, on petition, a Bill protecting children from addictive social media feeds (Senate, No. 30);

Social media,--
children.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 41), a Bill to modernize funding for community media programming (Senate, No. 2556);

Digital
infrastructure.

By Mr. Lewis, for the committee on Education, on petition, a Bill prohibiting the use of Native American mascots by public schools in the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 312);

Public schools,--
mascots.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing privacy standards for student and educator data (Senate, No. 364);

Student and
educator,-- data
privacy.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to promote safe firearm storage education and increase the well-being of students (Senate, No. 397);

Firearms,-- student
education.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 436), a Bill relative to affirming and maintaining equal access to public education for all children (Senate, No. 2557);

Public schools,--
English learners.

By Ms. Edwards, for the committee on the Judiciary, on petition, a Bill relative to expungement of juvenile and young adult records (Senate, No. 1058);

Juveniles,-- record
expungement.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the charitable immunity cap for cases involving sexual abuse (Senate, No. 1060);

Sexual abuse,--
immunity cap.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill providing for the allowance of early evidence kits (Senate, No. 1079);

Sexual assaults,--
evidence kits.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to prevent the imposition of mandatory minimum sentences based on juvenile adjudications (Senate, No. 1081);

Juveniles,--
mandatory
minimums.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the expungement of non-convictions (Senate, No. 1095);

Non-convictions,--
expungement.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to remove collateral consequences and protect the presumption of innocence (Senate, No. 1124);

Presumption,--
innocence.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to compensation for victims of wrongful conviction (Senate, No. 1132);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill preventing false confessions (Senate, No. 1136);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to sexual assaults by adults in positions of authority or trust (Senate, No. 1163);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill enhancing remedies for survivors of childhood sexual abuse (Senate, No. 1169);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill expanding access to victim compensation (Senate, No. 1180);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill removing the charitable immunity cap (Senate, No. 1193);

By Mr. Collins, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on petition, a Bill relative to the employment of persons with disabilities (Senate, No. 2107);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill providing for software licensing fairness (Senate, No. 2150);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to promote American manufacturing (Senate, No. 2167);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill elevating the National Guard to a cabinet level position (Senate, No. 2183);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill prohibiting state and municipal contracts for the purchase and installation of artificial turf fields (Senate, No. 2187); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to microfilm (Senate, No. 2201);

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

By Mr. Lewis, for the committee on Education , on petition, a Bill relative to supporting student participation in 4-H programs (Senate, No. 420);

By Mr. Collins, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on petition, a Bill establishing the fourth Thursday in March as Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day (Senate, No. 2153); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing the annual observance of September 11th Remembrance Day (Senate, No. 2188);

Severally referred, under Senate Rule 36, to the committee on Rules.

By Mr. Lewis, for the committee on Education, ought NOT to pass, on the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 350) of Ryan C. Fattman, Katie Ferriera-Aubin, , Marc T. Lombardo and David F. DeCoste for legislation to ensure that no public school shall require any student athlete on a single-sex sports team to participate in a match, or any part thereof, against an opposing team that includes one or more athletes of the opposite sex;

Referred, under Senate Rule 36, 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. 4309) of Brian M. Ashe (by vote of the town) relative to preliminary elections in the town of Longmeadow;

Wrongful conviction,-- compensation.
False confessions,-- prevention.

Sexual assault,-- children.

Childhood sexual abuse,-- survivors.

Victim compensation.

Charitable immunity cap.

Persons with disabilities,-- employment.

Fair software licensing.

American manufacturing.

National Guard,-- cabinet position.

Artificial turf fields,-- contracts.

Microfilm.

4H programs,-- student participation.

Tuskegee Airmen Day.

September 11th,-- Remembrance Day.

School sports,-- single sex teams.

Longmeadow,-- preliminary elections.

To the committee on Election Laws.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4310) of David M. Rogers and William N. Brownsberger (by vote of the town) that the town of Belmont be authorized to further regulate the application of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides in said town;

Belmont,--
anticoagulant
rodenticides.

