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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.**



**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025**

[79]

## JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, September 15, 2025.

Met at eight minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Ms. Lovely in the Chair).

The Chair (Ms. Lovely), 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 Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received September 11, 2025); and

DPH,-- SBCC  
Inspection report.  
SD3186

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to line item 1599-2040 of Section 2B of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its Final Fiscal Year 2025 Prior Year Deficiency report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received September 12, 2025).

Comptroller,--  
Final FY25 report.  
SD3194

### *Petitions.*

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Mr. Feeney and Mr. Galvin of Canton, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2605) of Paul R. Feeney and William C. Galvin (by vote of the town) for legislation to further regulate town elections in the town of Canton [Local approval received];

Canton,--  
elections.

**Under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Election Laws.  
Sent to the House for concurrence.**

By Mr. Mark, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Paul W. Mark for legislation to promote fair tax treatment for zero-emission vehicles,-- **and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.**

Tax incentive,--  
ZEV purchases.  
SD3193

### *Reports of Committees.*

By Ms. Rausch, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on petition, a Bill relative to damages from defective public ways (Senate, No. 1426);

Defective public  
ways,-- damages.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to funding affordable housing and incentivizing zoning reform (Senate, No. 1434);

Affordable  
housing,-- zoning  
reform.  
Inclusionary  
zoning.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill simplifying inclusionary zoning (Senate, No. 1441);

By Mr. Cronin, for the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, on petition, a Bill requiring human trafficking recognition training for certain hospitality workers (Senate, No. 1729); and

Human  
trafficking,--  
training program.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing the Massachusetts school safety data grant program (Senate, No. 1782);

School Safety Data  
Grant Program.

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

By Ms. Rausch, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on petition, a Bill regulating certain insurance benefits for elected officials in the town of Blackstone (Senate, No. 1445) [Local approval received]; and

Blackstone,--  
elected officials.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill dissolving the North Carver water district (Senate, No. 2517) [Local approval received];

North Carver,--  
water district.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4498) of Natalie M. Blais and Paul W. Mark (by vote of the town) relative to elections in the town of Conway; and

Conway,--  
elections.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4499) of Sean Garballey and Cindy F. Friedman (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize ranked choice voting in the town of Arlington;

Arlington,-- ranked  
choice voting.

**Severally to the committee on Election Laws.**

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4500) of Simon Cataldo (by vote of the town) that the town of Concord be authorized to ban second generation anticoagulant rodenticides within said town;

Concord,--  
rodenticides ban.

**To the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.**

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4501) of Kathleen R. LaNatra and Michelle L. Badger (by vote of the town) relative to the charter of the town of Plymouth;

Plymouth,--  
charter.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4502) of Sean Garballey, Cindy F. Friedman and David M. Rogers (by vote of the town) for legislation to amend the town manager act of the town of Arlington;

Arlington,-- town  
manager.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4503) of Kate Hogan (by vote of the town) relative to amending the charter of the town of Hudson;

Hudson,-- charter.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4504) of Thomas W. Moakley (by vote of the town) for legislation to make the charter of the county on Nantucket gender neutral;

Nantucket,--  
charter.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4505) of Thomas W. Moakley (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the county of Nantucket to convey School Street situated in the town and county of Nantucket for purposes of conveyance to the town of Nantucket; and

Nantucket,-- land  
conveyance.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4510) of Michelle L. Badger (by vote of the town) relative to digital legal notices for the town of Plymouth;

Plymouth,-- digital  
notices.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4506) of Natalie M. Blais and Paul W. Mark (by vote of the town) that the town of Conway be authorized to continue the employment of fire department member Howard Boyden;

Conway,-- Howard  
Boyden.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4507) of Sean Garballey, Cindy F. Friedman and David M. Rogers (by vote of the town) that William Pilleri be authorized to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the town of Arlington notwithstanding the maximum age requirement;

Arlington,--  
William Pilleri.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4508) of Daniel J. Hunt (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the Boston Retirement Board be authorized to increase the accidental disability retirement allowance to Patricia M. Lampron, a retired employee of the school department of said city; and

Boston,-- Patricia  
M. Lampron.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4509) of Thomas W. Moakley (by vote of the town) that the town of Nantucket be authorized to issue pension obligation bonds or notes;

Nantucket,--  
pension bonds.

**Severally to the committee on Public Service.**

#### Bills

Amending the special legislation establishing the Acton Memorial Library (House, No. 4173,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Acton Memorial  
Library.

Relative to the Ayer Library (House, No. 4174,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Ayer Library.

