
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, September 4, 2025.

Met at four minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Ms. Jehlen in the Chair) (having been appointed, by the President, under authority conferred by Senate Rule 4, to perform the duties of the Chair).

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

Pledge of
allegiance.

Reports.

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

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant of Section 2E of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024 and Section 128 of Chapter 248 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Fiscal Year 2025 Medical Assistance Fund Transfer Schedule update (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received August 29, 2025);

Comptroller,--
MATF Transfer
Schedule FY25
update.
SD3169
CPCS,-- FY26-
FY27 Staffing
Expansion plan.
SD3170

Report of the Committee for Public Counsel Services (pursuant to line Item 0321-1599 of Chapter 14 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Staffing Expansion Plan for Fiscal Year 2026--Fiscal Year 2027 (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary) (received September 2, 2025); and

Report of the Pension Reserves Investment Management Board (pursuant to Section 23(2A)(e)(xi) of Chapter 32 of the General Laws) submitting its PRIM Board quarterly report for the period ending March 31, 2025 (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Service) (received August 28, 2025).

Prim Board,--
quarterly FY25
report.
SD3171

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Mr. Cronin and Ms. Scarsdale of Pepperell, a joint petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of John J. Cronin and Margaret R. Scarsdale for legislation to designate the Marion Stoddart riverwalk in the town of Groton;

Groton,-- Marion
Stoddart riverwalk.
SD3172

By Mr. Mark, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Paul W. Mark for legislation to promote energy conservation in residential buildings through the installation of energy-conserving windows; and

Condominiums,--
window
installation.
SD3175

By Mr. Mark, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Paul W. Mark for legislation to create a special commission to examine school bus safety; and

School bus safety,-
- commission.
SD3174

By Mr. O'Connor, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Patrick M. O'Connor for legislation to prohibit exorbitant energy delivery charges;

Energy supply,--
delivery charges.
SD3173

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

Reports of a Committee.

By Mr. Driscoll, for the committee on Public Health, on petition, a Bill relative to safe patient handling and mobility in certain health facilities (Senate, No. 1535);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill connecting veterans with access to breakthrough treatments (Senate, No. 1538);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing a naloxone purchase trust fund (Senate, No. 1551);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill measuring the impact of Long COVID in the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 1578);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to restore integrity in the marketing of pharmaceutical products and medical devices (Senate, No. 1583); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 1576, a Bill relative to culturally competent and effective health care (Senate, No. 2588);

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

By Mr. Driscoll, for the committee on Public Health, on petition, a Bill relative to APOL1 mediated kidney disease (Senate, No. 1545);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to improve indoor air quality for highly-impacted communities (Senate, No. 1546);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing the human service transportation (HST) consumer advisory board (Senate, No. 1560);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the creation of an Endometriosis Task Force (Senate, No. 1564);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to prevent undue influence on prescriber behavior (Senate, No. 1584);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to improving outcomes for sudden cardiac arrest (Senate, No. 1589);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Resolve establishing a sexual assault counselor certification task force (Senate, No. 1590);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to emergency medical services oversight (Senate, No. 1604); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to requiring trauma kits in public buildings (Senate, No. 1619);

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

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Cronin) “honoring and commending Newell Tillman for his 20 years of dedicated volunteer service to the town of Westford”; and

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Tarr) “congratulating the Flint Memorial Library on its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary.”

Health facilities,--
safe patient
mobility.
Veterans and first
responders,--
treatments.
Naloxone,-- trust
fund.
Long COVID,--
pilot program.
Pharmaceutical
products,--
marketing.
Physicians,--
diversity.

Kidney disease,--
APOL 1 study.
Indoor air quality,-
- task force.
Human Service
Transportation,--
advisory board.
Endometriosis
Task Force.
Prescribers,--
influences.
Cardiac arrest,--
dispatch training.
Sexual assault,--
task force.
Emergency
medical services.
Trauma kits,--
public buildings.

Newell Tillman.

Flint Memorial
Library.

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 Liz Miranda for legislation to ensure non-discrimination by improving algorithmic system.

Algorithmic system,-- regulations. SD3007

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity.

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 John J. Cronin relative to access to certain schools for vulnerable students.

Vulnerable students. SD2611

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

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of John J. Cronin for legislation relative to Chapter 23N sensitive information and privacy.

Sports wagering,-- privacy. SD2807

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, 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 John J. Cronin for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Richard Curley, an employee of the Middlesex Sheriff's Office.

