

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.**



**THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025**

[70]

## JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, August 14, 2025.

Met at one minute past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair) (having been appointed by the President, under authority conferred by Senate Rule 4, to perform the duties of the Chair).

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

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Pledge of  
allegiance.

### *Communications.*

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

Communication from the Department of Public Health submitting its Arbovirus weekly report for the week of August 4, 2025 (received August 11, 2025); and

Arbovirus 8/4/25  
weekly report.  
SD3120  
Massachusetts  
Clean Energy  
Center. SD3136

Communication from Emily Reichert, Chief Executive Officer, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center submitting notice that outlines the reasons for the delay and updated timelines of submission of the fiscal year 2025 annual reports (received August 12, 2025).

### *Reports.*

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

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023 and Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Emergency Housing Assistance Program bi-weekly report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received August 11, 2025);

A&F,-- EA  
Housing bi-weekly  
report.  
SD3118

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its monthly report on Temporary Respite Centers (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received August 12, 2025);

A&F,-- temporary  
respite centers  
report.  
SD3119

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to Section 5G of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its Fiscal Year 2025 fourth quarter Capital Gains Tax Revenue Transfers to the Stabilization Fund, the State Retiree Benefit Trust Fund, and the Pension Liability Fund report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received August 12, 2025);

Comptroller,-- 4th  
Quarter FY25  
Capital Gains  
Transfer report.  
SD3121

Report of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (pursuant Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting its Barnstable County Sheriff's Office Q1 2025 Population report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security) (received August 12, 2025);

Barnstable County  
Sheriffs,-- Q1 2025  
population report.  
SD3123

Report of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (pursuant Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting its Berkshire County Sheriff's Office Q1 2025 Population report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security) (received August 12, 2025);

Berkshire County  
Sheriffs, -- Q1  
2025 population  
report.  
SD3124

Report of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (pursuant Section 40 of Chapter 126

Bristol County

of the General Laws) submitting its Bristol County Sheriff's Office Q1 2025 Population report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security) (received August 12, 2025);

Sheriffs,-- Q1 2025  
population report.  
SD3125

Report of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (pursuant Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting its Dukes County Sheriff's Office Q1 2025 Population report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security) (received August 12, 2025);

Dukes County  
Sheriffs,-- Q1  
2025 Population  
report.  
SD3126

Report of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (pursuant Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting its Essex County Sheriff's Office Q1 2025 Population report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security) (received August 12, 2025);

Essex County  
Sheriffs,-- Q1 2025  
population report.  
SD3127

Report of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (pursuant Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting its Franklin County Sheriff's Office Q1 2025 Population report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security) (received August 12, 2025);

Franklin County  
Sheriffs,-- Q1 2025  
population report.  
SD3128

Report of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (pursuant Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting its Hampden County Sheriff's Office Q1 2025 Population report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security) (received August 12, 2025);

Hampden County  
Sheriffs,-- Q1 2025  
population report.  
SD3129

Report of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (pursuant Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting its Hampshire County Sheriff's Office Q1 2025 Population report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security) (received August 12, 2025);

Hampshire County  
Sheriffs,-- Q1 2025  
population report.  
SD3130

Report of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (pursuant Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting its Middlesex County Sheriff's Office Q1 2025 Population report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security) (received August 12, 2025);

Middlesex County  
Sheriffs,-- Q1  
2025 Population  
report.  
SD3131

Report of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (pursuant Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting its Norfolk County Sheriff's Office Q1 2025 Population report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security) (received August 12, 2025);

Norfolk County  
Sheriffs,-- Q1 2025  
population report.  
SD3132

Report of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (pursuant Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting its Plymouth County Sheriff's Office Q1 2025 Population report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security) (received August 12, 2025);

Plymouth County  
Sheriffs,-- Q1 2025  
population report.  
SD3133

Report of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (pursuant Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting its Suffolk County Sheriff's Office Q1 2025 Population report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security) (received August 12, 2025);

Suffolk County  
Sheriffs,-- Q1 2025  
population report.  
SD3134

Report of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (pursuant Section 40 of Chapter 126 of the General Laws) submitting its Worcester County Sheriff's Office Q1 2025 Population

Worcester County  
Sheriffs,-- Q1 2025

report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security) (received August 12, 2025); and

Report of the Executive Office of Technology Services & Security (pursuant to line item 1790-0100 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its report detailing an account of IT-related project expenditures over the previous 12-month period (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight) (received August 14, 2025).

population report.  
SD3135

EOTSS,-- IT  
project  
expenditures  
report.  
SD3138

*Special Commission Reports.*

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

Report of the Special Legislative Commission to Study Poverty (pursuant to Chapter 74 of the Acts of 2021, as most recently amended by Section 96 of Chapter 14 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its findings and recommendations (received August 11, 2025); and

Poverty  
Commission,--  
report. SD3122

Report of the Special Legislative Commission on Emerging Firearm Technology (pursuant to Section 148 of Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2024, as most recently amended by Section 90 of Chapter 14 of the Acts of 2025) (received August 11, 2025) (for a copy of Appendices A through P, please contact the Clerk's office).

