

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2025

[66]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, July 31, 2025.

Met at 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.

Distinguished Guest.

There being no objection, during consideration of the Orders of the Day, the Chair (Mr. Rush) introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, Massachusetts State Representative John Rogers of Norwood. The Senate welcomed him with applause and he withdrew from the Chamber.

Representative
John Rogers.

Communication.

Communication from the Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate, announcing the re-appointment of David Rosenbloom (pursuant to Chapter 309 of the Acts of 2020) to the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Council (received July 29, 2025),--
was placed on file.

Opioid Recovery
and Remediation
Fund Council,--
appointment.
SD3099

Reports.

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

Report of the Department of Children and Families (pursuant to Section 6A of Chapter 18B of the General Laws) submitting its Fiscal Year 2024 Foster Care Review report (a copy having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities) (received July 28, 2025);

DCF,-- foster care
FY24 report.
SD3093

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 July 28, 2025);

A&F,-- EA
Housing bi-weekly
report.
SD3094

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Barnstable County Correctional Facility, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received July 28, 2025);

DPH,-- Barnstable
County Inspection
report.
SD3095

Report of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (pursuant to line item 1595-6232 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) Fiscal Year 2025 State Budget report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received July 29, 2025);

EOEEA,--
MassCEC FY25
Budget report.
SD3097

Report of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (pursuant to Section 1G(g) of Chapter 164 of the General Laws) submitting its Department of Public Utilities Concerning Self-Generation 2024 annual report (received July 29, 2025);

DPU,-- self-
generation 2024
report.
SD3098

Report of the Executive Office of Economic Development (pursuant to Section 14A of Chapter 94G of the General Laws) submitting its Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund FY25

Cannabis Equity
Trust Fund FY25

annual 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 Cannabis Policy) (received July 30, 2025);

report.
SD3102

Report of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (pursuant to Section 77 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its School Meal Nutrition Standards Commission 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 Education) (received July 30, 2025);

DESE,-- School
Meal Nutrition
Standards report.
SD3103

Report of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (pursuant to line item 7004-9316 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) Program Fiscal Year 2025 Fourth Quarter report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received July 31, 2025);

EOHLC,-- RAFT
FY25 Q4 report.
SD3104

Report of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (pursuant to Section 25 of Chapter 197 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Transitions from Acute Care to Post-Acute Care (TACPAC) Task Force 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 31, 2025); and

EOHHS,--
TACPAC Task
Force report.
SD3105

Report of the Disabled Persons Protection Commission (pursuant to Section 1107-2501 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Fiscal Year 2025 annual report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received July 31, 2025).

DPPC,-- FY25
annual report.
SD3108

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Mr. Keenan, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2573) of John F. Keenan (by vote of the town) to amend the charter of the town of Rockland [Local approval received];

Rockland,--
charter.

Referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

By Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Kearney of Scituate a joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2577) of Patrick M. O'Connor and Patrick Joseph Kearney (by vote of the town) relative to parking fines in the town of Scituate [Local approval received]; and

Scituate,-- parking
fines.

By the same Senator and the same Representative, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2578) of Patrick M. O'Connor and Patrick Joseph Kearney (by vote of the town) for legislation relative to sidewalks in the town of Scituate [Local approval received];

Scituate,--
sidewalks.

Severally, under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

By Mr. Gómez, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Adam Gómez for legislation relative to Medicare coverage of end-stage renal disease;

Medicare,-- renal
disease.
SD3096

By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Jason M. Lewis for legislation to require employers to notify current employees of an I-9 employment eligibility verification form, or other employment records, within 72 hours of receiving the notice from a government agency; and

Employee rights,--
I-9 audit.
SD3091

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Bruce E. Tarr, Ryan C. Fattman, Patrick M. O'Connor, Peter J. Durant and others for legislation to prevent false impersonation of a federal official;

Federal official,--
false
impersonation.
SD3101

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

acting concurrently.