Richard Curley,-- sick leave. SD2664

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, 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 Wayne Queeney for legislation to establish distinctive license plates.

Distinctive license plates. SD2787

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

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Paul Starvaski, an employee of the Department of Correction (House, No. 4426,-- on petition),-- was read.

Paul Starvaski,-- sick leave.

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

A Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Ankita Gajendra Patel, an employee of the Department of Correction (House, No. 4427,-- on petition),-- was read.

Ankita Gajendra Patel,-- sick leave.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, 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. 4478) of Lisa Field for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Aayden Daniels, an employee of the Department of Correction;

Aayden Daniels,-- sick leave.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4479) of Lindsay N. Sabadosa for legislation to rescind all previous calls for a federal constitutional convention;

Federal
constitutional
convention.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs.

Matters Taken Out of the Orders of the Day.

There being no objections, the following matters were taken out of the Orders of the Day and considered as follows:

The House Bill establishing a charter for the city of Medford (House, No. 4263),-- was read a third time.

Medford,-- charter.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Ms. Jehlen moved that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 2597.

The amendment was adopted.

The bill, as amended, was then passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with the amendment.

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

The House Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Alexandra Schwartz, an employee of the department of state police (House, No. 4323),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Alexandra
Schwartz,-- sick
leave.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE

Engrossed Bill.

An engrossed Bill authorizing the commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance to grant certain easements to the town of Bourne (see House, No. 4364) (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 (Ms. Jehlen) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.**

Bill laid before the
Governor.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. O'Connor,--

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.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Ms. Jehlen), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Lorraine Patricia Steele.

Moment of silence.

Adjournment in Memory of Mrs. Lorraine Patricia Steele.

The Senator from Suffolk, Mr. Collins, presented a request that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Mrs. Lorraine Patricia Steele.

Mrs. Lorraine Patricia Steele (Farrel) of Boston, a beloved wife, community advocate, and neighborhood champion, passed away comfortably and peacefully at home on Saturday, July 19, 2025, at the young age of 71, after an 18-month valiantly fought battle with a rare

form of cancer. There are many ways to describe Lorraine: smart, ambitious, driven, self-directed, disciplined, hardworking, with an aptitude for detail and organizing events. She was warm and engaging with a ready and infectious laugh, an accomplished cook, a great dancer, highly social, selfless, outgoing, and caring. She brightened the lives of everyone who interacted with her.

Lorraine was born May 12, 1954, to Edgar and Betsy (Betty) Farrel in Wiesbaden, Germany, where her dad was stationed as a U.S. Air Force fighter pilot. Upon discharge, the family moved California, where her dad pursued his career in the aerospace industry, working on several important projects for the space shuttle and other NASA programs.

Lorraine spent her early years in Sacramento and later moved to Southern California, graduating with honors from Newbury Park High School in 1972. After a year working at Yellowstone National Park, she began studying foreign languages at the University of Hawaii, aiming to become a UN translator. There, she met and married her first husband, Mark, before relocating to Boston. After their divorce, Lorraine worked as an administrative assistant and later became Deloitte's first para-professional Research Associate. She met her current husband, Lee, there in 1981. Lorraine earned a BS in Accounting from Northeastern, graduating Summa Cum Laude in 1985, and completed her MBA at Babson in 1986, the year she and Lee married.

In addition to her professional and vineyard management responsibilities, Lorraine was a passionate and active participant in local Boston non-profits, including the St. Botolph Neighborhood Association (VP, Treasurer, and Social Chairman), the Southwest Corridor Park Conservancy as a founding Board member and its principal fundraiser, the Jimmy Fund/Pan Mass Challenge Bike-a-Thon for 13 years, BUILD of Greater Boston and other non-profits.

An avid gardener, she organized many beautification projects along the SWCP as well as maintaining the gardens surrounding her building, which won the prestigious Magnolia Award from the Garden Club of the Back Bay in 2024. She was also the organizer of many memorable social events with friends and neighbors in the Durham Street area. Many referred to her as the de facto "Mayor" of Durham Street.

Lorraine is survived by her loving husband, Lee; also by her two brothers, Bill and Jim Farrel; her seven nieces and nephews, and countless grand-nieces and nephews.

Lorraine was taken from us at too young an age, but we will fondly remember her caring, selfless, and vibrant spirit that created lasting memories for which we are eternally grateful. Many folks have said that she changed their life for the better. May she rest in peace. Mrs. Steele will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Mrs. Lorraine Patricia Steele, at twenty-six minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. O'Connor, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.