Emerging Firearm  
Technology  
Commission,--  
report. SD3139

*Petition.*

Mr. Montigny presented a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Mark C. Montigny for legislation to protect assisted living residents from unfair and deceptive billing practices,-- **and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.**

Assisted living  
residents,-- unfair  
billing.  
SD3137

*Reports of a Committees.*

By Mr. Mark, for the committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development, on petition, a Bill addressing challenges facing public libraries and digital resource collections (Senate, No. 2330);

Public libraries,--  
special  
commission.

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

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on petition, a Bill providing for a COVID-19 retirement credit to essential public health and safety employees (Senate, No. 1802);

COVID-19 credit,--  
- first responders.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to regional planning agencies (Senate, No. 1805);

Regional planning  
agencies.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill updating judicial retirement benefits (Senate, No. 1872);

Judicial  
retirement,--  
benefits.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to teacher retirement election (Senate, No. 1884);

Teacher retirement.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill authorizing the State Board of Retirement to grant creditable service to Roberta Wollons (Senate, No. 2518); and

Roberta Wollons,--  
creditable service.

By Mr. Mark, for the committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development, on petition, a Bill regarding free expression (Senate, No. 2328);

Free expression.

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

By Mr. Collins, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on petition, a Bill establishing the official sedimentary structure of the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 2115);

Official  
sedimentary  
structure.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill designating September as PCOS awareness month (Senate, No. 2173); and

PCOS,--  
awareness.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill designating the first Wednesday in May as State Parks Day (Senate, No. 2212);

MA State Parks  
Day.

**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. 4399) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and Bruce E. Tarr (by vote of the town) relative to amending the charter of the town of Middleton;

Middleton,--  
charter.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4400) of Richard G. Wells, Jr., and Bruce J. Ayers (with the approval of the town council) relative to the charter of the city known as the town of Randolph; and

Randolph,--  
charter.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4401) of Susannah M. Whipps (by vote of the town) relative to certain special revolving funds in the town of Athol;

Athol,-- special  
funds.

**Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.**

#### Bills

Authorizing the City of Melrose to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (House, No. 3979,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Melrose,-- senior  
property tax.

Establishing a charter for the city of Cambridge (House, No. 4156,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Cambridge,--  
charter.

Authorizing the town of Maynard to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 4273,-- on House, No. 387) [Local approval received on House, No. 387];

Maynard,-- liquor  
license.

**Were severally read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.**

#### *Reports of Committees.*

By Ms. Edwards, for the committee on the Judiciary, on petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Robert Tiro, an employee of the trial court of the commonwealth (Senate, No. 2580);

Robert Tiro,--  
sick leave.

**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, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

**Sent to the House for concurrence.**

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on Senate, No. 2584, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Irene O'Rourke, an employee of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (Senate, No. 2586);

Irene O'Rourke,--  
sick leave.

**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.**

#### *Matter Taken Out of the Orders of the Day.*

There being no objection, the following matter was taken out of the Orders of the Day

and considered as follows:

The House Bill validating the results of a certain special election held in the town of Hardwick (printed in House, No. 4004) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Hardwick,--  
special election.

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 Paul W. Mark for legislation to increase first assistant clerks in Berkshire County.

Berkshire County,-  
- assistant clerks.  
SD2806

**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 the Judiciary.**

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 Nick Collins for legislation relative to the safer treatment of acupuncture.

Acupuncture,--  
safer treatment  
SD2964

**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 Health.**

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 Cindy F. Friedman for legislation to adjust the MBTA assessment.

MBTA,--  
assessment.  
SD2739

**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 Transportation.**

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 William J. Driscoll, Jr. for legislation to authorize the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting by and through its Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance, to grant permanent easements over certain land in the town of Milton for highway purposes.

Milton,--  
intersection  
improvement  
project.  
SD3004

**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 State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.**

**Severally sent to the House for concurrence.**

#### PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2587) of Michael O. Moore for legislation relative applied behavioral analysis reimbursement rates,-- came from the House with endorsement that the House concurred in the suspension of Joint Rule 12; and had NON-concurred in the reference to the committee on Financial Services. The petition bore the further endorsement that the matter had been referred to the committee on Health Care Financing.

Applied behavioral  
analysis,--  
reimbursement.

**On motion of Mrs. Dooner, the Senate receded from its reference to the committee on Financial Services and concurred in the reference to the committee on Health Care Financing.**

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4410) of Hadley Luddy and Julian Cyr relative to funding housing and mitigating investor real estate in seasonal communities; and

Seasonal  
communities,--  
housing.  
Id.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4411) of Hadley Luddy and Thomas W. Moakley relative to housing in seasonal communities;

**Severally, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Housing.**

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4412) of Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., relative to witness intimidation;

Witness  
intimidation,-- fines.

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

*Engrossed Bill.*

An engrossed Bill relative to the town of Cheshire's special election (see House, No. 801) (which originated in the House), **having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted and signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.**

Bill laid before the  
Governor.

*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 nine minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.