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Keenan, for the committee on Election Laws, on Senate, Nos. 501, 502, 508, 510, 512, 513, 518, 519, 520, 529, and 532, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Election Laws to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to election matters (Senate, No. 2567); and

By Ms. Rausch, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on Senate, Nos. 21, 1427, 1451, 1453, 1475, and 1476, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Municipalities and Regional Government to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to municipalities and regional government matters (Senate, No. 2568);

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

By Mr. Keenan, for the committee on Election Laws, on petition, a Bill to protect the integrity of town meetings (Senate, No. 514);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to protect democracy (Senate, No. 516);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to early voting cost reimbursements (Senate, No. 527);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to fairly fund early voting (Senate, No. 535);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to accountability for defective and spoiled ballots (Senate, No. 536);

By Ms. Rausch, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on petition, a Bill to update the public shade tree law (Senate, No. 1429);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill providing for pre-service training for members of local boards and commissions (Senate, No. 1432);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill providing for the establishment of sustainable water resource funds (Senate, No. 1443);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill providing state grants for municipal sustainability directors (Senate, No. 1444);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to variances (Senate, No. 1448); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill empowering municipalities and improving efficiency (Senate, No. 1471);

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

By Mr. Keenan, for the committee on Election Laws, on petition, a Bill clarifying the role of governor's councillor on the ballot (Senate, No. 497);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the board of registrars (Senate, No. 522);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to youth voter engagement (Senate, No. 526);

By Ms. Rausch, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on petition, a Bill relative to firefighter residency (Senate, No. 1449);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to PEG access and cable related funds (Senate, No. 1454);

Election Laws,--
study.

Municipalities and
Regional
Government,--
study.

Town meetings,--
integrity.

Election
violations,-- fines.

Early voting,--
reimbursements.

Early voting,--
procedures.

Election ballots.

Public shade tree
law.

Boards and
commissions,--
training.

Water resource
funds.

Municipal
Directors Fund.

Variances,--
zoning.

Municipalities,--
procedures.

Governor's
councillor,-- ballot.

Board of registrars.

Youth voter
engagement.

Firefighter,--
residency.

Municipalities,--
cable related funds.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to a regional school assessment reserve fund (Senate, No. 1468); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to special education reserve funds (Senate, No. 1469);

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

By Mr. Keenan, for the committee on Election Laws, on petition, a Bill relative to the preparation of bilingual ballots in English and Haitian Creole in the city known as the town of Randolph (Senate, No. 509) [Local approval received];

By Ms. Rausch, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on petition, a Bill relative to the dissolution of the Holmes Park Water District (Senate, No. 2505) [Local approval received];

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relating to vacancies in the office of mayor in the city of New Bedford (Senate, No. 2509) [Local approval received];

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the election of the mayor, city councilor and school committee in the city of Brockton (Senate, No. 2510) [Local approval received];

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill amending the town charter of Wareham (Senate, No. 2527) [Local approval received];

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Marblehead to amend chapter 37 of the acts of 2004: Parking violations in the town of Marblehead (Senate, No. 2528) [Local approval received];

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to special town meetings petitioned for by residents of the town of Andover (Senate, No. 2544) [Local approval received];

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on petition, a Bill continuing the employment of police chief Edward Walsh in the city of Taunton until attaining the age of 70 (Senate, No. 1825) [Local approval received]; and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, relative to the amendment of M.G.L. c.32, section 4(2)(b) and 4(2)(c), solely as they relate to the calculation of Walter L. Guertin's pension (Senate, No. 1859) [Local approval received];

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

The following petition, having been timely filed by five o'clock P.M. on January 17, 2025, were referred in concurrence as follows:

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4351) of Brandy Fluker-Reid and Samantha Montañó for legislation to establish the Massachusetts office of freedmen affairs;

To the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4347) of John Barrett, III (by vote of the town) relative to the terms of library trustees in the town of Williamstown; and

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4348) of Steven S. Howitt and Paul R. Feeney (by vote of the town) that the town of Norton be authorized to pay a certain unpaid bill;

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4349) of Rob Consalvo (with the approval

Regional school,--
reserve funds.

Special education,-
- reserve funds.

Randolph,--
bilingual ballots.

Westminster,--
Holmes Park
Water District.

New Bedford,--
office of mayor.