To the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4311) of Hadley Luddy (by vote of the town) relative to the year-round market rate rental housing trust fund in the town of Provincetown;

Provincetown,--
rental housing trust
fund.

To the committee on Housing.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4312) of Brian M. Ashe (by vote of the town) relative to the charter of the town of Longmeadow;

Longmeadow,--
charter.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4313) of Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr., and Peter J. Durant (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize digital legal notices for the town of North Brookfield; and

North Brookfield,--
digital notices.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4314) of Joan Meschino (by vote of the town) that the town of Hingham be authorized to use municipal property as the location for a center for active living;

Hingham,--
municipal property
use.

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4315) of Kelly W. Pease (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Westfield be authorized to establish an age limit for original appointment to the position of firefighter in said city; and

Westfield,--
firefighter age
limit.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4299) of Patricia A. Duffy (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Holyoke be authorized to exempt the position of fire chief in said city from the provisions of the civil service law;

Holyoke,-- fire
chief.

Severally to the committee on Public Service.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4300) of Hadley Luddy (by vote of the town) that the town of Chatham be authorized to establish a real property transfer fee in said town;

Chatham,--
property transfer
fee.

To the committee on Revenue.

Report of a Committee.

Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Senate Bill to promote student learning and mental health (Senate, No. 2549),-- ought to pass, with an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2561).

Student learning,--
mental health.

Order Adopted.

Mr. Rodrigues offered the following order, to wit:

Ordered, that notwithstanding Senate Rule 7 or any other rule to the contrary, the Senate Bill to promote student learning and mental health (Senate, No. 2549) (the committee on Ways and Means having recommended that the bill be amended by substituting a new draft (Senate, No. 2561) shall be placed in the Orders of the Day for a second reading on Thursday, July 31, 2025.

Procedural order.

All amendments shall be filed electronically in the office of the Clerk of the Senate by 3:00 P.M, on Monday, July 28, 2025. All such amendments shall be second reading-amendments to the proposed Senate Ways and Means new draft (Senate, No. 2561), but further amendments in the third degree to such amendments shall be in order. The Clerk shall further specify the procedure and format for filing all amendments, consistent with this order.

After the bill as amended is ordered to a third reading, it shall immediately be read a third time and the question shall then immediately be on passing it to be engrossed, and no amendments shall be in order at the third reading of the bill unless recommended by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

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

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Durant) “congratulating the Sport Fish Restoration Program on the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary”; and

Sport Fish
Restoration
Program.
Hawthorne Hotel.

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Lovely) “congratulating the Hawthorne Hotel on its one hundredth anniversary.”

Report 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 Jason M. Lewis for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Robert Tiro, an employee of the trial court of the commonwealth.

Robert Tiro,-- sick
leave.
SD3072

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Tarr, and 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 House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill validating the results of the special election held in the town of Hardwick on January 18, 2025 (printed in House, No. 4004,-- being a message from Her Excellency the Governor),-- was read.

Hardwick,--
special election.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Tarr, 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. 4319) of Adam J. Scanlon and Manny Cruz for legislation to further regulate the retail sale of dogs, cats, rabbits, and guinea pigs in pet shops;

Pet sales,--
restrictions.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Agriculture and Fisheries.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4320) of Frank A. Moran, Adam J. Scanlon and others for legislation to establish a special task force (including members of the General Court) to review and report on vocational admissions policies;

Vocational
admissions,-- task
force.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4321) of Leigh Davis for legislation to authorize the Dalton Fire District to continue the employment of interim fire chief Christopher Francis Cachat;

Dalton,--
Christopher
Francis Cachat.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4322) of Carol A. Doherty for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Carlos Borges, an employee of the Department of Correction;

Carlos Borges,--
sick leave.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4324) of Sally P. Kerans for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Stephanie Bramante Miller, an employee of the Massachusetts Appellate Tax Board; and

Stephanie
Bramante Miller,--
sick leave.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4323) of Thomas M. Stanley and Michael J. Barrett for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Alexandra Schwartz, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of State Police;

Alexandra Schwartz,-- sick leave.