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

#### Reports

Of the committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 85) of Meghan K. Kilcoyne relative to determination of need of new technology, and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Health Care Financing; and

MRI machines,--  
new technology.

Of the committee on Education, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 573) of Carole A. Fiola and others that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education be authorized to adopt an abuse prevention policy, and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on the Judiciary;

DESE,-- abuse  
prevention policy.

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

#### *Resolutions.*

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Fattman) “commending Healthy Birth Day, Inc. and Empty Arms Bereavement Support, Inc. for its recognition of September 19, 2025 as Stillbirth Prevention and Awareness Day”; and

Healthy Birth Day,  
Inc. and Empty  
Arms Bereavement  
Support, Inc.  
451st International  
City of Peace.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Fernandes) “commending the town of Plymouth on becoming the 451st International City of Peace.”

#### *Matters Taken out of the Orders of the Day.*

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

The House Bill authorizing the town of Lexington to grant 10 additional licenses for the sale of wine and malt beverages to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 3893) (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.**

Lexington,-- liquor  
licenses.

The House Bill authorizing the City of Melrose to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (House, No. 3979),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows:- “An Act authorizing the city of Melrose to establish a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption”.**

Melrose,-- senior  
property tax.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill establishing a sick leave bank for John C. Murphy, an employee of the Department of Correction (House, No. 4454,-- on petition),-- was read.

John C. Murphy,--  
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 petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4521) of Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr., for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Kathleen Rodrigue, an employees of the Chief Medical Examiner's office,-- **was referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Service.**

Kathleen Rodrigue,-  
- sick leave.

*Order Adopted.*

On motion of Mr. O'Connor,--

*Ordered*, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M., in a full formal session without a calendar.

Time of meeting.

*Moment of Silence.*

At the request of the Chair (Ms. Lovely), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Katherine Walsh.

Moment of silence.

*Adjournment in Memory of Katherine (Kay) Walsh.*

The Senator from Essex, Ms. Lovely, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Katherine (Kay) Walsh.

Katherine (Kay) Walsh's life of service to others, came to a close on October 22, 2024, after a six-year struggle with Alzheimer's Disease. Before and even more important than any accomplishments listed here, Kay was, for many, the person who they would call to help them through the difficult process of dying. She helped many people and their families through this transition. She dedicated her life to geriatrics and created a protocol for treating patients with Alzheimer's. In full circle, she spent her final days in the care of some of the special nurses and doctors with whom she worked at the Lafayette Skilled Nursing facility in Marblehead.

Kay was born in Webster, Massachusetts, to the late Irving and Frances Russell. She grew up and attended school in Marblehead and graduated from the Salem Hospital School of Nursing Class of 1963. She started her Nursing career at Salem Hospital, where she became, very likely, the youngest head nurse in the hospital's history.

Kay achieved her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Salem State University, a Master's in Education at Cambridge College, and a Master's in Nursing at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, with an emphasis on geriatrics. Shortly thereafter, she became a licensed Nurse Practitioner with a specialty in geriatrics

Kay began her Nursing career at Salem Hospital, where she is believed to have been the youngest Head Nurse in the hospital's records. She also worked at Amesbury Hospital when her daughters were infants. She taught a Nurse Assistant course at Salem High School for several years, and the course had a 100% employment rate among its graduates, of whom she was immensely proud.

Kay's most rewarding professional NP positions were as the Director of Nursing at the South Cove Manor long-term care facility where she was instrumental in the founding of the Chinese-American Nurses Association and at Beacon Medical Practice, where she worked

with Dr. Lew Hays and his wonderful staff.

Kay served as a member and Chair of several boards, including the Lynn Community Health Center and North Shore Elder Services. An internship bearing her name was created at the Salem Community Life Center several years ago. Kay's last full measure of devotion was her donation of her brain to Alzheimer's research.

Kay leaves her husband, Brendan, daughters Meghan Walsh and Kerry Corcoran, son-in-law Richard Corcoran, and grandsons Sam and Miles Corcoran. She also leaves her sister Joanne Brennan and her husband Donald, the extended Brennan family, plus many nieces and nephews on the Walsh side of her family.

Kay's family is eternally indebted to the staff at the Lafayette for their gentle kindness, and to her physician/friend/colleague, Dr. Lew Hays, for his understanding of her wishes. Kay's passing comes at the end of the long dark road of Alzheimer's Disease, which robbed her of her memory, but her family and friends will remember Kay until the 12th of Never, and that's a long, long time.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Katherine (Kay) Walsh, at sixteen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. O'Connor, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.