Brockton elections.

Wareham,--
charter.

Marblehead,--
town charter.

Andover,-- special
town meetings.

Taunton,-- Walsh
police chief.

Walter L. Guertin,-
- pension.

MA Office of
Freedmen Affairs.

Williamstown,--
library trustees.

Norton,--
cemetery.

Boston,-- Luis
Cabral.

of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the appointment of Luis Cabral as a police officer in the city of Boston, notwithstanding the maximum age requirement;

To the committee on Public Service.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4350) of Tommy Vitolo (by vote of the town) that the town of Brookline be authorized to levy a real estate transfer fee on certain real property transfers in said town;

Brookline,-- real estate transfer fee.

To the committee on Revenue.

A Bill authorizing the city of Revere to pay a certain sum of money to Denise Mattera (Condelli), widow of School committee member Anthony Mattera (House, No. 2275,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.**

Revere,-- Denise Mattera payments.

Reports

Of the committee on Education, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 516) of Natalie M. Blais for legislation to establish employee screening requirements in schools to prevent child sexual abuse, and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on the Judiciary;

Employee screenings,-- abuse prevention.

Of the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, asking to be discharged from further consideration

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1058) of Mark D. Sylvia and others relative to a cranberry water use transfer program; and

Cranberry water transfer program.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1059) of Jeffrey Rosario Turco that the Division of Marine Fisheries establish a program for commercial fishing gear;

Fishing gear,-- grant program.

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the committee on Agriculture and Fisheries.

Of the committee on House Steering Policy and Scheduling, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2554) of Andres X. Vargas and others relative to routine childhood immunization reports made by school, and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Health Care Financing;

Childhood immunization,-- school reports.

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

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 Larry Quintal for legislation to ensure uniform treatment of vote by mail ballots.

Vote by mail,-- uniform treatment. SD3058

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Durant, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Election Laws.

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, Norman J. Orrall, Bruce E. Tarr, Kelly W. Pease and other members of the General Court for legislation to address rising insurance costs for manufactured home residents.

Insurance costs,-- manufactured and mobile homes. SD3057

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Durant, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Financial Services.

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

BMX bicycle,-- motorcross tracks safety.

to establish safety standards for BMX bicycle and motorcross tracks.

SD3078

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Durant, 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 Nick Collins and Russell E. Holmes for legislation to direct the department of state police to waive the maximum age requirement for Jonathan Lewis.

Jonathan Lewis,--
state police.
SD3028

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Durant, 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 Pavel M. Payano for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Jeffrey Yacinthe, an employee of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Jeffrey Yacinthe,--
sick leave.
SD3082

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Durant, 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.

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Gregory Baker, an employee of the Suffolk County Sheriff's office (Senate, No. 2560);

Gregory Baker,--
sick leave.

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

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Carlos Borges, an employee of the department of correction (Senate, No. 2562);

Carlos Borges,--
sick leave.

The bill was read. There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Keenan, 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. 4258) of Adam J. Scanlon for legislation to authorize spouses to serve as caregivers in the MassHealth program for home-based care and services;

Spouses,-- paid
caregivers.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4259) of Rob Consalvo that the Department of Conservation and Recreation be authorized to designate the tennis courts located in Weider Park in the Roslindale section of the city of Boston as the Kim O'Connell tennis courts;

Roslindale,-- Kim
O'Connell tennis
courts.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4367) of Sally P. Kerans relative to newborn screenings for congenital cytomegalovirus;

Congenital
cytomegalovirus,--
screenings.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4368) of William F. MacGregor that the commissioner of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance be authorized to release a certain sewer line easement in the West Roxbury section of the city of Boston;

West Roxbury,--
sewer easement.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were considered as follows:

The House Bill financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges (House, No. 4307) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- was read a third time.

Transportation
bond.

There being no objection, the matter was temporarily laid aside.

Matter Taken Out of the Notice Section of the Calendar.

There being no objection, during consideration of the Orders of the Day, the following matter was taken out of the Notice Section of the Calendar and considered as follows:

The Senate Bill providing for the disposition of certain property in the town of Upton (Senate, No. 2135),-- was read a third time.