Severally, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Service.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4325) of Colleen M. Garry relative to income tax deductions for certain school expenses;

Tax deduction,-- school expenses.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4326) of James C. Arena-DeRosa and Kathleen R. LaNatra relative to the transportation of farm goods;

Farm goods,-- transportation.

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

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were considered as follows:

Bills

Authorizing the town of Brookfield to continue employment of Herb Chaffee beyond the age of 65 (Senate, No. 1830); and

Second reading bills.

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);

Were severally read a second time and ordered to a third reading.

The Senate Bill dignifying individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (Senate, No. 137),-- was read a second time.

Individuals with disabilities.

After remarks and pending the question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Ms. Creem moved to amend the bill by inserting after section 23 the following section:-

“SECTION 23A. Section 196 of said chapter 6, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 17, the words ‘hearing-impaired’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:- ‘deaf or hard of hearing’.”;

1

By inserting after section 107 the following section:-

“SECTION 107A. Section 23 of said chapter 32A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 17, the words ‘hearing impaired’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:- ‘deaf or hard of hearing’.”;

By inserting after section 271 the following section:-

“SECTION 271A. Section 1 of chapter 129 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 20, the words ‘hearing impaired’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:- ‘hard of hearing’.”;

By inserting after section 297 the following 2 sections:-

“SECTION 297A. Said section 4 of said chapter 151B is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 296, 302 and 314, as so appearing, the words ‘hearing impaired’ and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- ‘deaf or hard of hearing’.

SECTION 297B. Said section 4 of said chapter 151B is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 306 and 307, 362 and 363, 364, 370, 372, 380 and 381 and 382 and 383, as so appearing, the words ‘hearing impairment’ and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- ‘deafness or hardness of hearing’.”;

By inserting after section 311 the following section:-

“SECTION 311A. Section 47X of said chapter 175, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 34, the words ‘hearing impaired’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:- ‘deaf or hard of hearing’.”;

By inserting after section 316 the following 3 sections:-

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

“SECTION 316A. Section 8Y of chapter 176A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 28, the words ‘hearing impaired’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:- ‘deaf or hard of hearing’.

SECTION 316B. Section 4EE of chapter 176B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 10, the words ‘hearing impaired’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:- ‘deaf or hard of hearing’.

SECTION 316C. Section 4N of chapter 176G of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 23, the words ‘hearing impaired’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:- ‘deaf or hard of hearing’.”; and

By inserting after section 338 the following 2 sections:-

“SECTION 338A. Section 92A of chapter 221, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 2, 8, 11, 13, 15, 23, 27, 32, 42, 45, 54 and 60, the words ‘hearing-impaired’ and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- ‘hard of hearing’.

SECTION 338B. Said section 92A of said chapter 221, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 6, 56 and 61, the words ‘hearing-impaired’ and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- ‘deaf or hard of hearing’.”

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Ms. Lovely moved to amend the bill in section 153, by striking out, in line 495, the words “COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.”

The amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 137, amended) was then ordered to a third reading and read a third time.

The question on passing the bill to be engrossed was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at twenty-one minutes past one o’clock P.M., on motion of Ms. Jehlen, as follows to wit (yeas 40 – nays 0) [**Yeas and Nays No. 61**]:

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.	Gómez, Adam
Brady, Michael D.	Jehlen, Patricia D.
Brownsberger, William N.	Keenan, John F.
Collins, Nick	Kennedy, Edward J.
Comerford, Joanne M.	Kennedy, Robyn K.
Creem, Cynthia Stone	Lewis, Jason M.
Crichton, Brendan P.	Lovely, Joan B.
Cronin, John J.	Mark, Paul W.
Cyr, Julian	Miranda, Liz
DiDomenico, Sal N.	Montigny, Mark C.
Dooner, Kelly A.	Moore, Michael O.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.	O’Connor, Patrick M.
Durant, Peter J.	Oliveira, Jacob R.
Edwards, Lydia	Payano, Pavel
Eldridge, James B.	Rausch, Rebecca L.
Fattman, Ryan C.	Rodrigues, Michael J.
Feeney, Paul R.	Rush, Michael F.
Fernandes, Dylan A.	Spilka, Karen E.
Finegold, Barry R.	Tarr, Bruce E.
Friedman, Cindy F.	Velis, John C. – 40.