Upton,-- land.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Fattman moved that the bill be amended by substituting a new draft entitled "An Act authorizing the commonwealth to dispose of certain parcels of land in the town of Upton acquired for conservation and recreation purposes" (Senate, No. 2576).

The amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 2576) was then passed to be engrossed.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The House Bill financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges (House, No. 4307),-- was further considered, the main question being on passing the bill be engrossed.

Transportation
bond.

Mr. Keenan moved that the bill be amended by striking, in section 2, in lines 21-22, the words "encourage long-term capital plans to be developed by a city or town", and inserting in place thereof the following words:- "require a city or town using this fund to provide to the department a report that shall include, but not be limited to, any previously appropriated unexpended funds received under this item and long-term capital plans".

1

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Finegold, Payano and Tarr moved that the bill be amended by inserting after section 2A the following new section:-

2

"Section 2B

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Highway Division

6820-2217. For the airport improvement program pursuant to section 39A of chapter 90 of the General Laws, provided further, that not more than \$2,640,000 be expended for capital improvements to the administration building at Lawrence Municipal Airport.....\$2,640,000".

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

The bill was then passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.

There being no objection, during consideration of the Orders of the Day, the following matter was considered:

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

The Senate Bill strengthening health care protections in the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 2543),-- came from the House passed to be engrossed, in concurrence *with an*

Health care
protections.

amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of House document numbered 4294.

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

After remarks, Ms. Friedman moved that the Senate concur with the House amendment *with a still further amendment* striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place there of the text of Senate document numbered 2576.

The motion was accepted; and the still further amendment was adopted.

The House further amendment, as amended, was then adopted.

Sent to the House for concurrence in the still further amendment.

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The Senate Bill to promote student learning and mental health (Senate, No. 2549),-- was read a second time.

Student learning,--
mental health.

Ms. Creem in the Chair, 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. 2561) and the pending main question on ordering the bill to a third reading, there being no objection, the bill was temporarily laid aside.

There being no objection, during consideration of the Orders of the Day, the following matter was considered as follows:

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE

Emergency Preamble Adopted.

Mr. Rush in the Chair, an engrossed Bill financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges (see House, No. 4307), 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 9 to 0.

Roads and bridges.

The bill was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Rush) (having been appointed by the President, under authority conferred by Senate Rule 4, to perform the duties of the Chair) and sent to the House for enactment.

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The Senate Bill to promote student learning and mental health (Senate, No. 2549),-- was again considered, the main question being on ordering the bill to a third reading.

Student learning,--
mental health.

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. 2561) and the main question on ordering the bill to a third reading, there being no objection, the bill was temporarily laid aside.

There being no objection, during consideration of the Orders of the Day, the following matters were considered:

Committee of Conference Report.

Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee of conference, on the disagreeing votes of the two

Supplemental

branches, with reference to the House amendment to the Senate Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (Senate, No. 2540) (*amended by the House* by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of House document numbered 4265),-- reports, a “Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects” (Senate, No. 2575).

appropriations.

**After remarks, the report was accepted.
Sent to the House for concurrence.**

Matter Taken Out of the Notice Section of the Calendar.

There being no objection, during consideration of the Orders of the Day, the following matter was taken out of the Notice Section of the Calendar and considered as follows:

The House Bill authorizing the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to supply water to the Lynnfield Center Water District within the town of Lynnfield (House, No. 972),-
- was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.

Lynnfield,--
MWRA water
supply.

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The Senate Bill to promote student learning and mental health (Senate, No. 2549),-- was again considered, the main question being on ordering the bill to a third reading,

Student learning,--
mental health.

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. 2561), and pending the main question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Ms. Kennedy moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting the following section:-

2

“SECTION XX. The department of elementary and secondary education shall create or update curriculum frame work and standards related to the use of personal electronic devices, social media, and media, including but not limited to: (i) safe and proper usage of personal electronic devices; (ii) safe usage of social media; (iii) influences of personal electronic devices on health and wellbeing; (iv) how personal electronic devices can be a tool for learning when used properly; and (v) media literacy. This curriculum shall be implemented by the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mrs. Dooner moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting after section 5 the following section:-

3

“SECTION _. A public school or district may opt out of the requirement to adopt a policy prohibiting student use of personal electronic devices during the school day. The decision to opt out shall be made by a majority vote of the school committee, board, or other governing body of the school or district. A vote to opt out shall be filed with the department of elementary and secondary education and posted publicly on the school or district website no later than September 1 of the school year for which the opt-out is intended to apply. A public school or district that has opted out may later adopt a personal electronic device policy consistent with the requirements of this act by vote of its governing body.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Velis, Cronin and Collins moved that the proposed new draft be amended in section 1, in proposed subsection (b) of section 40 of chapter 69 of the General Laws, by striking out paragraph (2) and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

5

“(2) In developing the model policy, the department may include, upon a finding of compelling need, case-specific or targeted exemptions to the prohibition; provided, however, that prior to authorizing an exemption, the department shall assess any reasonable alternative

that may achieve the same objective.”; and

In said section 1, by striking out, in lines 38 and 39, the words “and best practices,” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “, best practices and any technological advances, including technology that may render a personal electronic device inoperable on school grounds”.

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new draft be amended by striking section 4 in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following:-

“SECTION 4. Not later than December 31, 2027, and annually for a period of 5 years after, the department of elementary and secondary education shall report to the senate and house committees on ways and means, the joint committee on education, and the clerks of the house and senate on the implementation of the personal electronic device use policies in schools pursuant to section 102 of chapter 71 of the General Laws.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting in section 1, after the word “input”, in line 34, the following words:- “and hold at least 1 public hearing”; and

In section 2, by striking out, in line 80, the words “provided, however” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “; provided, however, that prior to approval, such local governing body shall solicit public input; and provided further”.

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair, Messrs. Fattman, Collins and Brady moved that the proposed new draft be amended in section 2, subsection (b), by adding the following:-

“(vi) used for the purposes of tracking and monitoring blood glucose level data from a continuous glucose monitoring system that is transmitted to a smartphone application.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Fattman moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting the following section:-

“SECTION 6. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any school committee in the commonwealth may elect to opt-out of the requirements set forth in sections 1 through 5 of this act upon a majority vote of the committee. Certification of this vote shall be submitted to the department of elementary and secondary education within 14 days of its passage. Upon receipt and confirmation of said vote, the department shall notify the school district that it is in compliance and that adoption of the department's model policy is not required.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Rodrigues moved that the proposed new draft be amended in section 2, by striking out, in line 46, the figure “38” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- “40”.

The amendment was adopted.

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

The bill (Senate, No. 2561, 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 nine minutes before three o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Lewis, as follows, to wit (yeas 38 – nays 2) [Yeas and Nays No. 66]:

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.
Brady, Michael D.
Brownsberger, William N.
Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.

Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
Kennedy, Edward J.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.

Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crichton, Brendan P.
Cronin, John J.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Durant, Peter J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.
Gómez, Adam

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.
Spilka, Karen E.
Tarr, Bruce E.
Velis, John C. – 38.

NAYS.

Dooner, Kelly A.

Fattman, Ryan C. – 2.

The yeas and nays having been completed at two 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. 2581].

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Recess.

There being no objection, at three o'clock P.M., the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair; and, at seven minutes past four o'clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair (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).

Recess.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE

Emergency Preamble Adopted.

An engrossed Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (see Senate, No. 2575), 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 2 to 0.

Supplemental
appropriations.

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

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 Rebecca L. Rausch for legislation to establish Lobular Breast Cancer Awareness Day.

Breast Cancer
Awareness Day.
SD3055

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 State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A message from Her Excellency the Governor recommending legislation empowering municipalities and local governments (House, No. 56),-- was referred, in concurrence, as follows:

So much as relates to sections 1 to 17, inclusive, 20 to 44, inclusive, 73 to 82, inclusive, and 87,-- **to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.**

So much as relates to sections 18, 19, 83, 84, and 88, -- **to the committee on Public Service.**

So much as relates to sections 45 to 72, inclusive, 85 and 86, -- **to the committee on Revenue.**

Municipal bond bill.