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at twenty-six minutes past one o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be engrossed, its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows: "An Act amending certain laws relative to individuals with disabilities" [For text of Senate bill, printed as amended, see Senate, No. 2563].

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Ms. Creem in the Chair, the Senate Bill relative to archaic laws (Senate, No. 1034),-- was read a second time.

Archaic laws.

After remarks and pending the question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Mr. DiDomenico moved to amend the bill by inserting after section 9 the following section:-

1

"SECTION 9A. Section 1 of chapter 265 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the third sentence."

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Ms. Lovely moved to amend the bill in section 1, in proposed section 76 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, by striking out subsection (e) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

2

"(e) The commission shall meet not less than 4 times annually. At the close of each regular session of the general court, the commission shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including drafts of any proposed legislation, to the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives, the house and senate committees on ways and means, the joint committee on the judiciary and the chief justice of the trial court."

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 1034, amended) was then ordered to a third reading and read a third time.

The question on passing the bill to be engrossed was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at eight minutes before two o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Brownsberger, as follows to wit (yeas 40 – nays 0) [Yeas and Nays No. 62]:

YEAS.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Barrett, Michael J. | Gómez, Adam |
| Brady, Michael D. | Jehlen, Patricia D. |
| Brownsberger, William N. | Keenan, John F. |
| Collins, Nick | Kennedy, Edward J. |
| Comerford, Joanne M. | Kennedy, Robyn K. |
| Creem, Cynthia Stone | Lewis, Jason M. |
| Crighton, Brendan P. | Lovely, Joan B. |
| Cronin, John J. | Mark, Paul W. |
| Cyr, Julian | Miranda, Liz |
| DiDomenico, Sal N. | Montigny, Mark C. |
| Dooner, Kelly A. | Moore, Michael O. |
| Driscoll, Jr., William J. | O'Connor, Patrick M. |
| Durant, Peter J. | Oliveira, Jacob R. |
| Edwards, Lydia | Payano, Pavel |
| Eldridge, James B. | Rausch, Rebecca L. |
| Fattman, Ryan C. | Rodrigues, Michael J. |
| Feeny, Paul R. | Rush, Michael F. |
| Fernandes, Dylan A. | Spilka, Karen E. |
| Finegold, Barry R. | Tarr, Bruce E. |
| Friedman, Cindy F. | Velis, John C. – 40. |

NAYS – 0.

Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair, the yeas and nays having been completed at two minutes before two o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be engrossed, its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows: "An Act amending certain archaic laws" [For text of Senate bill, printed as amended, see Senate, No. 2564].

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Oliveira), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection in memory of former State Representative Peter Lappin.

Moment of silence.

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The Senate Bill facilitating better interactions between police officers and persons with autism spectrum disorder (Senate, No. 2348),-- was read a second time.

Police officer interactions,-- ASD.

After remarks, pending the question on adoption of the amendment previously recommended by the committee on Ways and Means, substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2558), and pending the main question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Mr. Moore moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting before section 1 the following section:-

1

"SECTION A1. Section 116I of chapter 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

Not less than every 5 years, the municipal police training committee shall develop and establish within its specialized training curriculum available to all law enforcement officers instruction on the blue envelope program established in section 56A of chapter 6C."

After remarks, the question on adoption of the amendment was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at fourteen minutes past two o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Moore, as follows to wit (yeas 39 – nays 0) [Yeas and Nays No. 63]:

YEAS.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Barrett, Michael J. | Gómez, Adam |
| Brady, Michael D. | Jehlen, Patricia D. |
| Brownsberger, William N. | Keenan, John F. |
| Collins, Nick | Kennedy, Edward J. |
| Comerford, Joanne M. | Kennedy, Robyn K. |
| Creem, Cynthia Stone | Lewis, Jason M. |
| Crighton, Brendan P. | Lovely, Joan B. |
| Cronin, John J. | Mark, Paul W. |
| Cyr, Julian | Miranda, Liz |
| DiDomenico, Sal N. | Montigny, Mark C. |
| Dooner, Kelly A. | Moore, Michael O. |
| Driscoll, Jr., William J. | O'Connor, Patrick M. |
| Durant, Peter J. | Oliveira, Jacob R. |
| Edwards, Lydia | Payano, Pavel |
| Eldridge, James B. | Rausch, Rebecca L. |
| Fattman, Ryan C. | Rodrigues, Michael J. |
| Feeney, Paul R. | Rush, Michael F. |
| Fernandes, Dylan A. | Tarr, Bruce E. |

Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.

Velis, John C. – 39.

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at twenty-three minutes past two o'clock P.M., the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting after section _ the following sections:-

“SECTION _. The Registrar of Motor Vehicles shall initiate a voluntary program allowing interested individuals to obtain from the Registry a yellow dot window decal for placement on their motor vehicle and a yellow dot folder for placement in the glove compartment of the motor vehicle. Program participation shall be limited to individuals 62 years of age or over and to individuals with a chronic illness.

The purpose of the yellow dot program is to assist participants by making critical health information readily available to emergency medical responders and law enforcement personnel in the event of a motor vehicle accident, a medical emergency, or any other interaction involving emergency medical responders or law enforcement personnel.

Participants shall affix the yellow dot window decal on the operator's side of the motor vehicle's rear window in the lower corner. The purpose of the decal is to alert emergency medical responders or law enforcement personnel and notify them to search the glove compartment of the motor vehicle for the corresponding yellow dot folder, which shall include the participant's health information.

The purpose of the information in the folder is to assist emergency medical responders and law enforcement personnel in positively identifying the participant, communicating with the participant's family or emergency contacts, and ensuring that the participant's current medications and preexisting medical conditions are considered when treatment is administered for any injury the participant suffers in a motor vehicle accident; when treatment is administered for any other medical emergency; or when any other interaction involving emergency medical responders or law enforcement personnel occurs.

SECTION _. In designing the yellow dot program materials, the Registrar, in consultation with the department of public health and the executive office of elder affairs, shall give consideration to the program materials used by similar programs in other states in order to maximize uniformity. Program materials shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) a yellow decal of a size and design to be determined by the Registrar which will be affixed to the rear driver's side window of the program participant's vehicle;

(2) a health information card which provides space for a program participant to attach a recent photograph and indicate the participant's name, emergency contact information, physicians' names and contact information, medical conditions, recent surgeries, allergies, medications, and any other information the Registrar shall deem to be relevant information to emergency responders in the case of emergency;

(3) a yellow envelope of a size and design to be determined by the Registrar into which the health information card established pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection is to be inserted and then placed in the program participant's glove compartment; and

(4) a program instruction sheet including a toll free hotline phone number and electronic mail address, established by the Registrar, to assist individuals who have questions about the program or require assistance in completing the health information card.

SECTION _. A fee may be charged for the issuance of the yellow dot window decal and yellow dot folder. The fee shall be sufficient to cover the costs associated with the program and is in addition to the regular vehicle license fee and any other fees and taxes required to be paid upon registration of the motor vehicle.

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UNCORRECTED PROOF.

SECTION __. The Registrar shall adopt such rules governing the ‘yellow dot’ program as may be necessary to implement and administer the program, and shall undertake a public information campaign to raise awareness of the program.

SECTION __. No emergency responder shall be liable for any civil damages as a result of any acts or omissions undertaken in response to incomplete, incorrect, or outdated information provided on any health information card if the responder acted in good faith in rendering care at the scene of a motor vehicle accident or emergency to a program participant.”