Engrossed Bill.

An engrossed Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (see Senate, No. 2575) (which originated in the Senate), **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.

Engrossed Bill—State Loan.

An engrossed Bill financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges (see House No. 4307) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was put upon its final passage; and, this being a bill providing for the borrowing of money, in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the question on passing it to be enacted was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at a quarter past four o'clock P.M., as follows to wit (yeas 39 - nays 0) **[Yeas and Nays No. 67]:**

Roads and bridges.

YEAS.

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.
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.

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.
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.**

Friedman, Cindy F.

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at twenty-three minutes past four o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be enacted, two-thirds of the members present having agreed to pass the same, and it was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

Engrossed Bill.

An engrossed Bill strengthening health care protections in the Commonwealth (see Senate, No. 2543, amended) (which originated in the Senate), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage,-- was put upon its final passage. The question on passing it to be enacted was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at twenty-five minutes past four o'clock P.M., on motion of Ms. Friedman, as follows, to wit (yeas 37 - nays 3) **[Yeas and Nays No. 68]:**

Health care
protections.

YEAS.

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.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.
Spilka, Karen E.
Tarr, Bruce E.
Velis, John C. – **37.**

NAYS.

Dooner, Kelly A.
Durant, Peter J.

Fattman, Ryan C. – **3.**

Ms. Creem in the Chair, the yeas and nays having been completed at twenty-seven minutes before five o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be enacted, two thirds of the members present having agreed to pass the same, and it was signed by the Acting President (Ms. Creem) (having been appointed by the President, under authority conferred by Senate Rule 4, to perform the duties of the Chair) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Ms. Creem), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Harry C. Christensen.

Moment of silence.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Ms. Rausch,--

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 Harry C. Christensen.

The Senator from Second Essex, Ms. Lovely and the Senator from Third Essex, Mr. Crighton moved that when the Senate adjourned today, it do so in memory of Harry C. Christensen.

Harry C. Christensen, or Buddy, to those that knew him by his Marblehead name, made the trip to heaven on April 20, 2025. Harry passed away peacefully in his home at the age of 78.

Harry served in the United States Marine Corps from 1967 to 1968 and was proud to have served in Vietnam as a Tank Commander. On January 24, 1968, he was wounded in combat against an enemy ambush site. Due to his actions, the ambush was destroyed and saved many lives. Harry was a highly decorated veteran with many awards including the Silver Star for gallantry in action and two purple hearts. After he medically retired from the Marine Corps, he returned to his home and to his education.

Harry graduated from Salem State University and later received his Master's Degree from Boston College. After teaching in the Danvers School Department for 13 years, Harry received his Juris Doctorate of Law Degree from Suffolk University in 1983 and practiced law in Marblehead for over 40 years.

Over his career, Harry was active on many Boards and Committees in Marblehead including over 20 years on the Board of Selectmen and member and Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2005. Harry also served on the Marblehead Historical Commission and as Shellfish Constable. He was generous with his time and expertise.

Harry loved Marblehead history and for over 40 years researched the unsolved murder of Marblehead schoolteacher, Beryl Atherton. In 2022, he and co-author, Richard Santeusano, wrote a book detailing the events surrounding her death in 1950. He was very proud of this accomplishment and would give lectures about the book up until his death.

Harry was predeceased by his parents, Harry C. Christensen, Sr., and Audrey (Mace) Christensen. Harry is survived by his wife of 45 years, Marsha, his sons, Andrew G. Christensen and his wife Trista, Matthew G. Christensen, and his wife Laura, three grandchildren, Eliza, Donovan, and Mac Christensen. Harry is also survived by his brother, Henry Christensen, and his wife Debbie, his sisters Laura Best, and her husband Jeffrey, Rae Weed, and her husband Allan and Linda Mills and her husband Mark. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Harry was a lifelong Header; he never wanted to be far from Marblehead Rock. He loved the Marines, his country, his town, and most of all, his family. Semper Fi. Down Bucket.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Harry C. Christensen, at twenty-two minutes before five o'clock A.M., on motion of Ms. Friedman, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.