After debate, the question on adoption of the amendment was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at twenty-nine minutes past two o’clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, as follows to wit (yeas 5 – nays 34) [**Yeas and Nays No. 64**]:

YEAS.

Dooner, Kelly A.
Durant, Peter J.
Fattman, Ryan C.

O’Connor, Patrick M.
Tarr, Bruce E. – **5.**

NAYS.

Barrett, Michael J.
Brady, Michael D.
Brownsberger, William N.
Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.
Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crighton, Brendan P.
Cronin, John J.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.

Gómez, Adam
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
Kennedy, Edward J.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Montigny, Mark C.
Moore, Michael O.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.
Velis, John C. – **34.**

The yeas and nays having been completed at twenty-six minutes before three o’clock P.M., the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Rodrigues moved that the proposed new draft be amended in section 1, by striking out, in lines 12 and 13, the words “license, registration and insurance identification card” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “license and registration”.

3

The amendment was adopted.

The Ways and Means amendment, as amended, was then adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 2558, amended) was then ordered to a third reading and was read a third time.

The question on passing the bill to be engrossed was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at twenty-five minutes before three o’clock P.M., on motion of Ms. Comerford, as follows to wit (yeas 39 – nays 0) [**Yeas and Nays No. 65**]:

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.
Brady, Michael D.
Brownsberger, William N.

Gómez, Adam
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.
Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crighton, Brendan P.
Cronin, John J.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Dooner, Kelly A.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Durant, Peter J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Fattman, Ryan C.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.

Kennedy, Edward J.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Montigny, Mark C.
Moore, Michael O.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.
Tarr, Bruce E.
Velis, John C. – 39.

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at twenty minutes before three o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be engrossed. [For text of Senate bill, printed as amended, see Senate, No. 2565].

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

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.

*Adjournment in Memory of
Former State Representative Peter Lappin.*

The Senator from Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester, Mr. Oliveira, and the Senator from Hampden, Mr. Gomez, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of former State Representative Peter Lappin.

Peter Lappin of Springfield was a dedicated public servant, a proud veteran, and a beloved father and grandfather, who passed away peacefully on June 29, 2025 at the age of 86.

Born on September 25, 1938, Peter was a proud son of Springfield, raised by Margaret and Thomas Lappin, and educated at Cathedral High School. His early grounding in faith and community would shape a lifetime of service, much of which would be rooted right here in Western Massachusetts.

Peter Lappin served our Commonwealth with deep conviction. He answered the call to serve his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam War, a chapter of his life that deeply informed his values and his unwavering support for veterans. In 2008, he was recognized as Veteran of the Year, a fitting tribute to the humility and patriotism he carried with him throughout his life.

He brought that same spirit to Beacon Hill, where he served as a Massachusetts State Representative and later as a member of the Governor's Council. Even after his formal

service ended, Peter remained involved, volunteering his time with organizations such as the Spirit of Springfield, in which he was instrumental in the World's Largest Pancake Breakfast since its inception in 1986.

His devotion to family matched Peter's dedication to service. He was, above all, a great dad—a title he held most dearly. He leaves behind his beloved daughters, Meghan Dudas and her husband Scott, and Moira Lappin-Coutinho and her husband Eric, along with three cherished grandchildren: Aubrey, Haylee, and Madison.

He was a man of faith, an active member of St. Mary's Parish in Longmeadow, and someone who truly appreciated life's simple joys: good food, new restaurants, spirited conversation, and time with loved ones.

Peter will be remembered not just for his public service, but for his integrity, wit, and quiet strength. His passing is a loss not just to his family, but to our broader civic family here in Massachusetts.

I respectfully request that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Peter Hayden Lappin, a patriot, public servant, and proud Western Mass native. May his memory be a blessing and a reminder of the impact one life committed to service can have on an entire community.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of former State Representative Peter Lappin, at nineteen minutes before three o'clock P.M., on motion of Ms. Miranda, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.